



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

FIRST PARLIAMENT

SECOND SESSION

1961-62

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Comprising Period

20th July, 23rd, 25th-26th, 28th-31st August,
1st-2nd and 4th September, 1961

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(FORMED BY ALHAJI THE HON. SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA, JANUARY 1960)

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Ministry of Communications

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS The hon. Olu Akinfosile, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY S. F. Nwika, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Lagos Affairs

MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS The hon. Musa Yar'Adua, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY E. T. Orodi, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Economic Development

MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT The hon. Jaja Wachuku, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY F. U. Mbakogu, Esq., M.P.

Ministry of Justice

ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE Dr the hon. T. O. Elias
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY R. B. K. Okafor, Esq., M.P.

WHIPS

GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP	Alhaji Bello Dandago, M.P.
DEPUTY GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP	Mallam Aminu Kanu, M.P.
GOVERNMENT WHIPS	Mallam Muhtari Sarkin Bai, M.P. D. N. Abbi, Esq., M.P.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

THE SPEAKER	The hon. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri, M.P.
THE DEPUTY SPEAKER	E. C. Akwivu, Esq., M.P.
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS	B. A. Manuwa
CLERKS ASSISTANT	E. E. Nsefik J. O. Adeigbo M. A. Tahir
SECOND CLERK ASSISTANT	O. A. Coker
PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS	A. J. Nzeribe A. O. Salu R. I. Amaefula

OFFICIAL REPORT OF DEBATES—(HANSARD)

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ASSISTANT EDITORS	C. I. Offodile H. O. Nwokoye
OFFICIAL REPORTERS	N. B. A. Okoh E. O. Elendu V. N. Chibundu L. O. Antonio Miss I. Ogedegbe Mrs P. A. Graham-Jones O. Onamuti D. O. Eneanya

OFFICE OF THE SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS	E. A. Mensah, M.B.E.
DEPUTY SERJEANT-AT-ARMS	M. I. Onyeje

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 20th July, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members :

M. Abdullahi Markano, Sarkin Rafi.
Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Gobir.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I have to report to the House that His Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to give the following answer to the Address of the House of the 5th April :—

“I have received with great satisfaction, the expression of your thanks for the speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament.”

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that I have received letters from :

Alhaji Ahmadu Dambaba, Member for Rabah Wurno announcing his resignation from the House as from the 28th April, 1961 on his appointment to an office of emolument under the Crown.

Mallam Umoru Abba Karim, Member for Muri North, resigning as from 1st May, 1961, on his election to the Northern Nigeria House of Assembly, and

Mallam Balarabe Tafawa Balewa, Member for Bauchi Central, as from the 1st July, 1961, on his appointment to an office of emolument under the Crown.

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following papers which have been published in the Supplement to *Official Gazette* No. 34 of the 11th May, 1961 and No. 43 of 15th June, 1961, copies of which have already been distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :

(1) The Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 64 of 1961.)

(2) The Excise Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 82 of 1961.)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Economic Missions

O.151. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Finance, how many international economic tours or missions have been sponsored by the Federal Government within the last six years ; whether he considers twenty-two days reasonably sufficient for the proposed international economic missions due to take place this year ; and if he has given consideration to the inclusion, in the Federal Government team of some Parliamentarians with business and commercial knowledge and experience.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The Economic Mission which has now returned is the first which has been mounted by the Federal Government within the last six years. There have, however, been a number of overseas tours by individual Federal Ministers in the course of which matters of economic concern have been examined.

The Mission was away from Nigeria for forty-nine days on its first stage and not twenty-two days as the hon. Member may have thought was intended. A second stage of the Mission will be mounted later in the year.

There is nothing to prevent any Member of the House who has commercial knowledge and experience from being included in the delegation provided he is nominated by the Federal Government or the Government of the Region to which he belongs.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Will the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance say if it is an after thought that Parliamentarians here present who are skilled in commercial affairs will be included in the Mission at the next stage or if the Minister did not think in the first instance that there are in this Parliament people who are skilled and experienced in commercial affairs and who are even better than those nominated by the Government ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The hon. Member made a statement ; he did not ask a question but I can assure him that Mr Gbadamosi will not be going with the Mission next time !

International Transport of Goods

O.216. Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Transport, if he is aware of the grave situation now facing the local transporters in Maiduguri who experience great difficulty in transporting goods to the Chad Republic ; and if he will investigate the matter and negotiate with the Chad authorities in order to minimise the difficulties.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : Enquiries are being made.

Currency Notes

O.267. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Finance if he will state the number of old currency notes and new ones of £5, £1, 10s and 5s in circulation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The replacement of the old West African Currency Board notes was virtually completed many months ago, but, of course, some old notes will continue to come to light and there is evidence that some of these notes move into Nigeria from other territories.

The total of the new Nigerian notes circulating as at 31st March, 1961, was a little over £55 million made-up as follows :

Notes	£	Notes
5s	879,000	3,516,000
10s	1,474,000	2,948,000
£1	51,431,000	51,431,000
£5	1,372,000	274,400

Lagos Stock Exchange

O.268. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Finance to what extent have the public and financial institutions responded to the inauguration of the Lagos Stock Exchange ; and whether he proposes establishing a stock market at Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Onitsha and other big commercial centres.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The Lagos Stock Exchange commenced business only on the 6th of July, 1961. So far, the public and financial institutions have responded favourably well to the new Exchange. Both Government and Nigerian private registered securities are listed on the Stock Exchange and a few dealings have taken place in these securities. It is not the Federal Government which has established the Lagos Stock Exchange. The Stock Exchange is neither owned nor managed by Government. The question of establishment of the exchange in other commercial centres is a matter for the Council of the Exchange which is its governing body.

Tax Revenues

O.269. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Finance, how much was realised during the last financial year from income tax (personal) and Company taxes ; how much of the latter was paid by companies registered in Nigeria ; and how much was realised from companies with entirely foreign capital.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : Final returns in respect of the last financial year, 1960-61 are not yet complete. The most recent statistics available are those for the year ended 31st March, 1960, in which year income tax totalling £6,291,478 was collected. Of this total, individuals income tax amounted to £2,338,928, whilst Company income tax totalled £3,952,550. An amount of £1,018,480 was allocated to the Regions and the Southern Cameroons in respect of their share of the tax on the income of persons other than bodies corporate.

I regret that separate figures are not available in respect of companies registered in Nigeria and companies with entirely foreign capital.

Nigerianisation in Central Bank

O.270. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Finance how many Nigerians are in top executive positions in the Central Bank and how many are expatriates, what are the specific responsibilities of the latter and what plans are being made to fill future posts with qualified Nigerians.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : There are only *four* executive positions below Board level in the Central Bank of Nigeria held by expatriates : General Manager, Deputy General Manager, Chief Accountant and Currency Officer. These officers are all on loan for short periods from overseas institutions. The terms of service of three of them expire in about 12 months' time, and training in the Central Bank is proceeding in an endeavour to fill their places with properly qualified and trained Nigerians.

The posts of Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant General Manager and Assistant to the General Manager are all held by Nigerians.

Internal training has proceeded quickly and continues to proceed quickly as is evidenced by the fact that many responsible posts are held by Nigerians. Opportunities are being taken whenever possible to make Senior Nigerians available for important overseas courses and already three senior executives have attended Central Banking courses in the United Kingdom and in India, and very shortly others will attend courses with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Mr A. F. Odulana : Mr Speaker, now that the Parliamentary Secretary has stated here clearly that we have efficient Nigerians to manage the affairs of the Central Bank, will it not be necessary that these expatriates mentioned should be sent home at once ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : I have stated in my answer that in twelve months' time all senior posts now held by expatriates will be held by Nigerians. That should be sufficient for the hon. Member.

French Nationals in Nigeria

O.271. M. Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many French nationals there are in Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order. People must realise that this is Parliament, the supreme Parliament of the Federation of Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : Sir, it is rather difficult to give an accurate answer to this

question. The hon. Member may however be satisfied with an interim reply that our records and immigration arrivals for the period October to December 1960 show that there were 1,173 French nationals in Nigeria. Further inquiries are being made from the Chief Statistician with a view to ascertaining the correct figure. This figure will be furnished as soon as it is available.

Chief E. O. Okunowo : In the interest of French nationals residing in Nigeria who are law abiding, does the Minister not consider that the time has come to reconsider the establishment of a French Embassy in Nigeria ?

Mr Speaker : That is not within the scope of the Ministry.

French Assets in Nigeria

O.272. M Shettima Ali Monguno asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what is the value of French assets in the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The value of French assets in the Federation is not known. Although it is possible to make a rough assessment of the value of the assets of the firms which are clearly French, there are many other companies with mixed ownership where it is impossible to distinguish French assets and those of other nationals including Nigerians.

Mr S. J. Umoren : Is it not very interesting to hear from the Parliamentary Secretary that the value of French assets in Nigeria is not known ?

Provincial Engineers

O.273. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many Provincial Engineers there are in the Federal Public Service ; and how many of them are Nigerians.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There are no Provincial Engineers in the Federal Public Service. There are, however, 92 Senior Executive Engineers and Executive Engineers (including 58 contract officers holding temporary posts). There are 25 Nigerian officers holding permanent appointments in these grades.

Training of Technicians

O.274. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how many Nigerians have been trained in the Federal Public Works Department Technical Training Schools during the last three years, indicating the number of trainees from each Region and Lagos; and how many of these are in senior grades.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Works Division of the Ministry of Works and Surveys does not maintain a formal Technical Training School but it was responsible for the training of 75 persons in other Technical Training Schools in the period 1958-60. It is believed that of these 57 were of Western, 17 of Eastern and 1 of Northern origin. Nine of these officers are now holding senior staff appointments in Scale C (T) 2, 3, 4 or higher.

Mr A. A. Ajibola: May I know from the Prime Minister how soon he will send his Parliamentary Secretaries to school for better pronunciation?

Mr Speaker: That looks like an insulting question.

Ijebu-Ode/Benin Road

O.275. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will give some indication as to when the Benin-Ijebu Ode road will be ready for use.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The major work on the road is expected to be completed by December 1963, but the road will probably be open to certain restricted traffic in January 1962.

Tin Workers

O.279. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many African and expatriate employees have been re-engaged since Tin Restriction was relaxed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: Between the ending of Tin Restriction and the 28th of February, 3,979 African employees have been re-engaged by the Tin Mines. No expatriate have been re-engaged

O.280. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether, in view of the achievement of independence, he proposes to review the Minerals Ordinance in order to make it more favourable to Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: The Minister does not consider that the Minerals Ordinance operates in any way unfavourable to Nigerians. On the other hand, we have quite recently been considering the Oil Title Deeds in order to bring them up-to-date and make them reflect the policy of an independent Nigeria.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa: Is the Minister aware that the Minerals Ordinance was one of those obnoxious Bills against which the nationalists all over the country fought?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: I am not aware.

Oil Companies

***O.281. Alhaji Isa Haruna** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how many oil and mining companies there are in Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: Three Oil Companies are actively engaged and two others have applied for grant of prospecting licences. One Oil Company has recently abandoned the exploration licence but is interested in continuing the search for oil. Seventy-three Companies are engaged in mining in Nigeria. This figure includes certain operating firms under business names and excludes all private operators.

Trainee Army Cadets

O.282. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Defence, how many Army cadets-in-Training have been selected from each Region during the first quarter of 1961.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence: Cadets selected for training in the first quarter of 1961, are as under:

North	East	West
5	10	2

Mr V. E. Eze: Will the hon. Minister enlighten the House as to the formula which is adopted in recruiting cadets for the Armed Forces?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence: The hon. Minister will look into the hon. Member's question.

Umuduru Post Office

O.284. Mr D. O. Ahamefule asked the Minister of Communications, what is the grade of the post office at Umuduru, the administrative headquarters of Mbani District in Okigwi Division; whether it is making any progress; and if it is provided with all the equipment necessary for a modern post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: A Postal Agency is operating at Umuduru. The Agency is Cash-Accounting but cannot be said to be progressive. The units of business transacted during the period 1956 to 1960 were as follows:

1956-57	22,407
1957-58	14,132
1958-59	15,700
1959-60	16,722

Figures for 1960-61 are not yet available.

The Agency is provided with the necessary standard equipment for running a Cash-Account Postal Agency.

Firearms Licences

O.285. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Prime Minister, what steps he has taken to speed up collection of firearms licence renewal fees in Onitsha area, in view of the fact that for the past two years people have found it difficult to renew their gun licences because of shortage of prescribed application forms.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: The former shortage of these forms has been remedied and the prescribed forms are now available at Onitsha and other parts of the Eastern Region.

Accidents

O.286. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Prime Minister, what he is doing to minimise the high rate of accidents on the Lagos-Ibadan-Benin-Asaba road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: About 10.7 per cent of recorded accidents in 1960 occurred on this arterial road. The measures taken by the

Police to improve the situation include regular mobile patrols, regular vehicle checks for roadworthiness, the opening of an additional traffic post at Ikorodu and the wider disposition of traffic Police.

CERTIFICATES OF URGENCY

Certificates of urgency from the Governor-General were presented by the hon. Minister of Justice in respect of the following Bills:—

Nigerian Constitution First Amendment Bill.
National Bank of Nigeria Limited (Commission of Enquiry Recall) Bill.
Commissions and Tribunals of Inquiry Bill

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: *Second Reading*—This day.

NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED (COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY RECALL) BILL

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: *Second Reading*—This day.

COMMISSIONS AND TRIBUNALS BILL

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: *Second Reading*—This day.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Wednesday, 23rd August.

Hon. Members will remember that the month of August is the time when we consider the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. We propose to carry out this custom this year. This meeting which is being held to-day is mainly for the purpose of passing the three bills which my Colleague, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has just laid on the Table of this House. We expect to go through all the stages of the bills this morning and any other thing that has to be done will have to await the meeting which will be held in August for the consideration of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. J. A. Wachuku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Motion. (*Hear, hear*) I think that it is disgraceful that the Government is trying to administer this country by urgency and by secrecy. We have been brought here at considerable expense to this country; everyone of us here had 1s-3d a mile but notice was not given of the business which is to be conducted here this morning; we did not see these Bills till this morning. Mr Speaker, said a few minutes ago, that this is the supreme Parliament of our land and there were cheers on all sides. The supreme Parliament of a country of 35 million people meeting to discuss vital business: the incorporation of a province into this country and certain measures designed to save the face of Government in respect of certain mistakes it has made, and no notice whatever was given to any Member of this House of the business to be discussed.

I expected to hear from the Minister of Transport summaries and why these Bills must be passed to-day. If there were some reasons why they must be passed to-day and not tomorrow or Monday that will be very good reason for us to conclude our business to-day; but no such reasons have been offered. Sir, I think that the least the Government can expect of hon. Members is that they should be given an opportunity to read these Bills so as to be able to contribute effectively to the debate which arises on them.

It is true that from time to time we have suggested that this House should meet more often. It is quite clear, Sir, from the performance of some Parliamentary Secretaries this morning that if we met more often they will not be as rusty as they are. (*Applause*).

So, Sir, for these, in my view, very good reasons I beg to oppose this Motion and I suggest very strongly to the hon. the Prime Minister, who himself is an old parliamentarian and who will appreciate these arguments, that hon. Members are entitled to at least one day after this *First Reading* to read these important Bills so that they can contribute more effectively to the debate. (*Applause*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I also rise to oppose the Motion proposed by the Minister of Transport. I think that all of us here are very keen, as we have always professed, on seeing to it that democracy works in this country. As for this side we have always professed democracy and advocated democracy and we expect, Sir, that we should be given the opportunity to study these laws and in particular the law which seeks to amend the Constitution of the country to incorporate the new province which used to be known as Northern Cameroons. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, we have hardly started any business at all and Members insist on persistent interruptions. If we want business to go on, I think we must observe the debate in silence.

Chief Rosiji: The issue of the enlargement of the territory of this country is an important one on which Members of this House will have opinions to express, and that law should have been given considerable time, both notice of the law and also time for Members to have a discussion on it. This is an issue that involves international matters and we have gone up to the stage to-day where what we say about foreign affairs is of great importance. And in view of the activities of other countries in the United Nations on this matter I should have thought that the Government would allow us more time to discuss this and to bring before the House what is happening in the United Nations in connection with the campaign that is going on against Nigeria so that we can be in the know of what is happening and be able to debate this very effectively.

Sir, I think that it is very wrong that we should have just this one day to debate these Bills. The hon. the Minister of Transport said that everything else was to be discussed during the Budget Meeting but during the Budget Meeting the same thing happens—everything is guillotined and one has no time to talk. If the Government wants to run everything by secret meetings it can do so but I think it is wrong. If we are going to discuss these Bills effectively we should have at least one week to discuss them.

The House divided: Ayes 196; Noes 57.

NIGERIA CONSTITUTION
FIRST AMENDMENT BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to make provision for the Northern Cameroons as part of the Federation of Nigeria and for other purposes connected therewith, be read a second time.

As hon. Members must know, the Northern Cameroons became part of Nigeria on the 1st of June, 1961 when the Prime Minister went to Mubi to take over the administration of that territory from the British Administrator who was appointed under an Order-in-Council of 1960. Shortly after that, we made some temporary arrangement for carrying on the administration of that territory by means of an Order-in-Council and a Proclamation by the Governor-General. We now feel that we should take an early occasion such as this to enact an Act of Parliament under Section 16 of the Constitution to enable the Northern Cameroons to become constitutionally part of the Federation of Nigeria.

This is the object of this Bill, and there are altogether four main clauses and a schedule containing consequential alterations to the various existing laws of Nigeria.

Hon. Members will remember that as a result of a plebiscite held in the Northern Cameroons under the auspices of the United Nations, the Northern Cameroons, now Sardauna Province (*Hear, hear*) voted to join the Federation of Nigeria; and at the constitutional conference of 1958, all the delegates to that constitutional conference agreed that the Northern Cameroons should be incorporated into the Northern Region. This again we have sought to do, and hon. Members will remember that under Section 16 of the Constitution the Bill can be passed by a simple majority.

I have no doubt at all that hon. Members will give the Bill their blessing as it is the united wish of all of us that the Northern Cameroons—now Sardauna Province—should become part and parcel of this country.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House wholeheartedly welcome this Bill.

To-day is a red letter day for Nigeria and it is also victory No. 1 for the Action Group of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). We have worked very hard both here and in the United Nations to see that the Northern Cameroons does not go away from Nigeria and we are very happy indeed. As I have said, we welcome this Bill; it is not controversial, but I would like to say something about the re-naming of the province.

The province has been re-named Sardauna Province and I want to ask : Which Sardauna ? Because I know that the word "Sardauna" is a title, and to name a territory in this country after Sardauna—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This Bill merely seeks legislation to make that Sardauna Province part of the Federation of Nigeria and the hon. Member can only speak on the admission of the province to the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Ogedengbe : Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I have pointed out we on this side of the House accept this Bill and we do hope that the Northern Government will change its attitude. Something, however, will have to be done to curb the excesses of the N.P.C. because otherwise, and very soon, our neighbours in Ilorin and Kabba Provinces may have their provinces changed to "Balewa" province, "Okotie-Eboh" province, and so on and so forth.

Finally, I do hope that our Prime Minister—even though now we have a *square* around here known as Tafawa Balewa Square, I hope the N.P.C. will never consider changing—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Tafawa Balewa Square has nothing to do with this Bill.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I think it has .

Mr Speaker : I do not usually allow my ruling to be challenged by any Member.

Mr Ogedengbe : I hope, Sir, that eventually this very weak coalition government of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. will not change the name of Nigeria to "Balewa" as the Northern Regional Government has changed the name of a province to "Sardauna".

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 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jembar) : Mr Chairman, while I support this clause in principle, I feel, Sir, that there was an error somewhere when this Province was being readmitted into the Federation of Nigeria. The people of the Northern Cameroons voted overwhelmingly in favour of joining the Federation of Nigeria and they had certain guarantees made by distinguished leaders of this country that whenever they came back to this country they would be treated as equal citizens of Nigeria. But what has happened in that Province? Now that these people have come back, they are being treated as second class or third class citizens. There is untold oppression and suppression of the masses in the Northern Cameroons. I am speaking on behalf of those Northern Cameroonians who are represented here by Members of the Federal Parliament drawn from my own Party and I say this with every confidence because I believe that the majority of people in that area do support my Party.

I feel, Sir, that we have come here to pass legislation that will make Nigeria a very happy place for everybody. But what is happening? We find that in one great portion of the country, people are being

The Chairman : Order. I am afraid this Clause merely defines the area as you can see in the First Schedule.

Mr Tarka : I do not intend to challenge the ruling of the Chairman, but I do feel, Sir, that it goes beyond that. It says "The area described in the First Schedule to this Act (which consists of the territory known as Northern Cameroons) shall, on the coming into operation of this Act, form part of the Federation of Nigeria and be administered as part of Northern Nigeria." It is the last sentence I am referring to, Mr Chairman. I do not intend to challenge your ruling but I think it is most appropriate for me under this

Clause to make my own observations. And here, Sir, I want to repeat that we want Nigeria to be a healthy place, a place where everybody can live as equal even to the highest ruler in the country. These people in the Northern Cameroons live under perpetual oppression and suppression, and yet we come here and talk of democracy. People point fingers at Western Nigeria but they do not go to the North to campaign. That is why a person like the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance does not know what is happening in other parts of the Federation because they have signed away their own rights and so they cannot go to the North to campaign.

I want the Federal Government to see to it that the people of the Northern Cameroons are treated as equal citizens of the Federation of Nigeria and not as subjects of a special person or a special national grouping in this country.

Sir, with this I beg to support.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 agreed to.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED
(COMMISSION OF INQUIRY RECALL) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : Mr Speaker, Sir,

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Point of Order, Mr Speaker. I refer to Standing Order 5 (3)—(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member is entitled to raise a point of order and he must be listened to in silence.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I was referring to Standing Order 5 (3), which reads: "Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as might, in Mr Speaker's opinion, prejudice the interests of the parties thereto." Well, there is a matter pending before the High Court of Lagos.

We all agree in this country that we are subject to the rule of law and I daresay that the object of this Bill, which is to provide for the recall of the Commission of Inquiry into the National Bank of Nigeria, will naturally affect the rights of the party to the question now pending in the High Court of Lagos. As such, I think it is not within the competence of the House to bring this Bill at this stage. This Bill as we know is an admission of defeat on the part of the Federal Government and the Federal Government should admit defeat honourably, not by by-passing the court of law.

Although we are in sympathy with the Prime Minister, because he has become a victim of some spiteful Members in the Cabinet, this House is not competent to discuss this Bill.

Mr Speaker : I appreciate the point raised by the hon. Member. He, however overlooked two facts. The first is as follows.

He said—"Reference shall not be made to any matter in which a judicial decision is pending." The Attorney-General has not said anything at all that can be so described and so that point of order does not apply.

Secondly, I refer the hon. Member to Standing Order 52 which says :—

"Notwithstanding anything in any standing Order, when a certificate of urgency signed by the Governor-General in respect of a proposed bill has been laid upon the Table by a member of the Council of Ministers, the bill to which a certificate relates may be introduced forthwith and, notwithstanding that it has not been printed, may be proceeded with throughout all its stages and the House shall not be counted out or adjourned (except upon a motion made by a Member of the Council of Ministers) until such bill has been read the third time."

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to make other provision for a Commission issued to inquire into certain transactions of the National Bank of Nigeria Limited and of its subsidiary companies and of other matters ancillary thereto be read a second time.

The Bill contains only two clauses. The first one is the name, the title clause and, the second is to enable the Government that has set up a

commission of inquiry to recall that Commission of Inquiry. I think it would be appreciated by all Members of the House that it is the prerogative of Parliament, of a sovereign and independent Legislature to enact a Bill on any subject whatsoever; and as we inherited the constitutional convention of the British Parliament, that Parliament is supreme and can make a law specifying that a man shall be regarded as a woman or *vice versa*, I therefore beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : We on this side of the House sympathise with the Government because of the position in which they have found themselves in this issue of the Inquiry into the National Bank of Nigeria. At the same time, we on this side of the House consider that on an issue like this instead of the Government having the effrontery to bring this type of bill they should resign. I am surprised that the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice can make the type of speech he made here this morning without great embarrassment.

One would suppose that one of three things would have happened in the Government. Either that the Government refused to consult the Attorney-General before the Commission of Inquiry was set up; or that he was consulted and he proved absolutely incompetent and his legal knowledge was not up to the mark; or else that the Attorney-General gave the Government sound legal advice and the Government rejected it—

Mr B. Ukaegbu : Point of Order, Mr Speaker. The hon. Gentleman is referring to the National Bank Inquiry which does not form part of this Bill.

Mr Speaker : There is no breach of order in his speech.

Chief Rosiji : I said that the third alternative was that the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice gave sound legal advice to the Government but that the Government in its arrogance, spite, feudalistic tendencies and malice refused to accept the advice of the Attorney-General.

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

I happen to know the Minister of Justice very well and I have no doubt that the Minister of Justice, from my knowledge of him, would have given if he had been asked, sound legal advice on the issue which was before the High Court recently. Sir, the inference, therefore, is that either the hon. the Attorney-General's advice was not asked for at all or that it was asked for but refused. In such circumstances, I think it is a very good thing that this country has produced men of courage, people who will dare to challenge the Government at any time when it does anything wrong or illegal. (*Hear, hear*). Following the action of the Federal Government a High Court action was taken and the Government action was declared to be illegal. Now, if a government that has at its disposal all the legal brains in Nigeria, the government that can call to its aid all other brains in Nigeria in order to be able to do things in order and legally, were to meet with that type of fate in the Court they have put great shame on this country.

Mr Speaker, we are a new country and we are trying to build upon good foundation based on democracy for the happiness of the people of our country. We should have thought that the Government having been defeated in the way that it was defeated should have taken its defeat with calm and honour. There is still pending in the Court a matter which has been referred to the Federal Supreme Court. The Government does not wait to hear the reserved decision of the Federal Supreme Court. It is clear that the Government is not only so afraid but also is not sure of its grounds at any time.

Sir, a lot of money has been spent already by the Government in trying to make arrangement for the beginning of this enquiry. All this money has gone down the drain. Now the Government wants to recall the Commission after they have made so much noise and so much fuss. I do not care what you do after you have recalled this Commission. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Rosiji : At least, we can always rely on the judgment of Mr Speaker. As I was saying, Sir, after this Bill will have been passed into law whatever you do out of spite or out of anything else, about which I do not care the fact still remains that one man and one

man only has defeated the whole of this Government. (*Hear, hear*). It does not matter to me or to anybody else after that and you can go on and have your inquiry and do whatever you like. As far as we the Action Group are concerned we want the inquiry to go on. Therefore, I would suggest to you that after you have withdrawn this the next bill that you are going to pass should make it possible to bring back another inquiry. Institute another inquiry under the Commissions and Tribunals of Enquiry Law and we will come down and answer you.

Sir, I think not only I but the whole of this country should register their protest about the inefficiency, tactlessness and cowardice of this pack of people whom we have asked to rule this country. I think that it is an unfortunate incident that these people should be here to rule the country. I have no doubt—and I think that the people of this country know—that there are great handicaps, psychological handicaps within this Government which make possible this type of disgraceful action on the country.

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

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am actually surprised to see the Attorney-General propose this Bill with so much calm and equanimity. I was thinking that he would hide his head in shame. To come to this House and admit publicly that he has been hopelessly incompetent I think is not worthy of a lawyer. If he is not ashamed I am ashamed for him, since he is a lawyer. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order, I think he should use better language.

Mr Briggs : Since this morning I have been wondering why it was necessary to come to this House to recall the Commission. The Prime Minister ordered it and he could have just cancelled it by word of mouth, but he chose to come to this House in order that this House might save his face and the face of the Attorney-General. And the Attorney-General without his face being saved had to come to this House to tell the House that they should recall what ordinarily the Prime Minister instituted.

Mr Speaker, they have called for a fight and when the fight comes they want to run away. I know of a certain bird we call *Karai* in my

language. He shouts and shouts and his shouting brings rain and when the rain comes he runs into his nest. You have called the Commission of Inquiry, let it proceed by all means. We have nothing to hide. (*Applause*).

Sir, it is a very great pity that it had to take the courage of Chief Doherty to challenge the Government and also it required Mr Dingle Foot who came all the way, 4,000 miles away, and hon. Chief Akin-Olugbade to tell us that our Government had blundered. If the Government had blundered, I think they should have the good grace to say that they have blundered and have wasted the money of the taxpayer.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to associate myself with all the views already expressed by members of the Action Group on this issue. I only need to add just one or two words about this Federal Government. If there is any Government in Africa to-day that is incompetent the Federal Government of Nigeria is the one; if there is any Government in this Continent that is far from being nationalistic it is this Government and we are completely ashamed. If there had not been about five or six well-qualified legal practitioners or lawyers in this Federal Government, you would not have been surprised at all, but we have even on this row sitting before us the Council of Ministers composed of at least five legal luminaries. It is a shame not only to the Government but to the honourable profession of law.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. When a Member rises, I expect he will make contribution to the Bill but I find that Members talk so much of the Government that is not within the scope of the Bill.

Mr Omisade: The Government have shown that they have tactlessly exhibited their incompetency by bringing into this House a Bill for an action in which this House has nothing to do. As pointed out by hon. Briggs, it is sufficient for the Prime Minister to have a Minister of Information to announce on the radio that the inquiry has been recalled and you will not be put into this work and the dear time of this hon. House should not have been wasted at all. And here we are again with this Government exhibiting malice, spite, shamelessness and ignorance.

Mr Speaker, we very strongly oppose the Bill before this House because it is most unnecessary, uncalled for, and the most honourable thing for the Government to do is to resign and give up. (*Shame, shame*). We have in this country more competent Members who can take over the reins of Government and perform duties efficiently and raise the name of Nigeria not only in the Continent of Africa but the whole of the world.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): I wonder why the feeling of the people over there has run so high.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo): I think the speaker should be told to stand at ease.

Mr Speaker: I do not know whether you are referring to the Speaker or to the hon. Member (*Laughter*).

Alhaji Bello Dandago: I am not surprised, for the hon. Member does not know the difference. I was saying that the feeling of the members of the Action Group has run so high. Why are they worried about this National Bank? (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order.

Alhaji Bello Dandago: It is the welfare of the people which the N.C.N.C./N.P.C. Coalition Government has at heart that has made the Government to take the action which it is now taking. Whether anybody likes it or not, the Commission of Inquiry into the National Bank will continue (*Loud applause*). Whether Chief Okotie-Eboh is here or not I would like to tell the people on that side to remember what is called collective responsibility. (*Laughter, laughter*). What touches the people at large must be approved by the people, at least, it needs the majority of the people.

Mr Speaker Sir, without fear or favour, I will not say that some of the remarks are irresponsible but no decent Parliamentarian will call Government Members inefficient and all that sort of thing. The Government is quite efficient and that is why it is appointing this Commission of Inquiry. If this is what the country wants, what is it that these people are hiding?

Several Opposition Members : We are not hiding anything.

Alhaji Bello Dandago : Mr Speaker Sir, in fairness to the people of Nigeria, no matter from what section, the Inquiry should continue. (Applause).

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : This is a matter of law and we want people who have a knowledge of law

Mr Speaker : Order. This is not a court of law.

Alhaji Bello Dandago : We want to tell the public that everything is in order because the Government is the custodian of the people of this country.

Mr V. E. Eze (Orlu North East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill before the House. Before going further I would like to call the attention of hon. Members to the purport of the Bill, that is to cure any tendency to confusion or mischief which—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I do not think there is really any use for all these citations.

Mr Speaker : I do not know whether he was citing anything because I cannot make any reference to what is cited.

Mr Eze : I was calling the attention of the House to the purport of the Bill. It is a matter for regret that those few members on the Opposition Bench have mis-read and misunderstood the Bill.

The position in the United Kingdom for instance is that the Legislature is supreme and no matter how much power the judiciary may claim they cannot alter the rulings of the Parliament of the land. However in the United States the position is a bit different. There the Legislature is virtually supreme. Through judicial interpretations they effect some modification justified by law.

Unfortunately in our country which has become independent and sovereign, a colonial type of judicial interpretation is still being imported. This is a matter for regret. It should not be allowed to continue. In Nigeria we have a peculiarity which must be stopped and that peculiarity is that a large proportion

of the members of our Judiciary happen to be expatriates, whereas in the United Kingdom, or in America for instance, members of the Judiciary are British people and American people respectively.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member is discussing the Judiciary which he can best do during the Appropriation Bill. I think he should reserve his comments until we come to the Budget Session.

Mr Eze : Mr Speaker, in conclusion— (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, order, with so much noise being made it is impossible for me to hear what hon. Members are saying. I ask the co-operation of both sides of the House.

Mr Eze : Sir, I wholeheartedly support this Bill and the Members in the Government Bench and the Opposition should also support it.

The Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not propose at this stage to inflict any long speech on the House. References have been made to me and my incompetence in my present job. I choose to ignore the references and I leave it to the country and to those who made the criticisms to judge for themselves.

In regard to the court case, I think it is important for us to distinguish two things here. The references that have been made concern what the Judge held in the case which he recently decided. The first point was on the issue whether the consent of the Governor-General had been obtained before the Prime Minister appointed the Inquiry.

The other point, Mr Speaker, is that the Judge has referred this point to the Federal Supreme Court to decide whether Commissions of Inquiry are also Tribunals of Inquiry, and he was told quite clearly by no less a Judge than Sir Vahe Bairamian that this is not a controversial point which is suitable for submission to the Supreme Court; that it is a matter of opinion.

But on the issue of consent, we, and I think I can speak for the majority of the people in this country, do not accept that the ruling on consent is consistent with established principles of law.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. If hon. Members can only observe silence then I will be able to detect any breach but otherwise I will allow the hon. Member to continue his speech.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Minister of Justice is wrong in criticising the decision of the Judiciary in this House. If he wants to criticise the Judiciary he has to do so—(Interruptions).

An hon. Member : In the Federal Supreme Court.

The Minister of Justice : Mr Speaker, the last speaker forgets that even in England judgments that have been given by Judges even of the House of Lords are commonly criticised by even the newspapers and of course by the Legislature if it chooses to do so.

The point I want to make, Sir, is that had we the time to pursue this case to its logical conclusion, we would have done so. But the Government is really serious that this inquiry must proceed and as such we consider that it would be a mere academic exercise for the Government to pursue the matter further. We want to clear this out of the way to enable the Government to go ahead in a constitutional manner.

Sir, all Nigerians ought to take this matter more seriously than we have done so far. If a judge of a high court should consider that the affidavit sworn to by the Secretary to the Governor-General was invalid—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : Point of Order, Sir. I refer to Order 25 (8) which states that "The conduct of.....judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion;....." I think the Attorney-General should not be reminded of this.

Mr Speaker : So far I do not think the Minister has gone to such an extent that I should intervene.

The Minister of Justice : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I have every right to continue to comment on a judgment to which reference has been made by not less than three Members on the other side of the House. I ask the House to accept the Bill.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : Mr Speaker, Sir, we are opposing this Bill not because we are afraid of a commission of inquiry being instituted into the National Bank of Nigeria Limited, but because we are opposed to the recall of the Commission which has been issued by the Prime Minister, or the cancellation of it. We want the Prime Minister to continue with the inquiry at any moment.

The Government has admitted that they had not established the commission of inquiry in a constitutional manner. That is why they have brought this Bill. I daresay—

Mr V. E. Eze (Orlu North East) : Point of Order. Mr Speaker, the Bill before the House does not make any reference to a commission of inquiry.

Mr Speaker : I think there is too much of the raising of points of order, most of them very unnecessary. I think it should be left to me to be the judge of breaches of order.

Chief Olugbade : He has not got a copy of the Bill. If he has it, perhaps he will see that "National Bank of Nigeria Limited (Commission of Inquiry Recall) Act" is the heading.

I thought that this matter should not be discussed in Parliament. But this act of the Federal Government is another evidence of the spiteful intention of certain members of the Cabinet. I have great respect for the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, and I know that he would be the last man to go on an escapade to destroy this bank. But the responsibility for this bungling rests squarely on him and that is why he has been made the first defendant in the action which has been filed in the court by Senator Doherty.

This is evidence of the habit of the Federal Government of taking advice from foreigners who are here in this country. That is further evidence of weakness on the part of the Federal Government. We have been declared free since the 1st of October last year and we want to see that our country grows. We do not want to go all out to destroy our fellowmen out of spite.

Sir, one of the motives behind this commission of inquiry is this. We all know that we want to develop this country economically and there are many indigenous agencies which have been aiding this country economically.

[CHIEF OLUGBADE]

But there have been rumours which members of the Government have been listening to, and what do they do? They follow the provisions of the Banking Ordinance 1958—

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member should not base his argument on rumours.

Chief Olugbade : Sir, I said that perhaps they based their decision on hearsay (I would not say rumour) and as such they wanted to go all out to destroy one of the oldest commercial agencies in this country. They cannot destroy this commercial agency. It is impossible. I have all the findings of the Special Accountant appointed by the Minister of Finance in my possession as counsel for the defendant. His findings on the performances of the National Bank of Nigeria Limited are far better than those of the African Continental Bank.

Mr Speaker : Of course it is for the inquiry to find out.

Chief Olugbade : I would say that the Government is adopting a dangerous method by ruling this country by decree. This Bill was passed to Members only to-day. The Government knows that we are representing our constituencies here, but because of their irregularity, they have got a certificate of urgency to bring such an important Bill which, in effect, may be found to be discriminatory in its nature when passed, and which may even be challenged in court at a later stage.

Question put, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

The House divided : Ayes 205, Noes 53.

Bill accordingly read the 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.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while not objecting to the inclusion of this Clause in the Bill, I would like to take this opportunity to make the stand of this side of the House on this Bill quite clear. There seems to have been some apprehension on the other side. We have never been opposed to the inclusion of the provisions of Clause 2. Our case is that this Bill is unnecessary, and that the Prime Minister could have cancelled the present inquiry by administrative action.

Unfortunately, the Attorney-General did not answer that point in the course of his original statement. It may be that he would now like to enlighten the House and let us know why he thought that that action could not have been taken.

We have no objection at all ; but it may be that the Attorney-General may have thought that without taking the present course of action mischievous lawyers on this side might again go to court and get the better of them.

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 A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the Attorney-General has given no reason at all why the action sought to be given effect here could not have been taken administratively, we beg to oppose.

Question put and the House divided.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

COMMISSIONS AND TRIBUNALS OF ENQUIRY BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the holding of Commissions and Tribunals of Enquiry be read a Second time.

I do not propose to make any long speech over this Bill because it is a consolidating Act and many of the provisions are already familiar to most of the Members here. We have tried in this Consolidating Act to re-enact the whole law and to clear certain doubts that might exist in people's minds. The main provisions to which I want to draw attention are :—

The Definition Clause, Section 2 (2) which says—

“A commission of inquiry is a tribunal of enquiry and accordingly references in this Act to commissions of inquiry shall include references to any tribunal of enquiry or court of enquiry however established”.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House concerns the powers which the Commissioners have to delegate certain duties to people appointed by them to look into certain aspects of the matter into which they have been appointed to inquire. You will find this in Clause 8.

I want to refer in the first place to the provision which, I think, is important in Section 19. About what constitutes contempt before the Commissions of Inquiry and the penalties attached thereto. We have tried to make the Bill as up-to-date as possible and as clear, I think, as is humanly possible.

I commend the Bill to the House and I know that hon. Members on both sides will support it.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no controversy about this Bill. I would like to make some observations about the tardy way in which the hon. Minister of Justice has produced this Bill. He is a very able man, we hope, but it does not give anybody credit that it is only when our Government is pulled up by the court that we run to the House and amend the Law. I think it is necessary that the Attorney-General should concentrate on his work and look into all the existing laws and find out which of them deserves amendment at this stage.

It is unfortunate if it is only at the last moment when the Minister finds himself in a fix then he will run to this House asking for amendment. We are supporting this Bill in principle but at the Committee stage we have certain observations to make and recommendations to put before the Government. I can only hope the Government will consider the recommendations of the Opposition.

The Minister of Justice: I would like to make only one observation and that concerns the question of the manner in which we shall be amending our laws. I think it would be agreed on all sides that our laws are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians that alter not. We shall have to amend the law as and when occasion demands, that is really the

business of Parliament. That is why Parliament exists. Anybody who has the prescience to pass statute laws once and for all would not be a human being.

I want to draw the attention of the last speaker to the release that we made from my Ministry only about six or seven days ago. Unfortunately, some of the members of the Press chose to ignore it. We set out clearly what we were doing in the Ministry, and the job of re-organising the whole structure of our statute book, looking at specific ordinances and laws, tightening things up, and bringing them up-to-date, consistently with our sovereign status, has been going on for the last nine months, and we propose to continue to do so.

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.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

Clause 3.

Chief A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name, that is an Amendment to Clause 3 page C. 340 line 13—after the word “may” insert “with the consent or approval of the Governor-General-in-Council”.

Sir, in modern Nigeria the role of the Governor-General is well known. The Governor-General is the constitutional head of the country and his role is to advise the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. His advice is to have the effect of curbing the excess of politicians and may I say the Council of Ministers when they want to go off the rail. The Council of Ministers is not bound to accept the advice of the Governor-General but I dare say that the opportunity to have the advice of such a mature and experienced Head of State as the Governor-General is an opportunity which, I am sure, all of us in this House will welcome. Therefore, it is with great perturbation that we on this Side of the House view the omission in Clause 3 of the Bill of an indication that the consent or the approval of the Governor-General is necessary.

[CHIEF AKINLOYE]

Sir, it is not easy to devoid the personality of the holder of an office from his office. Particularly in this country we are very grateful that we have in the person of our Governor-General to-day such a distinguished Nigerian. I am sure that it will be very unfortunate if this Amendment which is proposed with all sincerity is not accepted by the Attorney-General. The Amendment which we propose is that the Governor-General should give his consent or approval to the institution of a commission of inquiry and I commend this Amendment to the House.

Amendment proposed.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I rise to second the Amendment. It will be seen that the powers being vested in the Prime Minister in this Bill are very wide and far reaching and to that extent it is very dangerous to entrust such powers to a politician because by virtue of his office the Prime Minister of the Federation is a politician. In the old Commission of Inquiry Law which is being repealed by this Bill, Chapter 36 of the Laws of Nigeria, the power to appoint a commission of inquiry was vested in the Governor-General who is supposed to be non partisan. But now the power is being divested from the Governor-General and vested in the Prime Minister, not even in the Prime Minister 'on the advice of the Council of Ministers'.

Well, this is why I say it is dangerous. The first reason is: if the Prime Minister should be absent from the country or should be on leave and somebody is appointed, who is a spiteful politician to act in his place, what will stop him from appointing a commission of inquiry into the affairs of companies or families or anything connected with the affairs of his political opponent? One other reason why I think it is dangerous to vest the power in the Prime Minister is that he may find it convenient to destroy his political opponent by setting up commissions of inquiry indiscriminately. I am not sure whether the powers that are being vested in the Prime Minister in this Bill are vested even in Mr Khrushchev.

According to Section 3 sub-section (1) "The Prime Minister may...in respect of which in his opinion an enquiry would be for the public welfare, or into the conduct on any chief or the management of any department

of the public service." Yes, he may be able to appoint a commission of inquiry into the management or department of the public service but "his opinion" leaves him a very, very wide discretion and I think if we want to maintain the rule of law in this country, if we want everybody to be subject to the rule of law in this country, we should not allow an individual to hold this power. Under the same section 3, subsection (4) states: "The fact that a commission is issued under this section shall be sufficient proof of the proper exercise by the Prime Minister of his authority to do so; and neither the Commission itself nor any action of the Prime Minister in relation thereto shall be enquired into in any court of law." This is a big innovation.

The Prime Minister quite naturally would like to avoid being dragged into a court of law on any act which is considered to be an administrative act. But where the Prime Minister has the power to escape court process in respect of any action unlimited. For instance, Mr Chairman, the Commission of Inquiry which has been recalled this morning was instituted into the affairs of the National Bank on the 15th of May this year, and two days later the Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr Stallard who has left the country, fortunately, wrote a letter in the name of the hon. Prime Minister to the Inspector-General of Police authorising the Inspector-General of Police to impound all the books, records, papers and everything connected with the National Bank of Nigeria for the period 1st of October, 1959 to 31st December, 1960. With that letter the Commissioner of Police, the Banking Examiner in the Ministry of Finance and one other European walked with an army of police officers into the National Bank (that was on the 17th or 18th of May) and produced the letter from Mr Stallard as the authority to impound all the books of the Bank, in effect to close down the Bank. Fortunately I was in the premises of the Bank and I was consulted by my clients, so I asked the Commissioner of Police to produce his authority, then he produced a letter from Mr Stallard authorising him to impound all the books of the National Bank for the period. I had to tell him that that was not an authority for him to impound the books, it was an instruction to the Inspector-General of Police. We were there for over two hours. They phoned to Mr Murray in

the Ministry of Finance (I do not know who is so called); they phoned to the Attorney-General; they phoned to the Inspector-General of Police and incidentally it was on that day that the Prime Minister himself returned from his tour to the Northern Region and they had to wait until Mr Stallard who went to meet him at the airport got back to his office and discovered that they had no power to impound the books of the National Bank. This is a very very dangerous thing and under this subsection, it is any action by the Prime Minister.

Well, I am not saying that this present Prime Minister can go to excess, I know very well about his good nature but in case another Minister is acting for him he can ask somebody he knows to be his political enemy to be arrested pending the holding of the Commission of Inquiry and then he will be free and he will not be liable to any question in the court of law. I think we have to think very seriously.

When a certain Preventive Detention Act was being passed in one of our sister countries, the leader of that country made it clear that the law was being passed for the citizens of that country. Well, to-day the Prime Minister and his party or parties are in power and we are going to pass this law. Tomorrow it may be that the application of this law will not be to the interest of those who mortgaged their consciences or those Members who have signed undated letters of resignation. It may not be to their interest and then there will be hue and cry. The Opposition to-day can take it; we are trying to offer our criticisms in good faith but I do not think it is right for us to vest one individual with powers that will make it impossible for the court to question any action of it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Amendment.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): Mr Chairman Sir, in rising to support this Amendment I do so with all sense of responsibility and without any prejudice to the Prime Minister of the Federation. I think the hon. the Attorney-General has allowed sentiment to override his judgment when drafting this Bill. He has forgotten that the Prime Minister is a human being and is liable to make mistakes and for that simple reason I will strongly support the Amendment as moved by the hon. Chief Akinloye.

The House must realise that another king may reign in Egypt that knoweth not Joseph. To-day we all believe sincerely in the integrity of our Prime Minister but another Prime Minister may be appointed tomorrow who may not be a godly man as we are having to-day. (*Interruptions*). The Prime Minister that we have to-day is always a man with a cool head. It is not unlikely that if another man is appointed tomorrow he may use this power in a manner detrimental to the interest of the whole country.

This is a section giving the Prime Minister full powers to investigate what is happening in my house between me and my wife. Sir, this power is too wide to be vested in a man born of a woman. I think this should be left to the Governor-General-in-Council. The Attorney-General has not been able to tell the House why this power is withdrawn from the Governor-General and vested in the Prime Minister. Are we to understand that he is doubting the integrity of the Governor-General? I would strongly support that the power be vested in the Governor-General-in-Council.

M. A. Isandu (Jos North West): We have vested this power with the Prime Minister because we know he is able. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: Order, order.

M. A. Isandu: I repeat Mr Chairman, that we have vested the Prime Minister with these powers because we know that he is able to carry them out.

This Bill is not controversial and I see no reason why the Action Group should be wasting our time. The Action Group has always carried out inquiries in the Western Region.

A few years ago, Mr Chairman, our present Governor-General had to accept an inquiry into the affairs of the Continental Bank.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): On a point of order, Sir, I think someone has written that speech for him!

M. Isandu: As I was saying, Sir, a few years ago our present Governor-General, the Rt. hon. Dr Azikiwe, had to face such an inquiry into the affairs of the Continental Bank and no one among these people sought then to prevent it. Therefore, I see no reason now why the Action Group should oppose this inquiry. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order ! Surely, these interruptions are getting rather intolerable !

M. Isandu : The National Bank, as its name implies, belongs to the nationals of Nigeria and an inquiry has been instituted by nationals of Nigeria. I see no reason why the Action Group is opposing it. The Bank is not a Western Regional Bank ; if it were, we would not have participated in its affairs.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Action Group has got no interest in the unity and progress of this nation.

The Chairman : Order, order. When an Amendment is moved, hon. Members can only speak on the Amendment.

M. Isandu : The Action Group preaches what it does not practise. The reason why we vest this power on our Prime Minister is that he is capable of discharging the duty and there is no reason to prevent him from carrying it out.

Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

M. Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment.

It is gratifying to know even from the Opposition that the Prime Minister is a God-fearing person, and I think it is also gratifying to know that the Prime Minister does not absorb flattery as the Opposition might think. No right-thinking person in this country will ever doubt that the Prime Minister would ever dream of mis-using the powers vested in him.

Undoubtedly, Sir, we certainly believe that these powers will be used in the interest of the country and I am only appealing to the Prime Minister not to hesitate, and here I repeat, not to hesitate to use the powers vested in him.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the Government does not accept the Amendment.

It has been suggested that this power is too much for one person to exercise ; but Members of the Opposition seem to forget that there is something known as collective responsibility

of Ministers and that when the people of this country entrusted the Government of this country to the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C., they knew the men to whom they were entrusting power. (*Hear, hear*). It is also suggested that this matter should come within the personal purview of the Governor-General. Here again, some people seem to forget that the Governor-General-in-Council or the Governor-in-Council of a Region means the Council of Ministers and the Executive Council in either case. The Governor-General does not sit in Council neither does the Regional Governors sit in Council nowadays.

Mr W. O. Briggs : That is law turned upside down !

The Minister of Transport : I do not want to talk about Mr Briggs because I do not think he went near any school of law. I would like to say that in this country, and in the various Regions, laws have been enacted to give powers to Ministers or the Executive Councils to carry out certain duties which cannot be reviewed by the courts ; and as a matter of fact this was started in the Western Region with the Chiefs' Law of the Western Region—(*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order.

The Minister of Transport : I may say, Sir, that this is no innovation as it applies also to laws which have been enacted in various parts of the Commonwealth or the United Kingdom itself. There is nothing peculiar about this law. Various speakers have paid tribute to the personal integrity and the good sense of judgment of the Prime Minister, and that makes it all the more reason why nobody should have questioned this clause.

My friend, Chief Okunowo thinks that this power should be given to Members of this House. He thinks also that this clause seeks to confer powers to hold an inquiry into the private and personal affairs of members of the public. I would like to assure him that this clause only seeks to give power to appoint an inquiry or a commission to inquire into any matter affecting the general welfare of the Federal Territory or of the Federation. It does not go into the private affairs of people, so the example cited by my hon. Friend does not apply at all.

An hon. Member : Why take the powers from the Governor-General?

The Minister of Transport : The Governor-General is the Head of State. He cannot be dragged into matters of this sort. He does not sit in Council, and the Council of Ministers are absolutely responsible for the actions of the Governor-General. We are responsible for his actions, and you cannot question him.

Therefore, Mr Chairman, I want to say that all these points have been considered, and we find it absolutely unnecessary to accept the Amendment or to draft this section in the way that has been suggested. We are quite satisfied that the clause, as now drafted, is in proper form, and that the powers which this Clause seeks to give to the Prime Minister will be properly exercised.

Amendment put in clause 3 page C340 line 13, after "may" to insert "with the consent or approval of the Governor-General-in-Council."

The House divided :

Ayes	..	..	..	53
Noes	..	..	..	195

Amendment accordingly negatived.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 24 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported, without Amendments.

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

Chief A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North East): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that the very progressive Amendment which we have proposed in this House has been opposed and I would only say that the little powers which are still left with the Governor-General are to-day being taken away one by one. (*Interruptions*). It will go on record that we progressive elements on this side proposed an amendment and by sheer majority the Government have opposed it. (*Applause*)

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Parliament to-day has set a record which should make the Government

ashamed of itself. We have just passed a bill which immediately we rise from this House will be sent to the Senate, approved there and by five o'clock the Governor-General will be assenting to it and by six o'clock the Prime Minister will be acting under the law. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, I think this is too big a speculation.

Mr Dosunmu : If further evidence of bad faith is required it is the passage of this law that supplies it; the manner in which we have brought this Bill of such momentous importance; the manner in which it has been rushed clearly exhibits bad faith, ill-will, and spite on the part of the Federal Government. But we only hope that it will not require another Dingle Foot to point it out. I also hope that it will not require my hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, to point out that the action of this Government reads ill-will, spite, bad faith and oppression.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Mr Speaker, Sir, looking through the Bill, one sees that the Bill is non-contentious but is criticised by this handful of people across who elsewhere pass bills within two hours, pick people from the gutter of society, make them nobles and put them into houses of nobility. (*Interruptions*).

What we are proposing to say in this Bill is that this is not a question of ill-will but that of a well-established principle of parliamentary democracy that Parliament, in acts before it, is supreme. (*Interruptions*). The Bill is to be passed and it will be passed and those of them, in any event, who do not want to see it operated should get out. After all, some leaders of their Party have told them what to do and that is to get out of Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like to reply to the statement which my hon. Friend made but I think it is common knowledge that this country is being run not by the law which is laid down but by decree. It is unfortunate that so many bills of great importance could be passed to Members on the very day that they were to be read first, second and third times. It is becoming the practice of the Government to rule by decree and that is why

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]
the people in this country cannot know anything about how the country is being run until appeals are made to public opinions, and the appeals are made through the Press. And I think the Prime Minister will take note that we were voted into this House so that we may air the views of the country and if we are not allowed to make close study of bills being brought into this House it may be necessary that bills passed in this House by this august body may be challenged in the court of law because, although some people shout supremacy of Parliament, in this country what we have is the supremacy of the Constitution. (*Hear, hear*). And if any law is passed in this House which offends the provisions of the Constitution it will be challenged and I daresay that it is not impossible that one of the laws which have been passed in this House to-day will be challenged in the law court. (*Hear, hear*).

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, that the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1961, be confirmed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that I must apologise to you and to the House for having to move this Motion at this special meeting. Hon. Members may well feel that it could appropriately have been deferred to the next normal meeting. Unfortunately, my hands are tied, and I have no choice in the matter. For the Customs Tariff Ordinance requires that an Order made by His Excellency the Governor-General shall be submitted to the next meeting of the House of Representatives following the publication of that Order in the Gazette. And the law goes on to provide that if an Order is not so submitted, it shall expire the day after the meeting of the House ends. So if I had not submitted this Order to the House to-day, it would automatically have expired tomorrow.

Having explained, Sir, why I have had to bring this Motion to this meeting, I do not think I need detain hon. Members long. We are all anxious to encourage industrial development in Nigeria, and one of our first needs is the establishment of a packaging

industry, for many other industries depend upon the ready availability of packing materials with which to pack their products. The Order which I am asking the House to confirm exempts from import duty the thin tin-plate from which the ordinary tin can, which is so familiar to us all, and other metal containers, are made. It will enable an industry to be established in Nigeria for the manufacture of such metal containers. Eventually, no doubt, tin-plate will itself be manufactured in Nigeria, and when that stage is reached it will no longer be necessary to exempt imported tin-plate from import duty. Until then, imported tin-plate is an essential raw material of industry which should rightly be admitted duty-free.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 64 of 1961); a copy of which was laid before this House this day, be confirmed.

EXCISE DUTIES

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the motion standing in my name, that the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1961, be confirmed.

I have already explained to the House why it is necessary to submit this Order at this meeting; if it were not so submitted it would automatically expire.

It will be recalled, Sir, that an excise duty at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}d$ per gallon was imposed upon mineral waters in April 1960, and subsequently confirmed by Resolution of this House. In December last the mineral waters industry found itself further taxed by the general increases in import duty which were then introduced, notably by the duty on sugar and on the bottles in which the product is distributed.

Strong representations were made by the industry that the incidence of taxation was crippling it, and after careful and thorough

investigation Government came to the conclusion that some reduction of the overall level of taxation on the industry was justified, and that this could best be brought about by an adjustment of the rate of excise duty, which was accordingly reduced by fifty per cent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I beg to support.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 82 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House this day, be confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes past four o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 23rd August, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

The following papers which have been published in the Supplements to *Official Gazettes* No. 33 of 4th May, 1961, No. 44 of 22nd June, 1961, No. 56 of 3rd August, 1961, and No. 58 of 17th August, 1961, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table:—

(1) The Federal Produce Inspection Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 63 of 1961);

(2) The Federal Produce Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 87 of 1961);

(3) The Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 99 of 1961) and

(4) The Factories (Notification of Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 105 of 1961).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MEDICAL SERVICES

Discriminatory Medical Treatment

*O.296. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware of the growing complaint by the public of discriminatory treatment of patients in the Lagos General Hospital; and whether he will investigate the situation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health: There is no discriminatory treatment of patients in Lagos General Hospital. I shall be glad to investigate any case of discrimination if it is brought to my notice.

Nurses

O.297. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Health, if he will revise the conditions of service of nurses to enable them to attain the grade of Staff Nurse after a definite period of years instead of the present unsatisfactory system whereby advancement to this grade is dependent on whether or not there are vacancies.

The Minister of Health: The grade of Staff Nurse is reserved for a nurse who has successfully passed the Nurses Final Examination and has been admitted to the Register of Nurses in Nigeria. This grade distinguishes her from the probationer nurse who is still undergoing training.

No nurse who has passed her final examination is ever kept waiting before advancement to the grade of Staff Nurse.

Hospital Deaths

O.298. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Health, what is the bill of mortality per year in the Creek Hospital, the General Hospital and the University College Teaching Hospital, respectively, during the past five years, and what steps are being taken to improve the services rendered by these institutions in order to reduce the rate to a minimum.

The Minister of Health: The in-patient mortality rates at the Lagos General Hospital, Creek Hospital and the University College Hospital, Ibadan, for the period 1956-1960 inclusive are as in the following table:—

	Lagos		
	General	Creek	U.C.H.
	%	%	%
1956 ..	12	1	not available
1957 ..	15	2	12
1958 ..	14	3	11
1959 ..	13	2	11
1960 ..	11	2	10

The services provided by these hospitals are being improved by the employment of increasing number of qualified staff and by expanding the provision of medical facilities. One result of the improved services is the progressive fall in the death rate in the General Hospital, Lagos, and the U.C.H., Ibadan in spite of marked increase in admissions.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

Civil Service Posts

*O.299. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Establishments, whether there are any posts below the rank of Permanent Secretary in any Ministry which are not in the Civil Service; and whether he will name any such posts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments : So far as posts in the various Federal Ministries below the rank of Permanent Secretary are in the Civil Service, since the holders are under the control of both the Ministry of Establishments and the Federal Public Service Commission. Some of these posts do not however, appear in the Federal Annual Estimates as established posts, either because the holders are supplied by the various Technical Assistance Schemes and are in Nigeria for a limited time to undertake specific assignments, or that the holders are manual workers usually paid from a one line vote under Other Charges.

Although the Federal Government provide funds on a contract basis for the Marconi and the G.E.C. Companies to pay staff employed for the installation and maintenance of equipment in the Ministry of Communications, persons so employed are not Government servants but employees of the firms.

Northern Nigerians

O.300. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Minister of Establishments, if he is aware of the fact that the percentage of Northern Nigerians in the Federal Public Service is less than one per cent and what steps he is taking to encourage more Northerners to join the Federal Public Service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments : I am satisfied from the figures available that Northerners in all grades in the Federal Public Service at the present time represent 8 per cent of the total number employed.

Concerning steps taken to encourage more Northerners to join the Federal Public Service, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the *Hansard* of 20th July, 1961 pages (38) and (39) which contains the answer given to a similar question.

Northerners

O.302. M. Abba Yola asked the Minister of Establishments, the numbers of Northerners employed in the Federal Ministry of Health in junior and senior posts respectively.

The Minister of Establishments : There are 126 Northerners in the junior grades, a majority of whom hold permanent but non-pensionable posts. No Northerner holds a senior post in the Federal Ministry of Health.

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Essangbo Postal Agency

O.304. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the volume of business transacted at Essangbo Postal Agency, in Abakaliki Division, he will consider setting up post office there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Essangbo Postal Agency during 1960 amounted to 15,542 units, which is below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. Although, therefore, the upgrading of Essangbo Postal Agency cannot be justified at present, it is hoped this will come to pass in the very near future.

Establishment of Post Offices

O.305. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the growing demand of postal services all over the country he will consider the possibility of amending his policy regarding the establishment of Post Offices in the country to enable him to convert some of the busy postal agencies into sub-post offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Since the introduction of the Sub Post Office Scheme following the approval of the Sessional Paper in the House of Representatives, 19 Postal Agencies have been converted to Sub-Post Offices and approval has been given for the conversion of 24 others. In addition, consideration is being given to the conversion of a further 25 Postal Agencies which have reached the required level of business, and it is anticipated that the majority of these will be approved in due course.

The present conversion point of 24,000 units is considered to be reasonable from the practical and economic points of view, and it is producing

a good rate of conversion of Postal Agencies to Sub-Post Offices. This rate should be maintained in the future as the business at other Postal Agencies increases.

So soon as it becomes evident that it would be advantageous to revise the policy contained in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957, in this respect the hon. Member may rest assured that appropriate action will be taken.

Abakaliki Postal Agencies

O.306. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the number of postal agencies in Abakaliki Division indicating the volume of business transacted in each; and what is the number of post offices in Abakaliki District.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: There are three Postal Agencies in the Abakaliki Division located at Eziamgbo, Onueke and Effium, and the annual business units during 1960 were 15,542, 11,373 and 4,931 units respectively.

There is one Post Office in the Abakaliki District which is located at Abakaliki itself.

Mr A. A. Ajibola: May we know through the Speaker in what parts of the country, or in which of the Regions these Agencies that were converted into Sub-Post Offices are situated.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: I require notice of that question.

Stocks for Postal Agencies

O.307. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that supplies of stocks to the postal agencies in Akabuka, Omoku, Okwusi, Erema, Abua, Akinima, Okarki and Joinkrama are inadequate with the result that business sometimes has to come to a stand-still; and whether he will take steps to ensure that sufficient stocks are made available in future.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: No evidence of inadequate supplies of stocks at the Postal Agencies has come to notice but in view of the information which the hon. Member has given, I have arranged for a special investigation to be made into the matter. If stocks are found to be inadequate at any Postal Agency, they will be suitably increased.

Onitsha North Postal Facilities

O.308. Mr L. N. Ezeani asked the Minister of Communications, if he will now consider to convert one of the postal agencies in Onitsha North Constituency into a sub-post office as there is no post office in the constituency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: There are 11 Postal Agencies in the Onitsha North constituency, and their annual units of business are:—

Aguleri	..	..	..	15,194
Igboariam	..	..	..	3,183
Nteje	..	..	..	4,462
Nkwelle	..	..	..	5,418
Nsugbe	..	..	..	7,347
Nando	..	..	..	2,490
Ogbunike	..	..	..	13,071
Ununeya	..	..	..	4,158
Awkuzu	..	..	..	12,437

Aguleri Otu—Opened 4-11-60: annual figures not yet available.

Umueri—Opened 19-4-61: annual figures not yet available.

These units of business are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status.

Financial Aid for Sub-Post Offices

O.309. Mr L. N. Ezeani asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will publish details of assistance given by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to communities who in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 25 and 26 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, applied for financial aid to enable them to put up Sub-Post Offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: In no case, where there has been an approved Sub-Post Office project, has a community erected a building of Post Office designed and constructed according to standards approved by the Ministry of Works, and therefore no grants under paragraph 25 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 have been made. However, nine communities have Post Office type buildings

in the course of construction and it is expected that a number of these will qualify for the grant.

Under paragraph 26 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, £16,718 has been expended by the Ministry of Communications to date on furnishing and equipping Sub-Post Offices.

Mr Ajibola rose—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. If you want to raise a Supplementary Question immediately after the question has been answered you must rise and say—*Supplementary*—not after the next person has been called.

Volume of Postal Business : Onitsha Division

*O.310. **Mr L. N. Ezeani** asked the Minister of Communications to state the volume of business transacted in the following postal agencies in Onitsha Division between 1st April, 1960, and 31st March, 1961 : Aguleri, Awkuzu, Igbariam, Ogbunike and Nteje.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : A Postal Agency's statistics are calculated according to the business transacted at the Postal Agency during the 12 month period following the anniversary of its opening. The latest available figures for the Postal Agencies in question, and the 12 month periods to which they refer, are as follows :—

Aguleri 15,194 units up to 31st July, 1960.
Awkuzu 12,437 units up to 9th May, 1961.
Igbariam 3,183 units up to 20th March, 1961.

Ogbunike 13,071 units up to 30th September, 1960.

Nteje 4,462 units up to 24th August, 1960.

Ahoada Post Office

O.311. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the Ahoada Post Office supervises about twenty-two postal agencies ; and if he will consider providing more staff or opening one or two sub-post offices there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Arrangements have already been made to carry out a review of the staffing arrangements at Ahoada Post Office, and if any adjustments are found to be necessary action will be taken.

2. It is expected that Omoku Postal Agency which is one of those controlled by Ahoada will be converted to a full Post Office in the near future.

Medical Specialists

O.312. **Mr D. K. Aihonsu** asked the Minister of Health, what is the minimum number of specialists needed at present by the Federal Medical Service ; how many of such specialists are now actually in service and how soon will the requisite number of specialists be available.

The Minister of Health : The minimum number of specialists at present employed by the Federal Medical Service is 45, of which 20 are already in post. It is not easy to say how soon the remaining vacancies will be filled, but steps are being taken to do so by sending suitable Nigerians for post-graduate studies in the various specialities, and by employing suitable expatriate specialists on contract terms.

Telephones for Awka Division

O.313. **Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he is taking to build telephone communication in some important parts of Awka Division especially in the Orumba and Agulu Court areas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Telephone service has already been provided at Awka, Abagana and Nimo in the Awka Division. A rural call office is scheduled to be provided at Agulu under Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 and this project will be completed before the end of this financial year. As regards Orumba no funds are available to undertake the provision of service at the present time, but due consideration to the claims of this community will be given when plans for the next development programme are formulated.

Mr R. N. Muojeke : In view of the strategic importance of Orumba to-day, should this matter not be treated as a special case ?

Ogoja Telephone Services

*O.314. **Mr J. U. Odey** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that contrary to his promise telephone services are not yet open to the public at Ogoja and Obudu ; and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Work at Ogoja has been completed as promised, but the exchange was not brought into service until Monday, 21st August, 1961.

2. The overhead line trunk route from Ogoja to Obudu is one of the few remaining line projects yet to be completed under the current Economic Programme. Owing to rising costs it may not be possible to complete all these projects with the funds available and it may therefore be necessary to defer some of them pending the provision of additional funds. The matter is still under revision and it is not possible to say at this stage whether it will prove necessary to defer this particular project.

Orlu Division Postal Facilities

O.315 Mr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the fact that Uli, Mgbidi and Awo-Omamma postal agencies are on Federal Trunk A road he will consider these agencies for direct mail delivery with Lagos, Enugu, Port-Harcourt and Aba instead of the present practice whereby all mails are carried to Orlu before distribution.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Although the three Postal Agencies are located on the Federal trunk A road linking Onitsha and Aba, the Mail Contract service is obliged to by-pass the section of the trunk road on which they are situated in order to call at Orlu Post Office. It is not possible to re-route this service without isolating Orlu Post Office from the national mail distribution network.

Mr B. U. Nzeribe : Is he aware of the fact that this area mentioned in the Question is really very important economically, especially at this moment, and would he make it urgent ?

Sub-Post Office for Orlu West

O.316. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the recent growth in volume of postal activities in Orlu West he would now consider opening a sub-post office in that constituency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Orlu West is served by three Postal Agencies located at Awo-

Omamma, Mgbidi, and Uli and the business transacted at these Agencies amounts to 13,371, 7,429, and 7,296 units a year respectively. These levels of business are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of the Agencies cannot, therefore, be justified at present.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe : I am afraid, Sir, I am going to differ, because 13,000, 7,000 and 7,000 is 27,000 and is not 24,000.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : It is the collective figure for the three postal agencies.

Automatic Telephone Exchange for Abeokuta

O.320. Mr J. D. Odebunmi asked the Minister of Communications, whether it is proposed to instal an Automatic Telephone Exchange at Abeokuta, and if he will make a statement ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No. Sir. The present manual exchange at Abeokuta is in excellent condition and has capacity to last for at least 5 more years. It is not therefore necessary nor would it be economic to instal an automatic exchange at the present time.

Should the provision of funds and executive capacity in the 1962-67 programme be sufficient to allow conversion of some manual exchanges to automatic working, consideration will be given to the provision of an automatic exchange at Abeokuta to be brought into service towards the end of that programme.

Radio Licences

O.323. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, whether he has devised a method of carrying out effective check on radio licences.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : As a result of measures taken so far which include extensive

publicity and house to house inspection revenue derived from the issue of Wireless and Television Licences during the year ended 31st March, 1961 increased to a total of £51,384 compared with a total of £13,245 for the preceding year, and the number of radio licences issued during 1960-61 increased to a total of over 116,000 compared with a total of a little under 20,000 in respect of licences issued during the previous year.

Whilst these results show a considerable increase over those of previous years, there is undoubtedly scope for further improvement and efforts to achieve this are continuing.

Abak Division Postal Agencies

O.324. Chief R. A. Orok asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will convert the Postal Agencies at Utu Etim Ekpo, Ukanafun and Ikot Okoro in Abak Division into full or sub-Post Offices in view of the volume of work in these agencies.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The business transacted at Utu Etim Ekpo, Ukanafun and Ikot Okoro Postal Agencies during 1960 amounted to 9,002, 11,566 and 11,643 units respectively, and was in each case below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub Post Office status. The upgrading of the Postal Agencies cannot therefore be justified at present.

Owerri Division Postal Agencies

O.325. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Communications, what are the units of business transacted during the period 1960-61 at the following Postal Agencies in Owerri Division: Ahiara, Ekwerazu, Enyiogugu.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The business transacted annually at Ahiara, Ekwerazu, and Enyiogugu Postal Agencies amounts to 31,415, 22,067 and 27,384 units a year respectively.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Advancement Prospects

O.322. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Economic Development, what provisions for advancement in Public Service

are made for Technical Officers in the Forest Research Division of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The Minister of Economic Development: Provision for advancement for Technical Officers in the Forest Research Division of the Ministry of Economic Development are in the technical grades C(T) 2, 3, 4 of the Public Service. Proposals are being considered for creation of a higher post in 1962-63.

Forests

O.328. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether Government will initiate a scheme whereby most of the country's forests will be converted into arable land in order to reduce unemployment in the country.

The Minister of Economic Development: There is no proposal whereby most of the country's forests will be converted into arable land, as existing Forest Reserves to ensure adequate supplies of timber, poles and firewood for local consumption and export are considered by professional foresters to be inadequate.

Cost of Living Index

O.329. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Economic Development, what plans he has for the compilation of a Cost of Living Index book for the Important towns of Nigeria.

The Minister of Economic Development: Consumer Price Indexes for Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna, are published each month in the relevant Gazettes and notices are issued *via* the Federal and the Regional Information Services. Further details are available in the Digest of Statistics which is published quarterly in which there are also details of a Consumer Price Index for Port Harcourt—Aba. Consumer Price Indexes are also calculated once every three months for Benin, Sapele, Warri, Ilorin, Zaria, and Kano but are not at present published. Monthly calculation has recently begun and it is proposed to begin publication of these further indexes in the near future.

Consumer Price Indexes for other important towns of the Federation must necessarily await information as to the pattern of expenditure in these towns; the present plans of the office are to have a team in each Region fully engaged in surveys designed to obtain such information. They will initially re-survey the above towns in order to bring up to date these Consumer Price Indexes; activities can then be spread to towns never before studied. This work has already been done for Lagos; surveys are underway in Ibadan and Enugu and it is hoped to begin one in Kaduna in the near future.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): May I ask the indulgence of the House to make the following business statement—

Several Opposition Members: Law and order; law and order!

Mr Speaker: Order! Let there be law and order!

The Minister of Finance: The business statement, as I was saying, is for the week ending Saturday, the 26th of August.

Tomorrow is Thursday and, as Members would have noticed on the Order Paper, there will be no sitting of the House.

Some hon. Members: Why, why?

The Minister of Finance: Ask me another! And so on Friday the following Bills will be presented:

1. Civil Liabilities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1961.
2. Fatal Accidents Bill, 1961.
3. Minerals (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
4. Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
5. Widows and Orphans Pensions Bill, 1961.
6. Flags and Coat of Arms (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

7. Water Rates Recovery (Government Tenants) Bill, 1961.

8. Export of Nigerian Produce (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

9. Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (Authorising) Bill, 1961.

10. Federal Supreme Court (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1961.

11. Seditious Meetings Bill, 1961.

12. Administration of Justice (Habeas Corpus) Bill, 1961.

Also there will be the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. All the Bills I have mentioned will be presented for the First time; it does not mean that they are going to be read a Second time. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I think it is too early for so much noise at this stage.

The Minister of Finance: On Saturday, the following Bills will be presented:

1. Republic of the Union of South Africa Bill, 1961.
2. Nigeria Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1961.
3. Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
4. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
5. Criminal Procedure Capital Sentence (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
6. Obscene Publications Bill, 1961.
7. Children and Young Persons Harmful Publications Bill, 1961.

And, Sir, there will also be a debate on the First Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1961, as well as a Motion to amend the Constitution of the Northern Region.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1961-62)
BILL**

Bill to make supplementary provision for the service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two additionally to that made by the Appropriation (1961-62) Act, 1961, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Friday, the 25th August, 1961.

**NON-PENSIONABLE RAILWAY SERVANTS'
PROVIDENT FUND RESERVE APPLICATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

Bill to amend the Non-Pensionable Railway Servants' Provident Fund Reserve (Application) Ordinance (Chapter 140), presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time This Day.

SEA FISHING (LAGOS) BILL

Bill to regulate the sea fishing industry within the territorial waters of the Federal Territory of Lagos, presented by the Minister of Economic Development; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Friday, the 25th August, 1961.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL

Bill to make new provision for the regulation of Wireless Telegraphy, presented by the Minister of Communications, read the First time; to be read a Second time This Day.

NOTICE OF MOTION**Adjournment**

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move, That this House, at its rising This day, do adjourn till Friday.

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

Mr W. O. O. Briggs (Degema): I think that this is an unjustified waste of public time and money. If we knew that there would be

a public holiday to-morrow, I think this meeting should have started after the public holiday so that there would be a continuous meeting. As it is, we have just come all the way from our constituencies to sit for only to-day, adjourn for a holiday, and then come back again on Friday. I think we are making a joke of Parliament.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I think this is a flagrant display of religious intolerance. The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken will not be happy if we make this House meet on Christmas Day and, whether he likes it or not, we are having a holiday tomorrow.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): The hon. Minister of Labour has misunderstood us. I do not think it is the intention of this side of the House to incite opposition to the Moslem Religion. We all respect Mohamedanism, but the House should have been called to meet after the public holidays.

Mr Speaker: I think we are rather unconsciously getting more and more noisy. We should try to avoid it as much as we can.

Mr Ekanem: We are all set. When the Leader of the House sponsored the meeting of this House did it not occur to him at that time that tomorrow is the birthday of the Prophet, Mohamed, and a public holiday? I am speaking on behalf of all the Christians of this country when I say that we do respect the faith of other religious bodies in this country.

It is a fact that there is no meeting of this House on the 24th of December, even though the 24th is only the eve of Christmas. We say, on this side of the House, that, in keeping with that practice, there should be no meeting of the House on the eve of the feast of the birthday of Mohamed. That is the way to show our respect for the religion of Islam.

Minister of Finance: There could be very good reasons advanced in support of the fact that tomorrow the House will not sit but obviously, Sir, one of the best reasons I can give is that it is essential for us to give the opportunity to friends like my hon. Friend, Mr Briggs, who comes from the creeks—the interior (*interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I do not think it is appropriate to go on blaming the Leader of the House for fixing the meeting for to-day because that had been approved by this House by a resolution. Order. Even when there is a ruling of the Chair there is interruption. I do not know where we are going. The question is as in the terms of the Order Paper.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Friday.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NON-PENSIONABLE RAILWAY SERVANTS' PROVIDENT FUND RESERVE (APPLICATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Non-Pensionable Railway Servants' Provident Fund Reserve (Application) Ordinance be read a second time.

This Bill, Sir, seeks to amend the Non-Pensionable Railway Servants' Provident Fund Reserve (Application) Ordinance to give Government greater control over the administration of the Fund.

The Provident Fund was contributed by the non-pensionable staff of the old Government Railway and invested, the contributors receiving interest on their contributions. In order to guard against variations in interest rates on the capital investments, the trustees of the provident fund set aside in 1927 a reserve fund, the idea being that income from that reserve fund would ensure a steady rate of interest on contributions. In 1956, the Non-Pensionable Railway Servants' Provident Fund Reserve (Application) Ordinance was made for the purpose of administering the fund.

The present amendment deals in particular with Sections 3 and 8 of the Ordinance, which have proved a defect. Section 3 stipulates that not more than twelve, or less than six persons shall be appointed by the Minister and that they shall be persons recommended to the Minister by trade unions or other associations representing the interests of the present or former railway servants. Section 8 empowers the trustees to employ such officers and servants as they think fit in connection with the management of the Reserve Fund.

I shall first deal with Section 3. In 1959, the trustees on several occasions demanded remuneration for their services, but I pointed out to them that the Ordinance did not allow me to approve such a request. The Attorney-General also supported me in this view, and pointed out that it is an old-established principle of law that a trustee should not benefit from his trust. The Committee then asked for an honorarium for its chairman in view of a provision in the regulations which requires him to screen applications for help. The Attorney-General, to whom I referred the matter again, said that as the Chairman was elected from among the trustees, he is precluded from receiving any fees; moreover, the annual income from the Fund was expected to be only £1,250 after October 1960.

The trustees then decided on their own to award the Chairman £50, presumably because he was needy. The normal grant made to applicants that year was between £3 and £4. It was quite clear to me that the trustees made the grant as a deliberate attempt to get round my ruling. On a previous occasion, the Committee had awarded the sum of £40 to one of its members. On both occasions, the Administrator-General as custodian Trustee refused to sign the cheques, and I supported him because it was reliably learnt that the two persons involved were comfortably off and needed no assistance. Thereafter, the Committee wrote me an intemperate letter, giving me an ultimatum of fourteen days with which to comply with their demands.

I now turn to Section 8, which permits the Management Committee to appoint such staff as they think fit. In 1959-60, the Committee employed two clerks and a messenger at a cost of £687 annually, when the total income for distribution to contributors was no more than £4,600.

From the foregoing it is clear that Government needs to have a more effective control of the administration of the Fund if the interests of those the Fund is intended to serve must be safeguarded. This Bill seeks to give effect to this requirement by providing that the managing trustees shall be appointed from amongst those who were contributors to or have an interest in the Reserve Fund, and by providing further that employment of any staff needed to administer the Trust shall be subject to regulation and not, as now, at the discretion of the Trustees.

This Bill is non-controversial. Its sole purpose is to ensure that these trust funds are not mismanaged, and that payments from them are made only in the interest of those former contributors who are in genuine need, and it should command support from all sides of the House.

I beg to move.

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

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : Trusts are sacred things, and those who undertake any trust should be at all times willing and ready to serve, and not try to make money out of such trusts. I think the hon. Minister of Finance has taken the right line, but I think it is a matter for shame that such a bill should be necessary in this country, especially for the reasons which the hon. Minister has stated. I do not know who these people are, but I have no doubt that they are N.C.N.C. people. The reasons given by the hon. Minister of Finance have been given before in the making of this type of bill in connection with matters arising from N.C.N.C. members and supporters. And I have no doubt that this is also an example of the methods of the N.C.N.C. people. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Finance should, if possible with members of the N.C.N.C., expedite this Bill and actually see that it is effective. His ruling must not be set aside and the people be operating behind the Minister's ruling. He should be vigilant this time. I hope that the Minister will take this matter very seriously and see to it that this law when it is passed is actually put into effect.

I remember when I was a member of the Railway Corporation we had to make an amendment to the Railway Corporation Ordinance because of some of the members of the Corporation who were using their position to get contracts in the Corporation. We had to make amendments in order to stop these people from discussing matters that effected them personally within the Corporation. I thought that this type of thing has stopped but it seems that it has not stopped. I think that anywhere this type of thing is discovered prompt action must be taken. There must be people in this country who should be proud to work for the country and not just for what they can get all the time. I hope that this Government will take this as an advice and act promptly.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I would like to say in all seriousness that it is too early in the day during this sitting for us to throw brick-bats across this House. But if my hon. Friend is interested in his usual tirade I think he should only be paid back in his own coins.

This Bill has nothing to do with any political party. The members affected were mostly members of the Nigerian Railway when it was not even a corporation. The members may have taken wrong actions but I did not accuse them of any fraudulent action. And if you asked me why this Bill is here I would say that it is because the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. believe in the rule of law unlike the headless Opposition. Their Head is away holidaying in Europe.

Honestly this Bill is non-contentious. It is not painted with politics at all and I think all Members will agree that it is essential for us to safeguard this Provident Fund by such legislation that is necessary in a democratic institution.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : Thank you. For a long time I have been trying to speak but unfortunately I have not had my chance. Now that I have my chance to speak I would say that the Bill which the Minister of Finance presented is not controversial at all and naturally it should commend itself to all Members on all sides of the House. As I have just said this Bill is not controversial and here in the House we can speak our minds on anything and if a Member says anything the Minister will listen whether he likes it or not. All of us are reasonable people. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I do really note those Members who persistently interrupt speakers and I assure them that they are less likely to attract my attention when they wish to speak.

Mr Tobun : Thank you very much. To me this is a very good Bill and the Minister should be quiet about it and listen to what Members have to say about it. Leave politics aside because I am not concerned whether or not somebody is playing politics in the way he likes. But the point is that this Bill is very good and should curb certain practices.

Several hon. Members : Fire ! fire !

Mr Tobun : I have no fire in my hand and I am not going to fire. Whether or not there is law and order has nothing to do with the Bill.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : On point of order. This Bill has nothing to do with the general gossip of law and order at present in the West. So, the speaker must draw away from it.

Mr Speaker : I think the Member should have left me to be the judge of irrelevance in this particular case.

Mr Tobun : Thank you. I understand that that Member is a jester. I know him and I can accommodate him. What I am trying to say is that this Bill should not take much of our time. Let us pass it now.

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North) : I just want to make a very small observation. In the course of the hon. Minister's statement he was unable to give us any indication as to whether there was any consultation with the Railway Union on this matter. I am not against this Bill but if we can be assured that there were consultations with the Railway Union and amicable agreement reached between the two parties then I do not think we have any quarrel with it.

Secondly, on membership or representation, I want it to be noted that the right of a Union to represent workers on such a conference should not be delegated and should not be overlooked by Government. Apart from this, Sir, I do not think I have anything else to say.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : My hon. Friend should realise that this Bill is not meant for the present workers of the Railway but for those who are already pensioned. I therefore do not see why the present workers should come and interfere, unless they all want to go on pension at once.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Minister on bringing this Bill to safeguard the position of people because I do not think it is a very good thing for people to be put on a position of trust and their ambition is to look for benefits for themselves. But a case is never settled until it is properly settled.

I would appeal to the Minister of Finance, or the Minister of Transport, to find ways and means to curb people of such aims.

Take, for instance, what occurred only a few days ago. We heard of some Public Boards and Corporations where each member gets so many bottles of beer and whisky every week. The Government should be able to look into that.

An hon. Member : What about illicit gin ?

Chief Okunowo : Illicit gin comes from Warri and I think the Government should be able to look into that too.

Mr Speaker : Order ! This is far away from the contents of this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) : I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to be known as "The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1961" be read a Second time.

The purpose of this Act is to make new provisions relating to the regulation of Wireless Telegraphy in this country and it will replace the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance which is currently in force.

The existing Ordinance became law in 1935 and, during the period that has elapsed since then, there have been considerable changes and development in the field of radio and telecommunications including advances of major significance in the use of Very High Frequency and Ultra-High Frequency radio systems in Nigeria. The result of these changes is that the provisions of the Ordinance are in a number of respects inadequate to meet present-day requirements.

Firstly, insufficient powers exist to deal with radio interference and with the importation and use of electrical and electronic equipment that could interfere with the smooth working of wireless communications in general.

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Secondly, there are various anomalies in the types of licence that can be issued under the Ordinance; and thirdly, there are no powers to hold local examinations for the purpose of issuing certificates of competence in the wireless telegraphy apparatus.

These shortcomings have clearly indicated the need for a complete revision of the Ordinance and it was therefore decided by the Government to introduce an entirely new Act dealing with Wireless Telegraphy rather than to attempt drastic amendment of the current Ordinance.

The task of drafting the Bill for the new Act has been complicated by the rapid pace of change in the field of wireless telegraphy and also by recent constitutional changes. However, I am confident that the Bill as it now rests before the House will remove the disadvantages and shortcomings of the existing Ordinance and will meet Nigeria's requirements in this field of legislation for many years ahead. It will provide effective control in all spheres of Wireless Telegraphy and will also ensure that the means of control will not, so far as can be foreseen, be rendered inadequate by future developments.

There are four parts to the Bill. Part I contains clauses dealing with the date of commencement and questions of definition and interpretation. It is provided in Clause 1 that the Act should come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Governor-General, and I hope this will be the 1st of January, 1962, which date would coincide with the date on which current licences will be due for renewal. The definitions used in Clauses 2 and 3 reflect modern practice.

Part II contains provisions for regulating the use, sale and hire of wireless telegraphy generally. Under Clauses 4 and 5, it is an offence to use, install, sell, offer for sale, or possess with a view to sell, any equipment for wireless telegraphy without a licence, and Clauses 6 and 7 empower the Minister to grant licences for such purposes on such conditions as he thinks fit. He may also revoke licences or vary their terms. However, under Clause 8, the Minister may not withhold licences from Nigerians who need them for the purposes of research, provided the persons concerned observe the requirements of the

Act. This provision is important in the interests of scientific research and development. The Minister is also empowered, under Clause 9, read in conjunction with Clause 11, to make regulations as to the manner in which equipment should be operated ashore, aboard ships in Nigerian territorial waters or in aircrafts. He may also make regulations to ensure the preservation of security.

Clause 10 makes it an offence to send false or misleading messages, particularly where they might affect the safety of life or to intercept messages without proper authority, or to disclose the content of messages other than to a court. The final Clause in Part II enables the Minister to hold examinations for certificates of competence in the field of wireless telegraphy.

Part III of the Bill contains provisions designed to prevent interference with legitimate wireless telegraphy. This is a problem which is particularly acute in modern societies where all manner of electrical and radio devices are in use for a vast variety of domestic and industrial purposes. Such devices can be a source of serious interference with wireless telegraphy and it is essential for Government to have the statutory power to exercise control over such interference, otherwise it might prove extremely difficult to operate the public telephone service or television and sound broadcasting services, and other such important services.

Part IV contains a number of miscellaneous provisions relating to, among other things, the enforcement of the Act and proceedings under it, the declaration of an emergency and the emergency powers which would be entailed by such a declaration.

Clause 19 of Part IV provides for the forfeiture of equipment under certain conditions where an offence has been committed. Clause 23 is an important clause dealing with the entry and search of premises for the purpose of enforcing the Act. The emergency provisions in Clause 24 enable Government, with the authority of the Governor-General, to take complete control over the transmission and reception of messages in a situation of emergency, or where it is deemed to be in the public interest.

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]

In Clause 30 the Minister is given important powers to make regulations on a variety of subjects including the form of licences and the conditions pertaining to them, the fees to be charged for the issue or renewal of licences.

Clause 31, relates to the discharge by the Federal Government of its constitutional responsibilities for the allocation of wave-lengths for sound and television broadcasting, and sub-clause 31 (5) is designed to ensure that appropriate allocations of wave-lengths are made to sound and television services, sponsored by the appropriate authorities in the Federation.

I have attempted to give hon. Members as briefly as possible an idea of the content and purpose of this Bill. I apologise for its rather complex and technical nature, but I hope that I have been successful in persuading hon. Members that it is a very necessary piece of legislation.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : May I draw the attention of the Minister to Clauses 31 (3), (4), (5) and 32. In my view these clauses are sinister. They purport to give the Minister powers not only to grant licences but to use his discretion to revoke them ; and further that any licence in force on the coming into operation of this Act shall cease to have effect unless renewed.

I would have thought that considering the discussions which have been held among all those who are interested in Radio in all Regions and, considering also the great difficulties which the Minister had before allocating wave-lengths to various interested parties, that the provision should be made for the licences already in being to continue in effect, unless revoked.

May I explain for the benefit of some hon. Members that the position here is that the Minister having granted a licence under Clause 31 (3) can revoke it. Licences for operating television or radio involve all sorts of technical matters, adjustments of all sorts of technical equipment have to be made and I think you will find that the radio and television

trade will be most disturbed to learn that having been granted licence, that the Minister can withdraw this licence at any time.

Furthermore, it is open to the Minister, having granted a licence for a particular operator to broadcast on a given wave-length can at any time and with considerable disadvantage to that operator alter that wave-length merely because someone else is coming into the market.

I think you will find that in this field in which we all have to have external equipment, we will be placed at considerable disadvantage to attract overseas know-how and capital for radio and television if our partners feel that they are not safe. In this respect, we are proposing to put in an amendment to Clause 32 to provide that a licence having been granted will continue in being until and unless for very good reasons the Minister wishes to revoke it. The position here is that the licence ceases to have any effect at all automatically on the coming into operation of this Bill. I think that is a wrong approach and I suggest to the Minister that he will find the Amendment far less burdensome to his Ministry.

I recall that two years ago, for several weeks interested parties all over the country—Eastern Region, Western Region, our Electrical Partners—discussions were held with the Federal Ministry of Communications before agreement was reached on the allocation of wave-lengths for E.N.B.S., E.N.T.V., W.N.B.S., and W.N.T.V., and others. Does the Minister really intend to re-open this whole problem afresh after agreement has been reached ? If he does not I think the most sensible provision will be for these licences to continue in being on the basis of the original agreement until very good reasons are shown why the matter should be re-opened.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende East) : I just want to make one or two observations in Clause 8 of the Bill. I notice that specific mention is made of a citizen of the Federation of Nigeria making application for a licence and that no mention is made of Institutions like Universities or Research Centres that may apply for such a licence. I do hope that this aspect of the law will be taken care of by the Minister because I feel that rather than individuals making application for the use of wireless for research, institutions.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! If you want to make observation on a certain Clause I think you better leave it until you come to the Committee stage when you can speak in greater detail.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; committed to a Committee of the Whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL : CONSIDERED
IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1-30 ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 31—GOVERNMENT SOUND AND
TELEVISION BROADCASTING SERVICES

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Clause 31 (4) says "If, in the opinion of the Minister, it is necessary or expedient for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (2) to cancel the allocation in a licence granted under subsection (1) of a wavelength or alter a wavelength allocated in a licence so granted or alter or add to the conditions of a licence so granted, he may by notice in writing cancel or amend the licence accordingly."

This Bill mentions quite a lot about the licences relating to the Regions. I should feel that licences granted to the Regions should be exactly under the same conditions as licences which the Federal Government holds because they are component parts of the Government, and particularly, the Federal Minister of Communications seems to have the authority of cancelling or altering a licence without reasons or conditions under which these licences can be so treated. I think this is a very dangerous invasion on the rights of the Regions. I am referring in particular to the Region where I come from—the Eastern Region.

I therefore think that the reasons and conditions under which licences should be cancelled should be specifically mentioned in the Bill.

Clause 31—(GOVERNMENT SOUND AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING SERVICES) ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 32—(VALIDITY OF PREVIOUS
LICENCES)

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : In the absence of an answer and any explanation by

the Minister—which, I may remark, was quite surprising and, in my personal view, an insult to the House—(*Interruptions*). Well I withdraw that and substitute the fact that it is evidence of inefficiency. I think that the Minister, having prepared this Bill or having had it prepared for him, should have taken the trouble to go quite thoroughly into all the circumstances both before now and those likely to arise under this Act.

In respect of certain articles of the preceding paragraph, I would like to explain that it is far more in the application of the powers which the Minister has taken unto himself rather than the wording of the act that danger lies. In respect of this Amendment, the Minister has not yet explained why licences already in existence for four operators, E.N.T.V., E.N.-B.S., W.N.T.V., W.N.B.S., should be revoked.

The Chairman : The hon. Member has spoken at great length without stating the Amendment. The usual thing is that he should state the Amendment before making his speech.

Chief Enahoro : An Amendment was submitted, Sir, and the Amendment is to delete from line 4 Clause 32 the words "*cease to have effect unless renewed . . .*" and to substitute the words "*continue to have effect as if it had been granted*". The effect of this Amendment is that clause 32 will now read as follows :

"Any licence granted under any of the provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance hereby repealed and in force immediately before the coming into operation of this Act shall continue to have effect as if it had been granted in accordance with the provisions of this Act".

I think, Sir, it is a simple Amendment, the purpose of which is to ensure that operators will not be disturbed. If any situation arises which in the opinion of the Minister requires the revocation or amendment of a licence, he has powers under other clauses of the Act to act, but as far as the existing licences are concerned, and the intention of clause 32, I can see no reason at all why the Minister should not be prepared to accept the continuance in force of the existing licences.

Sir, I beg to move.

Chief O. B. Akir-Olugbade (Egba South) : I support the Amendment. It has been stated

[GHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

in this House and outside this House that the British Government has secret wireless telegraphic stations in Nigeria. It will be interesting to know whether the Minister has taken that into consideration in the drafting of this Bill. It will also be interesting to know whether the licence has been granted; to the best of my knowledge the allegation or the fact has not been denied by the Government or by British military officers in this country.

We want to know whether a licence has been granted to British military authorities in Nigeria and whether, as a result of this Bill, the licence shall cease to have effect unless renewed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Communications : I oppose the Amendment. It is not necessary and the hon. Member need not be worried that the licences of the broadcasting corporation in the West or any other licences which they may hold will necessarily be taken away.

I do want to say, Sir, that the Amendment is unnecessary because by the time His Excellency appoints the effective date, which I hope is going to be the 1st of January, new regulations will be ready to take the place of the old ones and the new types of licences will then be ready for issue.

The new types will run for a year from the date of issue and not necessarily from the 1st of January. I have good reasons for not wanting to allow any existing licences to continue. I believe that it is right that, since we are introducing an entirely new legislation, all the licences which are to be issued must conform to the new regulations. Therefore, I ask the House to reject the Amendment which has been proposed and to allow the clause to stand.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : I think that what the hon. Minister has said is an insult to this House. This Parliament is an assembly of the representatives of the people and we ought to be taken into confidence in whatever steps Government is taking.

The answer which the hon. Minister has given in reply to the points made by the hon. Chief Enahoro, to the effect that he has certain

reasons embedded in his own heart which he is not prepared to disclose to this House I think is most unfair to this House. The Minister is in duty bound to take this House into confidence and tell us the good reasons that he has. If he fails to do so, I think he has failed in the discharge of his duties. If he has sufficiently good reasons for abrogating the licences hitherto issued he should be fair to this House by giving them to us. In the absence of that we can only conclude that his reasons are not good, and it is only wise to accept the amendment proposed by Chief Enahoro.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I am against the amendment for the simple reason that most of those hon. Members who spoke in favour of it, that is people on the other side had their licences through the back door. That is why they say that these licences should continue to operate. We should ignore them and be grateful to the hon. Minister, or find time to discover all the intrigues of the Opposition.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I think that my hon. Friend, Chief Anthony Enahoro, will agree that the very point which he made is the greatest factor to be reckoned with in this matter. That is, if a licence is to be withdrawn it must be on very good ground. I am sure that my hon. Friend will depend on the good judgment and sense of responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Communications, to have very good reasons if he is going to do so. I am sure, too, that he will give sufficient notice. I want to say that my hon. Friend, Chief Anthony Enahoro knows that the granting of licences is not a right but a privilege. Also, he who has the power to grant any licences must have the right to cancel them, otherwise the whole purpose of granting licences will be useless.

I want hon. Members to realise that this Federal Government is working in full co-operation with the Regional Governments. We of the Federal Government will not like to punish anybody, as you on the Opposition side often do, because of his political belief.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : It is regretted that the Leader of the House should be the only person who will mislead the House. The amendment which has been stated is in respect of Clause 32 of this Bill and it seeks to avoid

the automatic invalidation of licences hitherto granted. We on this Side of the House know that when a licence is issued there will be the power in the Minister to revoke such a licence with good reason. We know that. There is no question or argument about it. But the point is that the people who have already been operating, who have been granted their licences, should automatically, without any investigation, without any cause, without any reason, lose them because this law comes into effect. We think that is wrong.

We know, and I think the hon. Minister of Communications will appreciate, that in laws such as this one there are what are called "save" clauses; clauses meant to save people from this type of situation where licence has been hitherto granted. That saving clause has now been inserted in this amendment. It is now a matter of practice. When you bring a new law such as this it does not mean that the previous one automatically comes to a halt. I therefore humbly submit that this amendment should be accepted by this hon. House.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): I am opposing the amendment vehemently. The reason for opposing the amendment is that it seems to me that the Opposition Members are mere critics. I observe that the "engine" of the Opposition, that is, the Leader of the Opposition, is not here. When the engine is away what is left is the wagon which cannot move by itself. All they are saying here now is, therefore, mere nonsense. I am supporting the hon. Minister of Communications *in toto*.

Chief A. Akerele (Egbado South): I think the hon. Chief Rosiji has made the point which should commend itself to the Minister of Communications who himself is a lawyer. A point has already been made that there is no legislation where a saving clause is not inserted. I am sure the hon. Minister will agree to that point. Here the amendment is being sought to make place for the omission which has been made by the Minister in the presentation of this Bill. I hope that the Minister will consider this amendment, or, alternatively, put in the usual saving clause.

What is the point in making a new legislation which will automatically abrogate all rights and privileges which are hitherto enjoyed? This is exactly what this legislation seeks to

make. The amendment, therefore, is very simple and I hope the hon. Minister will reconsider this amendment or, alternatively, put in the usual saving clause.

Minister of State (Hon. M. T. Mbu): The amendment proposed by my hon. Friend on the other side is unnecessary. The provisions of the Bill are quite explicit on this. If my learned Friends on that side have patience to look at paragraph 31, sub-paragraph (2), they will find that there is no element of arbitrary law in the exercise of the Minister's power on this. Paragraph 31, sub-paragraph (2) (a), (b) and (c) are quite explicit. There is no arbitrariness of any kind. One cannot read paragraph 32 without reading paragraph 31, sub-paragraph (2). (*Interruption*).

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): On point of Order. I think the Ministers on the other Side are being haunted by my shadow. I am the one who raised a point on clause 31. We have finished that and we are now dealing with clause 32; that is the fact that licences which are already existing, after the passing of this Act, automatically cease to exist. That is the one that is at issue.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): On point of Order. It is true that we are being haunted by the shadow of the last speaker. Everyone here knows that he is just a shadow; he has no substance.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment proposed by Chief Enahoro because the Opposition has tried to water down this Bill in order to carry on their subversive activities against the Government of the Federation. This Wireless Telegraphy Bill is presented by the Government in order to protect the interests of the people of this country and to ensure the security of our nation. The Amendment which the Opposition has presented, which I am sure this House will reject, cannot serve the best interest of this country.

There is only one point I would like the Minister to take note of and that is the point raised by a Member from the other side, that the British High Commissioner, or his agent, is operating a secret wireless set in this country. This should be taken into consideration in order to save this country from any imperial manoeuvre to overthrow the Government. Once again, I oppose the Amendment.

Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North): One will observe that while reading through Clause 31 we on this side did not raise any objection. We certainly want to point out the defects in the Bill which appear under Clause 32. The Bill stands well but the portion relating to the total seizure of the licences already granted needs very careful consideration. The hon. Minister of Communications will realise one thing, that in this country we should not do ridiculous things. What would happen if people already holding licences have their licences seized? The further operation of their duties within one year of the seizure of the licences is contrary to law. I think that it would be nice to implement the regulation and ask the people holding licences to abide by that implementation.

Mr Chairman, I support the Amendment.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): I rise to oppose the Amendment because it is unnecessary. The fact is that the Opposition has tried to give the impression that the cancellation of existing licences is automatic; that is not true. In this law, it is provided that the provisions of this law will come into effect on a date to be appointed by the Governor-General by notice in the *Gazette*. Obviously, a Government that is as responsible as our Government will give adequate time to people who held licences at the moment to be able to apply before this law comes into operation and, I think, the Mover and the supporters of this Amendment are haunted by a sort of fear of something which does not exist. I think they should accept the Bill and not waste the time of the House. The Amendment is unnecessary.

Sitting suspended : 11.45 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12 noon.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL—
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE

Clause 32—(VALIDITY OF PREVIOUS LICENCES)

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): My hon. Friend from this side of the House (Chief Akin-Olugbade) made a very serious point a few minutes ago about the British High Commission's Military High Command creating a secret wireless telecommunication system in this country. Really, we were of the opinion that the Minister of Communications in replying would say whether these allegations

are true or not, but even the Leader of the House and the Minister himself avoided making a categorical statement on the matter.

Mr Speaker: I think this does not come within the scope of the Clause.

Mr Brown: All I wish to say in relation to Clause 32, is that in presenting this Bill, before Parliament for consideration, the hon. Minister should not have any bad motive against any particular Region or any particular section of this country in the issue of wireless licences.

As a matter of fact, I am not afraid. As an individual I am not operating any wireless set without a licence, but I would like to say that the Minister of Communications should not present any partial Bill for the consideration of Parliament. I see no reason at all why the hon. Minister should refuse to give consideration to the Amendment from this side of the House. Certainly, unless there is a bad motive in the mind of the Minister, I see no reason why he should not support the Amendment proposed by the Opposition Member from this side of the House (Chief Enahoro).

The Minister should not follow the footsteps of Dr Elias in presenting an over-night Bill before Parliament!

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 32—(VALIDITY OF PREVIOUS LICENCES),
ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 33—(REPEAL), *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

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

TRUNK ROADS

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House declares (a) that the road starting at the junction with Trunk Road A.1 at Ebute Metta and ending at the first roundabout on Western Avenue (Iganmu) shall cease to be a part of Federal Trunk Road A.2; and (b) that the road starting at the main gate to Apapa Wharf and continuing thence *via* Iganmu and Western Avenue to the junction with Trunk Road A.8 at Idi-Oro shall be part of the new Trunk Road A.2.

This is a non-controversial matter on which I do not think I need detain Members long. Because of the opening of Ebute Metta causeway and Western Avenue, which are Federal Roads, the road from the roundabout at Iganmu to Ebute Metta no longer serves the purpose of a Federal Trunk Road. It is still included in the formal definition of Trunk Road A 2, although it carries only local traffic and should properly be the responsibility of the Lagos Town Council.

In November 1960, the Lagos Town Council agreed to take over responsibility for the Iganmu-Ebute Metta road, subject to the payment of one thousand pounds towards the cost of re-habilitation; this has been paid. In consequence, Trunk Road A 2 has to be re-defined, taking into account this change, as starting at the main gate to Apapa Wharf, continuing thence *via* Iganmu and Western Avenue to the junction of Trunk Road A 8 at Idi-Oro.

Under the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960, First Schedule, Item 39, all alterations to Federal Trunk Roads are now made by Declarations or Resolutions passed by both Houses of Parliament. This Declaration gives formal effect to the changes which I have outlined.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Hon. J. C. Obande) : Sir, I beg to second.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : The Motion, as it is, is very welcome and I support it. I only wish to take this opportunity to address a question to the Minister of Works. For, as long as one has been a Member of the Federal Legislature, questions and speeches have been made about the regrading of a number of roads in the Federation. Many of us feel that the Federal Government has not taken up an adequate number of roads as Trunk A roads, and one would expect that opportunities like this could be taken at a fairly early stage, in conformity with the promises and assurances the Minister has from time to time given, to assuage the anxiety and irritation of Members over this matter. Unfortunately it has been limited to only one road within the territory of Lagos. I have in mind, Sir, the road leading from Port Harcourt to Owerri through Elele. That should have been classified too.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member knows full well that this does not come within the Motion.

Mr Akwivu : I entirely submit to the ruling of the Speaker. I only wished to put it the other way round, Sir. In effect, I was saying that the scope of the Motion is not wide enough and that we do expect that before long the Minister will find it convenient to introduce a much more comprehensive and much more widely acceptable and satisfying Motion.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : While agreeing, in principle, with the speech of the hon. Minister of Works, I would like to make a very short comment.

I agree with my learned Friend, Mr Akwivu, to the effect that this House, at a certain stage, had agreed in principle that gradually the Federal Government should take over some of the roads that passed under the name of Regional Roads and also that Municipal roads should be taken over by the Regional Governments. It seems to be progressing. But the reverse is the case here. The Federal Government is taking back with the right hand what it gave with the left. They are taking part of the road that comes from Apapa Wharf to the roundabout and upgrading it to a Trunk A road and, at the same time, relegating what was a Trunk A road to what would, in the local context, be a Regional road. In Lagos here we have no Regional roads. We have Municipal roads.

It is retrogressive for the Government now to relegate certain roads that were originally Trunk A roads as Municipal roads. I am not speaking in a derogatory way of the Lagos Town Council but, knowing the present Lagos Town Council as I do, these roads would, in course of time, become full of potholes and death traps because of lack of funds coupled with the inability of the present Lagos Town Council to cope with the situation.

I am asking the hon. Minister of Works to support actively the principle that has been initiated in this House, that the extent of the Federal roads should be widened. Government should take over more roads,

Mr Speaker : I think this is a case you would present at the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill or when we come to the Committee Stage under Head something Works.

Mr Dosunmu : The speech of the hon. Minister of Works was to the effect that certain roads that were formerly Trunk A roads—that is from Ebute-Metta up to the first roundabout—will now become a Local Council road. What is wrong with that is that the Government is shedding its responsibility and the people of Lagos will suffer as a result, because the Lagos Town Council already have their hands full with the maintenance and tarring of the local roads. To add this is to add more to their burden. After all, the Federal Government has sufficient funds and the rule should be that the Federal Government should take up more roads, not shed them. It is the reverse which is happening here. The Federal Government is now saying, "We are transferring to the Regional authority certain roads".

We would accept the explanation by the Federal Government that there was lack of funds. But that is not the case. I am pleading with the hon. Minister of Works that he should follow the rule that has been made in this House, that Government should take up more Trunk A roads and relieve both the Regional authorities and the Local Councils (as in our case) of the responsibilities of maintaining Trunk A roads. To that extent, I support the first part of the Motion which takes over from Apapa to the roundabout, but stoutly oppose that part of the Motion which transfers the road from Ebute-Metta to the roundabout to the Lagos Town Council.

Minister of Works and Surveys : I will relieve the anxiety of Members. It is true that on several occasions hon. Members asked questions and Motions were also passed in this House to the effect that the Federal Government should take over more Regional roads. This question, Sir, was discussed at the National Economic Council and the Federal Government gave an undertaking to review, during the next Five-Year Development Programme, the whole road system responsibility of the Federal Government. The idea is that the Regional Governments will make

recommendations to the Federal Government on what roads they want us to take responsibility for.

There was never a categorical undertaking given in this House by me, or by my Parliamentary Secretary, that the Federal Government would take over any Regional roads.

On the question of the Lagos roads, the Federal Government has, in fact, constructed a much longer road and has taken over more roads in Lagos than we are now asking the Lagos Town Council to take from us. We are taking over from the Apapa Wharf gate right to where the L.E.D.B. dual carriage-way road stops near the Apapa Police Station. This section had so far been under the Lagos Town Council or the L.E.D.B. Now, the Federal Government is taking it over.

The road from the Apapa Police Station to the roundabout has always been a Federal Government road. We have also extended it from that roundabout to Idi-Oro, it is called Western Avenue. This road is not yet defined as a Federal trunk road.

This Resolution is seeking approval to define this road as a Federal Trunk A Road. The only portion we have asked the Lagos Town Council to take over is the small section running from the Iganmu roundabout to Ebute-Metta. We have reconstructed this road and brought it up to first-class standard. Besides, we have provided a sum of £1,000 to the Lagos Town Council. There is no question of the Federal Government handing over a poor road to the Lagos Town Council.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : The hon. Minister has just told us that his plan to take over regional roads and declare them Trunk 'A' roads would mean that the Federal Government is taking on the responsibility of maintaining these roads and such roads have to be recommended by Regional Governments. Now, I would like the Minister to state whether the handing over of these roads in Lagos will be by the Federal Government or by the Lagos Town Council. If that is not done then I fail to see the point.

I have always said in this House that this Federal Government is the father of all in this country and therefore its amenities should not be confined to Lagos. What I am saying is

that if we are to stick to the principle of Regional Governments recommending roads to be taken over by the Federal Government the Minister should now tell us which of the Regional Governments recommended the taking over of the roads in Lagos.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : In the case of Lagos the Federal Government is also the Regional Government.

Mr Ekanem : Thank you for the information. It follows therefore that the Federal Government now has two capacities—it is both the Regional Government for Lagos and the Federal Government. It is not a question of taking over the roads from the Municipal Council and handing them over to the other. What I am saying is that what is good for the Municipal Council in Lagos should equally apply to any district county council in my Region, the C.O.R. area when that time comes.

I support the Motion.

Mr V. E. Eze (Orlu North East) : I rise to support the Motion. Our country is in dire need of more good roads and I regret that the scope of this Motion is not as wide as everyone would expect. We want to project the personality of our country and one of our needs is to provide first class roads. By providing more and better roads we are, at the same time, improving our economy. During the colonial administration, there were many roads built within a very short time and we should take up the challenge of improving the old ones while building the new ones as a sign that we have taken over. So I strongly support this Motion and ask the hon. Minister to make this Motion wider and more comprehensive.

M. Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma (Yandaka) : I support the Motion. I think there is very little point in the Government taking over this road in Apapa which is one of the best roads in the country. In my own opinion, the Federal Government will be doing more serviceable work to the nation if it takes over some of the roads in the interior of the country. These roads in the interior are still untarred and as a result are very rough to drive on. I think the Federal Government should make it a matter of priority to take over some of these untarred roads, rather than taking over those roads which are already tarred.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On this Motion the only point which I would like to make is that I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Works to see to it that the Western Avenue is widened. It does not look like a twentieth century road at all. When a car stops on the road all the cars right behind have to stop.

Mr Speaker : Order, it seems to me that Members are repeating facts that are not within the terms of the Motion and, therefore, with the permission of the House I put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House declares that the road starting at the main gate to Apapa Wharf and continuing thence *via* Iganmu and Western Avenue to the junction with Trunk Road A8 at Idi-Oro shall be part of Federal Trunk Road A2, and that the road starting at the junction with Trunk Road A1 at Ebute-Metta and ending at the first round-about on Western Avenue (Iganmu) shall cease to be a part of Federal Trunk Road A2.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS) (No. 2) ORDER

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have it in command from His Excellency the Acting Governor-General to move the Motion standing in my name, That in accordance with subsection (2) of Section 7 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order 1961 be confirmed.

This Order has been made to protect a local industry and to exempt technical assistance importations from the payment of import duty. In November last year, the West African Thread Company Limited applied for a pioneer certificate but this was turned down because the Company proposed to use only imported cotton, and at that time Nigeria was finding difficulties in disposing of its cotton crop.

Shortly after this rejection, the parent Company of the West African Thread Company, the English Sewing Cotton Company, held discussions with the Kaduna Textiles Limited on the possibility of using local cotton in the manufacture of sewing cotton thread. As a

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

result the Thread Company now considers that thread of acceptable quality can be made from Nigerian cotton if additional equipment were installed to carry out a special strengthening process; the Company is also prepared to provide the necessary finance (£69,000) required for the additional machinery and buildings. In spite of this, the processing of Nigerian yarn will still be more expensive than processing the imported product.

The English Sewing Cotton Company is prepared to undertake these additional costs as an indication of its desire to assist the Government in its policy of using local raw materials. It is the declared policy of the Company that as soon as practicable all raw materials shall be obtained locally, and negotiations have been concluded for five-eighths of the initial yarn requirements to be supplied by Kaduna Textiles Ltd.

The West African Thread Company has indicated, and I agree, that it could not pay its way unless a specific protective duty was placed on the type of sewing thread *et cetera* that it intends to produce. This order amends Item 31 of the First Schedule by substituting a specific protective duty of four shillings per pound on threads and yarns of the type to be provided by the West African Thread Company Ltd.

Under various technical assistance agreements with other countries, Nigeria receives a number of technical experts who pass on their knowledge to Nigerians. Generally speaking in such agreements the Government supplying the technical assistance looks to the receiving Government to meet any local costs, while itself financing the expert's remuneration and international travel, and it is a normal condition of such an Agreement that the receiving Government exempts from import duty the personal effects of technical assistance personnel, as well as all goods imported for the execution of the technical assistance scheme. This Order provides such exemption, but only in relation to such technical assistance schemes as are duly approved by Government.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I support the Motion.

I remember that I have had the opportunity of making certain statements on the Floor of this House and I am glad to say that now we seem to be moving in the right direction.

On the occasion on which I made some statements on it, I drew attention to the fact that it is cheaper to import woven singlets from a country like Japan than it is to import thread or material with which to weave the singlet into this country from Japan. I am happy that we are now beginning to redress some of these wrongs.

While so saying, I would really like to ask some questions about other related matters, namely, how many purely indigenous enterprises have within the last two or three years applied for, and succeeded in getting, some of these privileges? From what one sees to-day, these advanced industrial projects are of such magnitude that indigenous people can hardly afford the capital.

I do not know how easy they find it in convincing the officials as to the necessity for giving them assistance. I feel that our officials should look at them much more sympathetically; they should also allow a more reasonable latitude for indigenous applications. So far, it does seem that from time to time, we have passed measures intended to benefit commodities manufactured in Nigeria but it does not seem that they are such that could be of assistance to purely indigenous enterprisers.

I think we all want to see Nigeria industrially developed, but I do not think that we would like Nigeria to be infested with industries that cannot really claim to be in any way indigenous. I am afraid that in some of the measures we are promulgating we might find that, after a short while, we have created such huge and powerful monopolies that our own people might find it difficult to make a start.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 99 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House This Day, be confirmed.

FACTORIES (NOTIFICATION OF DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES) REGULATIONS

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I beg to move, That the Factories (Notification of Dangerous Occurrences)

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[Adjournment]

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Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 105 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House This Day, be approved.

My intention was just to introduce—

Mr Akwiwu : I do not know whether the last issue has been resolved.

Mr Speaker : I put the Question in the terms of the Motion on the Order Paper and the "Ayes" had it.

The Minister of Labour : Judging from the number of enquiries this Motion has received from Members of this House who are particularly interested in labour and who are watch-dogs for the workers of this country, I feel that I should take this opportunity to introduce this Motion very briefly.

At present, under section 56, the occupier of a factory must report to the Inspector of Factories every accident which is fatal or which keeps an employee away from his normal work for more than five working days. Experience has shown, however, that the reporting of accidents to persons alone is insufficient. Dangerous conditions involving machinery and plant may exist in a factory, but through good fortune are not responsible for physical injury to persons employed. For example, a factory may be gutted by fire whilst no one is working there ; a crane may collapse but not fall on any workman ; or a steam boiler may explode, but not injure anybody.

The occurrences mentioned in the Regulations are all capable of causing serious damage to life and property and the Regulations are needed to ensure that such dangerous occurrences are notified to an Inspector of Factories who can then take appropriate action to prevent their re-occurrence and, where necessary, prosecute employers who, through gross negligence, are responsible for such occurrences.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications : I beg to second.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : The Minister of Labour knows what to do at times, but I

observe that this Ordinance has many loopholes one of which is this. It is not enough for an employer to pay compensation to a worker or the dependants of a worker merely because the worker is deceased, but it will also be necessary for the law to determine the causes of death in order to safeguard not only the worker but also those who are even within the precincts of the factory. It should be made clear that if our Government knows that there is a likelihood that such dangerous occurrences will affect those who are not even workers, then provision should be made to safeguard them.

I do not want to talk very much but I think it will be very encouraging for the House to know that the Government is doing something in consideration of these points.

Mr V. E. Eze (Orlu North East) : I have only a very short observation to make. This is a welfare measure and as such, the department should undertake to bring to the notice of those really concerned the importance of this measure. There is no need making a Regulation, having it, gazetted and passing it into law and stopping there. The man in the street does not have the opportunity of reading the Gazette. I am therefore asking the hon. Minister of Labour to give enough publicity to this welfare measure.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Factories (Notification of Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 105 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House this day, be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.43 p.m. until 9 a.m. on Friday, 25th August, 1961, pursuant to the Resolution of the House This Day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Friday, 25th August, 1961

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

The following Paper which has already been distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table, pursuant to Standing Order 11 (3) :—

First Draft Supplementary Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria 1961-62.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Widows and Orphans Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 220), presented by the Minister of Establishments; read the First time; to be read a second time on Wednesday, 30th of August, 1961.

FLAGS AND COAT OF ARMS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Flags and Coat of Arms Ordinance, 1960 (No. 48 of 1960), presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs; read the First time; to be read a second time on Wednesday the 30th of August, 1961.

WATER RATES RECOVERY (GOVERNMENT
TENANTS) BILL

Bill to make better provision for the recovery of water rates in respect of certain tenements, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

EXPORT OF NIGERIAN PRODUCE (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Bill to amend the Export of Nigerian Produce Ordinance, 1958 (No. 36 of 1958), presented by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

CIVIL LIABILITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
BILL

Bill to make further provision for the survival of causes of action in special cases, to amend the law as to tortfeasors and to contributory negligence, and for other purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

FATAL ACCIDENTS BILL

Bill to provide for compensation for the families of persons killed in accidents, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

FEDERAL SUPREME COURT (MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS) BILL

Bill to make provision for the restoration of the right to admission to bail in certain cases and of the right of appeal from interlocutory orders and decisions in special cases in the Federal Territory, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS BILL

Bill to prohibit certain meetings in the Federal Territory during certain days of either House of Parliament, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
(HABEAS CORPUS) BILL

Bill to provide for an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court from any refusal of a writ of Habeas Corpus, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961.

NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Ordinance (Cap. 133) to enable the Minister responsible for broadcasting to give general and specific directions to the Corporation on matters of policy, and also to enable him, after consultation when appropriate, to make recommendations to the

Governor-General in Council as to the appointment of all members of the Corporation; also to effect certain amendments arising from Nigeria's independence, presented by the Minister of Works and Surveys; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Monday, the 28th August, 1961.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

9.15 a.m.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I have it in command from His Excellency to move, That a Bill entitled "An Act to make Supplementary Provision for the Service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two, additionally to that made by the Appropriation (1961-62) Act, 1961", be read a Second time.

Revenue returns up to the end of June indicate a buoyant situation and it seems reasonable to anticipate an additional £3,000,000 retained Federal Revenue above the figures printed in the Annual Estimates. The main reason for this is that imports have continued at a high level despite the increased customs duties. The additional £3,000,000 revenue is not therefore an unmixed blessing since it is accompanied by continuing pressure on Nigeria's balance of payments situation.

In the circumstances, I have thought it prudent not to regard the additional revenue as a means of increasing our budget surplus. I have accordingly included under Head 62 an additional contribution of £1.7 million to the Development Fund, thus making a total contribution of £7.2 million from the 1961-62 Recurrent Budget. By doing this I have ensured that the additional revenue of £3,000,000 will be apportioned in such a way that the recurrent budget surplus will remain close to the figure estimated when I presented my Annual Budget in April. It will also enable the increase in the gap in the financing of the present Economic Programme to be kept to the minimum.

The total additional provision sought in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, excluding the additional transfer to the Development

Fund shown under Head 62, is £1.3 million and the estimated surplus for the year shown in the Financial Statement at the front of the printed Draft Estimates is now a little under £800,000.

I do not intend to touch upon all the items in these Supplementary Estimates individually, but I would like to mention a few important ones.

The preservation of law and order, as this House is well aware, is of vital concern to the well being of the Federation and requires amongst other things a strong, efficient and well equipped Police force. No one will deny that this is of paramount importance and I believe the whole House will support any expenditures designed to maintain law and order. All of us in Nigeria, Nigerians and our friends from overseas, must have the fullest confidence in the security and stability of the state. This confidence should be as good, if not better, than that we had in the old colonial days. We take pride in the present efficiency of the Nigeria Police but there are one or two additional requirements for which we have had to provide since the Annual Estimates were drafted. Provision is accordingly made in these Supplementary Estimates for the first squadron of a Mobile Force and for the better policing of the Sarduana Province and the Tiv and Wukari Divisions of the Benue Province.

Under Head 40 the greater part of the increase of £140,000 is required to bring "above the line" expenditure on pensions formally charged to a deposit account which is now in debit to a sum of very nearly £110,000. This has been done at the request of the Director of Federal Audit although there is every expectation that when negotiations are entered into with the United Kingdom Government for extension of an agreement to pay these pensions made in 1953, the United Kingdom will reimburse the amounts already paid by the Federal Government and will be willing to provide some form of guarantee or capitalisation arrangement for the future.

Under Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—hon. Members will remember that we made only a token provision of £50,000 in the Appropriation (1961-62) Act towards our contributions to the United Nations membership. We are now

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called upon to meet Nigeria's quota of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Organisation. The compulsory contribution of U.N.O. is determined in accordance with a formula that takes into consideration its gross national income and its population and resources in relation to those of other member nations. Additional provisions for this purpose have been included under this Head.

Regarding Head 46—Ministry of Information—it is proposed to hold a conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Lagos during the current financial year and provision of £40,000 has been made under this Head to defray its expenses. Hon. Members will agree with me that this is a proof of the importance of our great country in the Commonwealth.

Turning now to the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, the appropriations are covered by separate Motions and are not part of this Bill. It is customary, however, to say a word about their implications in a Budget speech and, with your permission, Sir, I will mention some of them briefly.

The individual items are self-explanatory and their effect will be to increase the gap in the financing of our Economic Programme by just under £1,000,000 over the figure estimated in the Annual Estimates. This additional expenditure comes under two headings.

Firstly, under Heads 601 and 605 covering approval is sought as required by the rules for the operation of the Development Fund approved by Parliament for a Special Warrant issued by me earlier this year to provide for an interest-free loan to the Lagos Executive Development Board to enable them to continue the Central Lagos Slum Clearance and for the purchase of an aircraft for the use of the Federal Government.

Secondly, under Head 605 provision of £400,000 is made for a further injection of capital into the African Staff Housing Scheme whose present funds are quite inadequate to meet present needs. An additional sum of £500,000 is also included as a first instalment of payment for the acquisition of the shares of the Technical Partners in the Nigerian National Shipping Lines Limited. I am sure that hon. Members will be happy to hear that.

I have no doubt that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be favourably considered by this House. I can assure the House that they have been considered for submission to Parliament only after the most searching scrutiny in my Ministry.

A constant theme of my Budget speeches has been the injury done to the nation through evasion of customs duties by smuggling and similar frauds, and last April I was able to inform the House that Government's measures to fight this evil had met with considerable success. But there is no room for complacency, as is shown by recent revelations of organised fraud in the second-hand clothing trade, centred on Port Harcourt.

Articles of clothing both new and second-hand are concealed in bales invoiced as household rummage, which attracts duty at a considerably lower rate than clothing. Since invoices cannot be trusted, the bales have to be carefully examined, and this has necessarily caused congestion at Port Harcourt, to the extent, indeed, that the Board of Customs and Excise has had to hire extra storage space, and the clearance of the honest traders' consignments has, regrettably but inevitably, been delayed along with those of the dishonest.

This is a widespread racket which Government is determined to fight, as it is determined to fight all other forms of smuggling and fraud. And I regret to have to say that it is not confined to the importers in Nigeria, for the very methods they employ require the collaboration of the foreign exporters by whom the goods are shipped. It is they who issue false documents, and it is they who mark bales containing the falsely declared goods so that the importer's accomplices can identify them and arrange for them to be stocked in an inaccessible place in the warehouse where there is less chance of their being picked out for detailed examination.

And these foreigners have even been visiting Nigeria to make their arrangements with the importers and to collect the balance of payments due, which cannot be transmitted through normal channels for fear of leaving documentary evidence. One recent case reads like a chapter from a detective story. Hon. Members should please listen to this. A foreign citizen, who was required to give

evidence in cases involving importation of second-hand clothing consigned by his company, evidently received information of this; and before my officials could reach Port Harcourt from Lagos he had fled from the country, being taken from Port Harcourt to Kano, when he left hastily by air, in a relay of motor cars arranged by some second-hand clothing dealers.

An hon. Member : Your officials are too slow.

The Minister of Finance : It is not that my officials are too slow but that the friends of the hon. Member who has just interjected are too smart.

It is believed that this fugitive took with him some six thousand pounds in Nigerian currency notes, which he had collected from his associates in Nigeria.

This is but another battle in the unremitting campaign which the Federal Government has to conduct against those who seek to rob Nigeria for their private gain. Whilst the Federal Government has no wish to interfere with legitimate trade in second-hand clothing, it cannot tolerate the continuance of malpractices which harm the honest trader as well as the nation, and it looks to all loyal Nigerians to support whatever measures may be taken to eliminate this evil.

As Members are well aware the Federal Government has have all the other Governments of the Federation, indicated in very clear terms that they welcome overseas capital and management and technological skills in order to develop our resources. I need not reiterate here, the specific concessions that investors may expect when investing in this country. We already have in our laws, positive incentives to investment in industrial enterprises. Apart from this, non-resident investments may be granted approved status. This status carries with it the right to transfer to the country of origin, profits and dividends arising from the non-resident capital investment and foreign capital may be repatriated.

However, the granting of this status is not automatic but must be applied for by the investor himself. I have observed on many occasions that applications for approved status have been submitted to my Ministry through

intermediaries and not direct by the company wishing to make the investment. There are instances when companies which have not been registered in Nigeria have applied in advance through intermediaries for approved status. I do not regard this as a sign of faith in our economy. The use by these companies of "contact men" is most undesirable. Firms wishing to apply for approved status should apply direct to Government and not through intermediaries.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Through their solicitors.

The Minister of Finance : The hon. Member for Ikeja will be surprised to know that they go to foreign solicitors.

Such companies should demonstrate their faith in the Nigerian economy by registering before applying for approved status. The Federal Government is prepared to give sympathetic consideration to their applications, and we are always willing to co-operate with foreign investors. Investors have nothing to fear by coming direct to Government. I can assure them that the climate here is hospitable and that their investment is safe in this country. They can apply through indigenous barristers and solicitors.

I now wish to refer to the work of the Economic Mission which has just returned to Nigeria. As Members will recall, the Mission left Nigeria on the 28th of May 1961 and travelled right round the world returning to Lagos on the 20th of July. In a little over seven weeks, the Mission travelled over 50,000 miles by air through twelve countries—the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Soviet Union, the Chinese Peoples Republic, Burma, Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, Japan, the United States of America and Canada.

Members will also recall that in my last Budget speech I stated what the Federal Government considered the aims and objectives of the Mission should be. First, the Mission was to increase the world's knowledge of the economic potential of Nigeria. In carrying out this objective the Mission was to explore the possibilities for expanding trade, and also to explore the means of increasing the flow of investment capital from overseas and the scope of technical assistance for our economic development.

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There is no doubt in my mind that the Economic Mission has created a much increased awareness of Nigeria overseas. The Mission has visited the leading nations of the contemporary world. As a result, more than two billion people in the countries visited know a lot more about Nigeria and her economic possibilities. More than that, there were many other people in other countries who read and heard over the wireless and television about the activities of our Mission. It was a distinct pleasure and, indeed, a stimulating experience, for me and my colleagues to meet with the leaders of the countries visited and to discuss with them freely and frankly the many matters of concern to us in the economic field. These discussions provided a unique opportunity to explain our problems and needs at first hand to the very people whose decisions can do so much to help Nigeria.

As regards trade and industry, I can say without any hesitation that the Mission succeeded in generating widespread interest in the many investment opportunities which exist in Nigeria. The Mission held discussions with commercial and industrial interests in all the countries visited. All of us on the Mission were surprised by the ignorance which still exists overseas of investment opportunities in Nigeria. We were therefore at great pains during our journey to expand upon these opportunities for investment. We stressed that in Nigeria it is our conscious policy to create through stable Government the conditions in which industry can flourish. We had much to say about our variety of natural resources. We gave details of the efforts we are making through the various development plans to provide the basic services so necessary for industrial progress. We explained the several fiscal incentives which are provided for the encouragement of local industry. I feel sure that as a result of the Mission's work in the commercial and industrial fields we may confidently expect a great increase in the number and substance of foreign investors in Nigeria in the near future.

Although details of the 1962-67 Economic Programme are still not available, it was possible for the Mission to take with it an outline of some of the major projects which we think will feature in the next programme. I

was also able to speak in general terms about the objectives of the programme and the possible magnitude of the investment needed to sustain the growth of our economy. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. This is the sort of thing that should go on at a mass meeting, not at the House of Representatives.

The Minister of Finance : Sir, it was very obvious to me and my colleagues that Nigeria is already held in high esteem by the great powers of the world. There was evidence of this in every country we visited. In particular, I would like to mention the high honour done to our Mission when it was present in the Canadian Parliament. Mr Diefenbaker, the Canadian Prime Minister, on the Floor of the House of Commons paid a glowing tribute to Nigeria in a speech which was echoed later by the Leader of the Opposition.

In conclusion, may I say that there is no doubt in my mind that the Mission has proved an unqualified success. One particular virtue of the Mission was the way in which it broadcast the message of Nigerian unity. All of you will remember that the Mission was composed of representatives of all the Governments of the Federation. Throughout the tour the Mission maintained a united front and I am grateful to all my colleagues, both of the Federal and of the Regional Governments, for their unswerving co-operation. The second stage of the Mission leaves Nigeria on the 24th September and will visit Western Germany, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Israel, Lebanon and the United Arab Republic. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

The Minister of Finance : I feel sure that this second stage will be as fruitful as the first and that at the end of it all, we shall have laid the foundations for external assistance for the 1962-67 Economic Programme.

Before ending my speech, I would like to refer to the recent visit to Nigeria of a mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Mission visited almost all the principal towns throughout Nigeria with

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a view to carrying out an on-the-spot study of various aspects of the Nigerian economy, to reviewing the progress of the economy and to bringing up to date the Bank's information on the Federation.

We have been encouraged by the preliminary observations of the head of the Mission that he was most impressed with the rate of economic growth in Nigeria over the past eight years, which is comparable to the rates of development in other parts of the world. He was also most impressed with the rate of industrial growth in particular, and the number of industries which were being planned and with the liberal financial policies being pursued. The Bank was also examining priorities for investment in the 1962-67 period and it is my hope that this should lead to further assistance from international financial institutions.

Finally, let me assure the House that this Government will go into the 1962-67 Economic Programme period resolved, not only to maintain and improve the rate of economic growth, but also to make Nigeria a comfortable, healthy and flourishing country for all, irrespective of their status, colour, race and their political beliefs.

I beg to move.

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

Mr Speaker : Pursuant to Standing Order 64, the debates stands adjourned until the next sitting day, that is tomorrow.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan) : Would it be possible to indicate now how many days will be allocated to the debate on the Second Reading ?

Mr Speaker : That is a matter for the Business Committee.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—
“That this House is of the opinion that the inter-Parliamentary Union is an institution of great usefulness in international relations and agrees that the Parliament of the Federation of Nigeria constitute itself a National Group of the Union and make application for affiliation thereto”.

Many hon. Members no doubt are aware of the activities of the inter-Parliamentary Union, an international organisation which came into existence as a result of the efforts of Sir William Randal Cremer, a British Member of Parliament of radical views.

The first Inter-Parliamentary Conference took place in June 1889, and nine parliaments participated—France, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Liberia, Spain and the United States of America. Not until 1894, however, did the organisation become permanent and complete by the adoption of its Statutes.

The aims of the Union are defined in Article 1 of its Statutes, reading as follows, and now I quote :

“The aim of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is to promote personal contacts between members of all Parliaments, constituted into National Groups, and to unite them in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective States in the firm establishment and development of democratic institutions and in the advancement of the work of international peace and co-operation, particularly by means of a universal organisation of nations. With this object in view, the Inter-Parliamentary Union will also study and seek solutions for all questions of an international character, suitable for settlement by parliamentary action, and shall make suggestions for the development of those parliamentary institutions and increasing their prestige.”

The Union, which is non-party in character, meets in conference normally every year in the various capitals of the world. It has its permanent Secretariat in Geneva, which is under the direction of an Inter-Parliamentary Council on which each Group is represented by two delegates.

The Union serves as a medium through which public opinion can be ventilated and brought with some effect to the notice of Governments. It has such very high standing that the United Nations has placed the Union in Category A of non-governmental organisations which are given consultation status.

At present the Union comprises some 50 Nations from all over the world and its influence for good in world affairs could be incalculable.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada):

I beg to second.

Chief A. Enahoro: We support this Motion. In doing so, I would like to offer some advice and a warning. This country has a great reputation in parliamentary practice overseas and I am glad to say that above party lines the quality of Nigeria's representation at International Parliamentary Conferences in the past has always been high. I hope that when we join the Inter-Parliamentary Union, this standard will be maintained.

I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to ensure that those who represent us either at the C.P.A. Conferences or at the Inter-Parliamentary Union will do great credit to this Parliament.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I support the Motion and I am happy that the Opposition supports this measure. We are now independent and it is necessary that whenever we have such organisations, when there is a meeting of independent states, our country should not hesitate at any time to be an active participant in all such activities. This being non-controversial, I think it is only meet and proper that I should be brief.

I am happy that there will be no controversy over this Motion and that this country will be well represented. As Chief Enahoro has pointed out, our country has a very high reputation for parliamentary processes and measures and, indeed, more than that, this country has a great reputation of being the freest of the newer states. It is the policy of this Government to maintain that tradition and that prestige wherever we go and we can give the assurance that the Government is very mindful of the reputation of this country.

We take this opportunity also to express the hope that all nationals of Nigeria will begin to feel proud when this country speaks and will begin to take more interest in the achievements of the Government and the achievements of the people of Nigeria and pay less attention to hysteria which has no substance in reality.

This was the tendency in the past. I am only making this comment because as the Opposition is saying, we must make sure that we send people of repute, people of ability to represent us. I take this opportunity to appeal to all concerned that everybody should show signs of responsibility in everything we do. This is not only applicable to Members of the Government, it is applicable also to all the citizens of Nigeria.

With these remarks, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: As there has been no dissentient voice, I have no doubt that it will be the wish of the House that the Resolution be recorded as having been passed *nemine contradicente*.

Resolved nemine contradicente: That this House is of the opinion that the Inter-Parliamentary Union is an institution of great usefulness in international relations and agrees that the Parliament of the Federation of Nigeria constitute itself a National Group of the Union and make application for affiliation thereto.

9.55 a.m.

SEAS FISHERIES (LAGOS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Economic Development (M. Waziri Ibrahim): I move, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Before I refer to some of the salient point in the Bill, I shall briefly give a general background of the events which have made it desirable for this Bill to be drafted.

Members are well aware that at present the percentage of protein contents of the foods of a majority of the population of this country is far below a satisfactory standard. One of the best ways by which this deplorable situation can be improved is to encourage the people to cultivate the habit of eating protein-providing foodstuffs one of the best of which is fish. To do this, it must be ensured that fish is available in the markets at prices well within the reach of every class.

It is common knowledge that every year stockfish to the value of about £7m is imported into this country for consumption. These are sold at prices which could be less were they to be caught off the shores of this country. The import of about £7m worth of stockfish also affects our balance of payments. So, in addition to the requirement of raising the standard of living of our people, we shall also avoid this heavy amount which affects our balance of payment. For this reason, it is necessary to introduce legislation to enable Government to ensure that the fishing industry is well controlled; that smaller fishermen are protected; that the right type of fish is developed; that we have fishing facilities to promote the preservation of the fish and so on.

As I told you, we have got a scheme and hon. Members might have read in the newspapers about our intention to find a fishing terminus where the trawlers will come and sell their fish. There will be storage places suitable to preserve the fish, in order to ensure that as many people as possible in this country get fresh fish. That is going to play a very important part in the health of our people.

In connection with the development of the fishing industry, I would like to tell hon. Members that a large sea research vessel of about 70 feet in length costing about £49,000 will soon be delivered to the Fisheries Service to be used in research at sea while a smaller vessel, built in this country, will soon be put into operation to be tested for its suitability for fishing. If it proves satisfactory, it is proposed to recommend the use of similar vessels to fishing industries in this country.

It has also been recognized that the fishing industry cannot develop to any large extent without the provision of adequate terminal facilities for the various fishing companies to process, preserve and sell their catches. My Ministry has therefore been vigorously engaged in planning for this very important industry. I need not tell hon. Members the importance of it. They all know it. They all eat fish. It is not new and everybody would like to eat more fish if it is available. Our stockfish is popular, not because of any particular quality, but because it is the only one that is available in large quantities.

Turning to the Motion itself, Government has no power at the moment to exercise any control on fishing off the coast of Nigeria. This has not in the past been of great importance, but in the last year or so fishing has become a rapidly developing industry. Evidence of this is seen in the increasing number of Nigerian companies entering this field as the numerous foreign companies making enquiries about the possibility of establishing fishing industries in this country.

It is common knowledge that in any developing industry mistakes and abuses are likely to occur and individuals may be tempted to seek quick gains by using practices that are contrary to the industry itself. A case in point is that of the trawlers now working in Lagos. They are all fair-sized vessels that can well work on grounds over a wide area, yet they prefer to concentrate within a short distance of the shore on the grounds normally fished by local canoe fishermen. Local fishermen are being encouraged to use small-powered craft, and such boats working from Lagos would depend on the inshore fishing grounds, as the more distant ones would be beyond their range.

In addition, if the trawlers continue to work as they are doing at present, they may well reduce the stocks on these grounds—so that conservation measures will be necessary. In the absence of legislation, Government at present has no power by which it can ensure the planned development of the fishing industry.

Apart from the need for such legislation, there is also a need for measures to ensure that fishing vessels conform to a satisfactory standard of safety—that they are properly built and equipped and that they are in the charge of competent persons. In their eagerness to participate in the new industry, people may be tempted to take up sea fishing with unsuitable or unseaworthy boats to the grave danger of the crew, or they may fail to appreciate the need for life-saving and other equipments.

It is most desirable that from the start of the industry there should be set a reasonable and adequate standard of safety so that accidents, perhaps with tragic consequences, might be avoided. To meet these demands, licensing officers will be instructed to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations under the Shipping and Navigation Ordinance have been satisfied before licences are issued for fishing.

[MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]

Finally, to ensure proper uniformity of conditions in the whole of the Federation, agreement has been reached with the Regions for Bills on similar lines to be introduced in the Regional Legislatures.

This Bill, as presented, is very straightforward. It is to control the fishing industry of Nigeria, and every Member of this House will appreciate the reasons why we want the legislation of control.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Mr J. C. Obande): I beg to second.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): It is true that this is a very vital Bill but, so far as I am concerned, for entirely different reasons than those proffered by the hon. Minister in moving the Bill. It is very vital because Lagos is an island and fishing is a vocation that is practised by at least seventy-five per cent of the indigenous people of Lagos. Therefore, whilst protecting those who will be using motor fishing boats, the Minister should on the other hand, also encourage the natives who use the ordinary fishing boats.

The Bill, as it will be observed, deals with two matters. The first is the motor fishing boat, which is defined in the law; and the second is the ordinary fishing boat—the ordinary canoes that are being used by the natives to catch their fish.

One cannot quarrel with the provisions in the Bill relating to motor fishing boats. However, in respect of the only provision dealing with the ordinary fishing boat, it is my submission that the Bill is not good enough.

In discussing the Bill I would like to draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to the fact that the definition of a fishing boat is contained in the Bill and, as I have said, it provides that a fishing boat is the ordinary canoe that we are used to. The definition reads as follows: "A fishing boat means any ship, boat, canoe or other craft used for the taking of fish for sale or barter". So, I think I am perfectly in order in saying that the ordinary canoe or other craft used by the natives of Lagos around the lagoon comes within the definition. Also, the Minister defines a motor fishing boat as the one that is propelled by an engine of some kind.

As I have said, I pay tribute to the Minister for the excellent provisions he has made about the motor fishing boat; but in respect of the ordinary fishing boat, as I said, the provisions are not good enough. Throughout the Bill you will find no law made in respect of fishing boat as such. Although a fishing boat is defined, not a word is said in any of the clauses about fishing boats. The only mention of a fishing boat is in Clause 14.

It is provided in Sub-Clause 2 that the Governor-General may prohibit or restrict the use of any fishing boat. Sir, that is a very ominous provision. If they prohibit the use of any fishing boat, the consequence is that a good many of the fishermen in Lagos would be thrown out of work because that is the means of livelihood of the generality of the Lagos indigenes.

The serious objection I have to that is that the hon. Minister is not taking this House into confidence. He is, as it were, arranging to make this Regulation by means of subsidiary legislation that would not be open to discussions in this House. Surely, a law that is going to affect the livelihood of a good many people ought to be in black and white, debated and discussed in this House.

One vital objection I am making to this is that whatever provisions Government wants to make in respect of fishing boats should be put into the main Law, in the Bill itself, so that we can see whether the Government is fair or unfair to those who are trading by ordinary fishing boat. As I have said, they have done something excellent about the motor fishing boat, but the generality of the people use the ordinary canoe.

Whatever laws Government wants to make about them, the requirements they want of them should be openly discussed.

We, the representatives of the people, should know the laws that Government is making about them. After this Parliament has passed these Laws it will be unfair for Government to go behind and begin to make all sorts of hard regulations on these people. They will begin to make regulations that will say that they should not use a particular type of net; that the net must be of a certain width; that it must not be broad; that it must not be long and that the

canoe must be of small or large size. We the representatives of the people ought to know on the Floor of this House what sort of laws the Government wants to make because, as I have said, these would affect their livelihood.

To relegate such a vital law to subsidiary legislations is not only unfair to this House but also unfair to the people themselves. Throughout to-day it will be said that this Parliament has passed a law that is going to affect the means of livelihood of some people. But to-day they will not know what kind of law or regulation Government is going to make—whether or not they are going to condemn all the fishing boats that we see around from Idunmagbo up to Alakoro, nobody knows.

If one goes through Isale Eko one will find that the whole foreshore is littered with canoes. The people want to know exactly what sort of laws and regulations are going to be made. Therefore, to that extent I submit that to make the Law subsidiary, that is, to go back to the council of Ministers and begin to make detailed regulations to affect such a vital industry practised by the indigenes of Lagos, is not fair to them.

To that effect, I have put an Amendment that, "under no circumstance should the Government prohibit the use of fishing boats and canoes" because the consequence of doing so would, as I have said, be that a good many of our men would be thrown out of their means of livelihood.

I do not intend to take much time. As I said, everybody must support the provision of the Law relating to the big firms who catch fish with engine-propelled boats. But the ordinary man who lives by catching fish with the ordinary canoe ought not to be as hard hit as the provisions of the Law make them. And to that effect, I support in principle the Bill and at the same time implore the Minister to give more sympathetic consideration to the ordinary fisherman at Isale-Eko and the indigenes of Lagos.

An hon. Member : In Nigeria.

Mr Dosunmu : But this is Lagos and the Law relates only to Lagos. I say that it is objectionable to make this kind of regulation. It should be in the main Law. But if the Minister cannot do so, at least, he should give an assurance that whatever regulations are

passed at our back would be tabled before this House for an affirmative vote. We Lagosians live by that industry.

I have filed an Amendment, but if it is unacceptable to the Minister, and if he will give the assurance that he will take us into confidence in whatever he does, one may have to reconsider one's views regarding the Bill. But on the whole I support this Bill.

The Minister of Economic Development : I have to thank the hon. Member, Mr Dosunmu. But I am going to suggest to him to withdraw his Amendment because I do accept his suggestion.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in my speech I said a case in point is that the trawlers now working in Lagos are fair-sized vessels that could well work on grounds over a wide area. Now, this means that we are going to attempt to take away the bigger fishing trawlers up to the sea, to enable the fishes available around the shore to be fished only by those smaller fishing boats.

Mr Speaker : A point of order, Chief Enahoro.

Chief Anthony Enahoro : On point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir. There is a Chief across there who is bringing a weapon of offence into the House.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think it is quite a reasonable walking stick but I expect that the bearer is not so old as to bring it over into the House.

The Minister of Economic Development : I was saying that one of the things we had in mind when we introduced this Bill—which will give us power to control the fishing industry—was to have the fair-sized trawlers to fish only a bit far away in the wide areas where the smaller fishing boats cannot go.

Therefore, hon. Members will see that the interest of the small fishermen is uppermost in our minds and that nothing will be done to the detriment of these smaller fishermen. I can give the assurance that if ever we want to do anything whose effect on these fishermen may be doubtful, we shall definitely come to this House to seek the opinion of everybody,

[MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]

The section which refers to the Governor-General prohibiting any fishing boat, in fact, refers to the stopping of certain sizes of trawlers from fishing where only local fishermen should fish; and it is not the intention to stop smaller fishermen. It will be seen that this clause is really meant to protect the interests of the smaller fishermen.

With regard to the size of the fishing net, provision is made to ensure that fish of certain sizes should not be caught. If fish are very small and young, they are not good for consumption and, therefore, should not be caught. So if nets are of certain sizes, then the smaller types of fish which we do not want caught will not be caught. It means the size of the net will enable the small fish to escape.

I appeal to the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) to withdraw his Amendment as he supports the Bill in principle. I wish he would withdraw his Amendment and then give the Bill his blessing.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya : The hon. Minister has covered all the points I was going to raise, but the issue is on the definition contained in the clause. The definition of the fishing boat specifically excludes where fishermen, for instance, are adjudged by a Licensing Officer as infringing the Law. It would seem to me that it would be sufficient defence to say that the fish is meant for the consumption of the fishermen. I say this because the definition relates to fish which is meant for sale or barter.

I wonder if the hon. Minister could give the House an assurance that if during the recess of Parliament, I went out to the Lagoon in my canoe, I could have some fish for food. It may be that I want to fish in Ikorodu; it may even be in Badagry, which is within the definition of Lagos Territorial Waters; but I wonder if the hon. Minister would make the position clearer.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): We do not oppose this Bill. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister for bringing this kind of Bill at this time of Nigeria's independence. I hope that it should be spread to all the Regional Territories. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister for saying that the Federal Government will co-operate with Regional Governments to bring about Bills of this nature for the protection of the Fishing Industry.

I really hope very much that he would not only want to co-operate but would also bring pressure to bear on some of these Regions, particularly the Eastern Region, to regulate the Fishing Industry. Without that, I am almost perfectly sure that nothing will be done in the East. There is quite a lot of neglect over the Fishing Industry. It is all farming, farming, farming, farming and farming for ever.

Mr Speaker : Order! You should make this appeal to the Eastern Regional Government.

Mr Briggs : One further point concerns section 11 for which I am really deeply grateful. I see that there is provision for the control of the method of fishing. What we see in the Rivers is that people who are quite alien to the Fishing Industry, not indigenous fishermen, come from the hinterland to fish for the first time in their lives and they do it with an abandon which does violence to the trade. They use nocuous drugs, they use poisonous drugs, they use explosives, they use any kind of thing to kill all the fish in the water. They are not used to the Fishing Industry or they would have known that a young shoal must be protected for the future generation.

I am grateful to the Minister that he has even made provision for that. I think there is a small confusion about the small fish and young fish. You can get a fully grown fish which is very small. You do not need to protect that type because it is already fully grown, like an adult human-being; but that is quite different from the young shoal. You can get shoal which is made up of very young fish which need protection, again like babies in the case of human-beings.

I will reserve the other comments I would like to make until we come to the Committee Stage.

I beg to support.

Mr F. U. Ihe (Okigwi North East): I support the Bill. A Sea Fishing Industry within the territorial waters of Lagos will generally promote the welfare of our people. The Ministry of Economic Development was previously responsible for Agriculture and Food; Fishery has now been added to its functions and it all goes to show the importance of the Ministry to this country.

The regulation of the Sea Fishing Industry will in future involve the creation of a Fishing Industry Board on the same lines, I believe, as there is in England a Herring Industry Board. I hope, therefore, that provision will shortly be made whereby the Sea Fishing Industry will form part of the important organ of the whole set up of the Niger Delta Development Board.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural): In rising to support this Bill, I wish to say that it will provide a good opportunity for some of our boys who will be leaving school to find employment. There is a widespread cry in the country to-day that unemployment is growing. I, therefore, hope that when the Fishing Industry is fully developed it will absorb some of the young people just leaving school and thereby help in reducing unemployment.

I think it is sad that there is no provision made in the Bill to ensure that those engaged in the business of manipulating fishing boats are aware that they should pay compensation to people whose property they may damage in the process. You will recall that there were reports in the Lagos papers some time ago of a case in which some villagers suffered damage to their property as a result of the activities of fishing boats. There was a hue and cry about it, but nobody seems to know exactly how the dispute was settled.

I feel that in this very important Bill there should be a Clause inserted whereby provision for adequate compensation should be made for people whose property will be damaged by people who are engaged in the fishing industry.

I support the Bill.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): The point which occurred to me is that the provisions of this Bill are too stringent. We all know that sea-fishing in Nigeria is in its pioneering stage. The latest statistics show that of the requirements of fish that Nigeria need at this moment, we have only 11 per cent supply, and people who are engaged in the fishing industry in this country to-day require large capital to buy trawlers and other fishing boats and almost invariably these fishermen have to raise loans from the financial houses.

This Act provides that a licence issued to a fishing vessel owner may be cancelled or suspended; it also provides that in the case of a Licensing Officer cancelling or suspending a fishing licence, his only right is to appeal to the Minister whose decision is final. The Act also requires a fisherman to exhibit his catch to the Licensing Officer; it also provides for the seizure of fishing vessels in case any offence is committed against this Act. Further, it provides that the catch of any fisherman could be sold by the Licensing Officer and the proceeds of sale detained pending the trial of the fisherman after the offence.

Well, I think this Act should aim at encouraging people who dare to engage in the fishing industry in this country and not to discourage them. If a fisherman spends lots of money, say £20 to £30 somehow to buy one boat or a trawler, and goes a-fishing, and perhaps he catches the wrong type of fish which he should not catch according to regulation, then the Licensing Officer has the right to seize the catch and detain the boat for an indefinite period while the fisherman has to pay principal and interest on his loan.

I would like to appeal to the Minister to look carefully into this matter because the conditions appear to be too stringent for people. We should try to encourage the fishing industry in this country. We know that there are foreign investors who want to come out. For instance, recently, an appeal was made by the Economic Mission to fishermen in Japan to come and participate in the fishing industry in this country. When they come out with their capital and boats and are faced with such restrictive conditions, it may be difficult for the fishing industry to grow in this country and for the population of this country to have enough quantity of fish that is required for their good health.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): I just want to make one short point. I think the Government will be taking greater interest in the fishing industry in this country if it will come out to organise the fishermen themselves into fishing societies. I think that to allow individual fishers to go out to sea and catch is not good. If Government organises the fishers into fishing societies, they will be able to pull their financial resources together and be

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able to buy bigger fishing vessels and will thereby be able to meet the requirements of this Bill.

With this point, I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Development:

The co-operation of the Regions has been mentioned about having the Eastern Regional Board to make similar regulations. I have also said that the Western and the Eastern Regional Governments have been contacted on this issue and that their response has been favourable.

I can assure hon. Members that both the Eastern and Western Regional Governments are going to do similar things. There should be no fear that similar steps will not be taken in the other Regions. As to encouraging the fishing industry in the Niger Delta Area, well, I am sure that the Niger Delta Development Board will not overlook this very important industry.

I am glad to know that somebody thinks that a bigger fishing industry will mean more employment for the unemployed people but it is I should think a surprise that the Member has failed to tell the House that the Government has that point in view.

Compensation: As regards compensation for property damaged, this of course depends on the nature of the damage, and, in any case, whether there is provision or not in this legislation, if somebody's property is damaged by another, the property owner has got the right to go to court. We are not bringing any legislation preventing any body from going to court and claiming damages. So the question about compensation for the damage of property is not clear to me. In my opinion, it probably does not arise. If anybody's property is damaged, he may claim damages. In the fishing field, if a fishing trawler goes to a village and does some damage to the property of the village people, then of course the villagers could take action. If the fishing inspectors have anyway of assisting the villagers to continue their action, this will be done.

Now to the question of cancelling the licence of a fisherman. If the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) will only listen, I am just saying that the withdrawal of a licence will apply in many cases to the bigger fishing companies. These provisions are

mostly in the interest of the small fishermen. When the fishing industry is being developed, certain areas will be reserved for fishing only during certain seasons. That is that. They can only fish in that area during specified periods and that is in the interest of the fishermen themselves. The object of inspecting the fishermen exhibiting their catches is to ensure that they have not been to the prohibited areas.

A point has been made that those foreign investors who want to enter into the fishing industry in this country may be discouraged when we talk of restricting them to certain areas. I think that is not true because every move is really for the interest of the fishermen themselves. Nothing we intend to do will discourage anybody; on the contrary, it will encourage the fishermen.

The question of helping small fishermen by pulling their resources together to buy bigger fishing trawlers is a good suggestion, but it is not something the Government is going to compel people to do: it is for the people themselves to decide whether they should use small trawlers individually or whether they should combine and have bigger trawlers and then go to the sea and fish.

The question has been raised by my hon. Friend the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) about people being afraid of going to fish for food. I was not quite clear of your case but I do not think that the interest of any private person who goes to do just a fishing for the sake of trading and so on will be very much affected.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time, committed to a Committee of the whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

10.35 a.m.

SEA FISHERIES (LAGOS) BILL: CONSIDERED
IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, COMMENCEMENT
AND APPLICATION).

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I wish to draw attention to the definition of "territorial waters" contained in Clause 1. Anyone who is acquainted, with some aspects of international law will agree that even among the older nations, there is not all that unanimity

in the acceptance of the meaning of territorial waters. Like most subject matters in international law each country bases its own definition on its own immediate needs. The British Government accepts a definition of three nautical miles whilst the Scandinavian countries insist on about seven miles. In some cases, some countries insist on twelve miles depending on what they feel would be contained within that limit to their own exclusive advantage.

Now, in this country I should say that what is contained in Clause 1 is the definition of territorial waters contained in the Interpretation Ordinance. That is a definition that was made under the Imperial Government but since our attainment of nationhood, I do not think there has been any appraisal of what might be the resources contained within the approaches of our waters.

Already I know that some of the oil prospecting companies are thinking of prospecting in the immediate waters outside the country. I think it is very much in our own interest that we should really survey the waters within our shores so as to be able to know why it will be to the best advantage of the country to fix our territorial limits. I do not think, that we should accept some of these Imperial or Colonial definitions as a matter of routine. I do hope that the Minister will make it a point with his colleagues and perhaps more particularly with the Foreign Minister and perhaps with the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Justice to really find out why it would be to the best interest of the country to fix the limits of our territorial waters and not merely to accept it. I think the whole world accepts the fact that territorial waters must be within three nautical miles.

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, COMMENCEMENT AND APPLICATION), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 2-14 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I support entirely the Third Reading of this Bill if for nothing else, for the protection of Mr Briggs and his people. There are just one or two things on which I feel that the Minister

might give us better explanation or direct his attention to. One is that the Licensing Officer is given an unlimited authority to impose any condition he likes. That is the impression we are given in part of the Bill. I do hope that limits within which that discretion should or can be exercised may be prescribed. Even in the law courts when Judges are supposed to have discretionary powers, it is not unknown that those discretionary powers have their inner and outer limits.

Another point, is that the Bill provides that change of ownership invalidates a licence. Well, I do not see that it should be so. We know that even with motor vehicles, a licence once paid for and obtained continues to be valid. If the vehicle is sold, all that the new owner needs to do is to send in an application for his name to be registered against the vehicle. In this case the licence is to be made after due examination of the vehicle. I do not understand that when the ownership of the vehicle changes the licence which was issued in respect of the condition of the vehicle should cease to exist unless approved again for the new owner.

In conclusion, it is also provided that the licensing authority can refuse to grant a licence without reason and upon his refusal the applicant can then appeal to the Minister. If the man does not know why his licence was turned down, on what grounds is he going to appeal to the Minister? I think it is only reasonable that if you are going to turn down the application for licence the man should be acquainted in summary terms of the grounds for turning down the application so that if he is to appeal to the Minister he will know what sort of case to put before the Minister.

Subject to these observations, on which I certainly look forward to the Minister's explanation and assurance, I support the Third Reading of the Bill.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South: Since) the Second Reading of this Bill has been taken, nothing further remains but to pass it into law. But I think it is necessary to call the attention of the Minister to the able way in which he has almost satisfied every speaker this morning, very unlike other Ministers who when they want to rush a Bill do not even take into consideration the feelings of Members in this House and the feelings of the people they

[CHIEF A. F. ODULANA]

represent. I think the hon. Mr Dosunmu will go home and tell his people, the Lagos indigenes seventy-five per cent of whom are fishermen, that the Minister has given him satisfactory answers. I am sure the Minister will keep to his words when making the legislation.

I am particularly happy this morning that the Minister has satisfied every speaker and he has been able to give an answer to all the questions raised. I therefore support wholeheartedly that the Bill be passed into law.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): I realise that the passing of this Bill will do a world of good in that it will put an end to certain evil practices of some self-styled owners of Lagos lagoon who have done a lot of harm to fishermen in Lagos. But I must be frank to say that I support Mr Dosunmu in every word he has said in bringing out the case of fishermen in Lagos. I congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill at this time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): I rise to oppose this Motion. I think, Sir, that it is evidence of mis-management of the affairs of the House when next week is likely to be crowded and the Minister of Finance will probably require us to sit into the night. We have one hour, fifteen minutes to spare to-day and the Government is asking this House to adjourn.

We have seen a draft programme for next week and I believe hon. Members, if they want to be fair to themselves, will find that that programme is overcrowded. The result will be that whilst we have time to spare this week which we are now wasting, next week we will be rushing over all the business. Tomorrow, as well, what has been proposed will not take the whole day. It is a pity the Minister of Finance is not here. He really ought to sit down and spend time in arranging the programme of the House so as to ensure that our time is properly utilised . . . oppose

this motion. We have one hour, fifteen minutes on our hands and the Government ought to find business for us to do in this time.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): At twelve noon I personally will be going to the Mosque to pray, but I do not know what I am going to use one hour, fifteen minutes that we have now to do and I am going to draw £1,000 at the end of the year for work that is not done. I think the Leader of Government Business should be warned about this. The Ministers here are not going back to the offices again to-day. I do not know what they are going to do now; they are all going one way or the other. I think it is not fair to this Parliament, especially to those of our Friends who come from up-country. That is the reason why we must evolve a better method of doing the business of this House. I really do not like this, and I am supporting Chief Enahoro in opposing this Motion.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): I think the Opposition is raising unnecessary alarm over the Motion on Adjournment. The Government has arranged the programme for the day and even though there are occasions when we have to work hard, there are also occasions when we have to relax. If an opportunity is given, as is given now, for us to review some of the programme for the future, I do not think the Opposition has any point whatsoever to oppose the programme already prepared by the Government.

In fact, the Opposition failed to utilise well the opportunity and time given to them to speak this morning. If they had spoken sufficiently on the Bill which has just been passed, if they had marshalled their points, they could have spend more time in debating the Bill. But unfortunately for them they were rather unable to get points and so the Bill had to be passed with such rapidity. I think that next time the Opposition should come to the House well equipped with facts in order to debate Bills logically and intelligently. But as things stand now, they have wasted their time and are just shouting wolf where there is no wolf.

I beg to support the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned at 10.50 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Saturday, 26th August, 1961

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

The following papers which have been published in the Supplement to *Official Gazette* No. 57 of 10th August, 1961, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(1) The Cocoa (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 100 of 1961);

(2) The Palm Produce (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 101 of 1961) and

(3) The Groundnuts (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 102 of 1961).

SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that the Committee of Selection have discharged Malam Ahmadu Fatika from the Business Committee and have appointed in substitution Malam Zubairu Nassarawa.

I have also to inform the House that Mr Eneh reports from the Business Committee that, in accordance with Standing Order 55A (1) (c), they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 29th August, in the following order :

(a) Exercise of Authority Outside the Constitutional Competence of the Western Regional Legislature (No. 207).

(b) Law and Order in Western Nigeria (No. 209).

(c) Developments in Angola (No. 201).

(d) Prime Minister's Tour of Independent African States (No. 197).

(e) Nationalisation of Insurance (No. 173).

(f) Nigerian Workers in Fernando Po and Rio Muni (No. 157).

(g) Abrogation of the Anglo-Nigerian Defence Pact (No. 202).

(h) Monrovia Conference (No. 188).

(i) Revision of Newspaper Law (No. 150).

(j) Lease of Land (No. 183).

I have further to inform the House that a Report has been received from the Business Committee regarding the allocation of time for the Appropriation Bill. It has been printed and circulated to hon. Members and will be considered under the relevant item on to-day's Order Paper.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Road Traffic Ordinance, presented by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (*Mr S. Lana*); read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, 30th of August, 1961.

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Pensions Ordinance and to provide for the preservation of rights to pensions in certain cases (Cap. 147), presented by the Minister of Establishments; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, 30th of August, 1961.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (CAPITAL SENTENCES)
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Wednesday, 30th August, 1961.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): May I ask the indulgence of the House to make the following Business Statement for the week ending 2nd September, 1961.

Monday, the 28th of August—Second and Third Readings of the following Bills—

1. Civil Liability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1961.

2. Fatal Accidents Bill, 1961.

3. Minerals (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

4. Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

5. Widows and Orphans Pensions Bill, 1961.

6. Flags and Coat of Arms (Amendment) Bill, 1961

Motions

1. Cocoa (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961. (Legal Notice No. 100 of 1961)

2. Palm Produce (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961. (Legal Notice No. 101 of 1961)

3. Groundnuts (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961. (Legal Notice No. 102 of 1961)

Tuesday, the 29th of August—Private Members' Day and the Presentation of the following Bills—

1. Acts Authentication Bill, 1961.

2. Banking Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

3. Export Produce (Federal Powers) Bill, 1961.

4. Public Holidays Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

Second and Third Reading of the following Bills—

1. Water Rates Recovery (Government Tenants) Bill, 1961.

2. Export of Nigerian Produce (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

3. Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (Authorising) Bill, 1961.

4. Federal Supreme Court (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1961

5. Seditious Meetings Bill, 1961.

6. Administration of Justice (Habeas Corpus) Bill, 1961.

Wednesday the 30th of August—Second and Third Readings of the following Bills—

1. Republic of the Union of South Africa Bill, 1961.

2. Nigerian Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1961.

3. Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

4. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

5. Criminal Procedure (Capital Sentence) (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

6. Obscene Publications Bill, 1961.

7. Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Bill, 1961.

Thursday the 31st of August—Second and Third Readings of the following Bills—

1. Acts Authentication Bill, 1961.

2. Banking Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

3. Export Produce (Federal Powers) Bill, 1961.

4. Public Holidays Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

Second and Third Readings, Committee of Supply of the First Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1961-62.

Resolutions on Heads 601, 602, 603, 604, 605 and 606 of the Capital Expenditure Estimates, 1961-62.

Resolutions on Supplementary Capital Expenditure Estimates 1958-59.

Resolutions on Supplementary Capital Expenditure Estimates, 1959-60.

Friday the 1st of September—Presentation, Second and Third Readings of the following Bills—

1. Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

2. Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

3. Banking Ordinance (Amendment) No. 2 Bill, 1961.

4. Insurance Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

5. Marine Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

6. Stamp Duties (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

7. Exchange Control (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

Saturday the 2nd of September—Foreign Affairs Debate.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Yesterday, before we adjourned, I made a few remarks on the fact that the time of the House was not properly utilised. It is quite clear from the programme outlined by the Minister that next week we shall have a tremendous amount of business to get through in a few days. It seems that the Government is in a hurry to bring this Meeting to a close. Some of these Bills have up till now not yet been published, and I think it is a disgraceful state of affairs.

Hon. Members are by no means in a hurry to go back to their constituencies. We are paid to be here, but the Government has so misarranged the business of the House that on some days we have 1½ hours to spare and

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on one day next week—on Private Members' day, the only day which hon. Members have to move their Motions—the Government is presenting Bills and moving the Second and Third Readings of six Bills. The same day will also be the first day of the Committee of Supply. I think this is a disgraceful state of affairs, particularly since we are not in a hurry to go back, and the Prime Minister ought to give very serious consideration to reallocating the business of Parliament.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I have only one point to make. I quite agree with what the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) has said. It seems to me that the Government is trying to run this House through the backdoor. I want the Government to make a statement—either through the Prime Minister or the Leader of the House—and to say whether Tuesday is no longer Private Members' Day.

We are paid to come here to serve not only our constituencies, but also the whole country. A number of Motions which are of vital interest to the whole country, will come up on Tuesday and the Government thinks it fit to use that day to introduce a number of other Bills! I hope the Government does not really mean to run the country in the manner it is doing now. If this Day is taken up by the Government, then another day should be allocated for Private Members' Business.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I think that the matter being discussed deserves much seriousness—Members of the House are entitled to it.

It seems from the Report which the Minister has read out that it is the intention of the Government that the House should rise on Saturday. We shall have met then for a week and a half. What are we in a hurry for? I would like the Government to tell us why they want us to rise so soon. It is not that there is no work for us to do. There is plenty of work for us to do, considering all the business that the Minister has read out this morning. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Rosiji : There is also the long list of matters read out by the Speaker this morning—all of them important Bills. Above all we

have the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which is before this House. We are the custodians of the interests of the public, especially as far as finance is concerned. It is when national matters are brought here for discussion that we have the opportunity of making comments on the various matters that affect this country. It seems that the Government has allocated only today, Saturday—half a day—for the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

An hon. Member : Half a day for Foreign Affairs!

Chief Rosiji : I think this is a very serious matter which we should all discuss together. How can we express our feelings on all the Motions read out this morning and on all the other important matters? What is the necessity for the hurry? Where are we going? We require assistance from the Government.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Quite frankly I have listened with interest to the views that have just been expressed on the Floor of this House.

In a House as large as this, naturally every Member would like an opportunity to have a say. But like in most human affairs, it is not always that everyone has an opportunity to say a word.

I think there might have been some misunderstanding or perhaps misrepresentation of some of the things said on the Floor of this House this morning. The Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is set to start this morning. I do not think there has been any impression created from the Government Bench that it will be concluded this morning.

Tuesday has been mentioned in very critical terms, and I only wish to say, as one who has had some experience of the working of this House, that it is not unknown that Private Members' Motions finish much earlier than they were scheduled.

Yesterday some arguments were made in protest against our rising at the conclusion of the day's business as listed on the Order Paper. I think it is in recognition of the protests made on the Floor of this House by the Opposition

[MR AKIWIWU]

that the Government has provided some Bills to be debated in the event of the Private Members' Motions elapsing before the end of the day's sitting.

It is not unknown that Second and Third Readings, including the Committee Stage, take about five or ten minutes, so the fact that the Second and Third Readings are scheduled for any particular day is nothing to suggest that there is any deliberate or positive policy of encroachment on the time allocated for Private Members' Business.

I feel that now that we have heard the protests of the *other* side, it may well save time if, instead of grumbling, we proceed with the business of the day without much further delay and without much further debate.

I move that the Question be now put and that we proceed with the Second Reading.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I want to assure the Opposition that Government has no intention at all of heckling when they want to say something on any business before this House. I want also to assure the Opposition that we on the Government Bench and our supporters have come here with even greater determination to give the best of our time and ability to the work which we have before us.

It is common knowledge that whenever we come to this House there are very, very few people on the Opposition Bench. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: With so much noise, it is impossible for me to hear and also the Reporters find it very difficult to record the speeches. So please will hon. Members make less noise?

The Minister of Works and Surveys: On the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, there is no intention of finishing the Second Reading of this Bill to-day. The Second Reading will take place for the whole of to-day and it will also take place on Monday. I think I have to give the Opposition this assurance that if they will all be present in the House, they will receive replies to all the questions they will raise.

Mr Speaker: I believe that is quite enough for a Business Statement.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Minister of State (Chief H. O. Osagie): I beg to move, That this House do agree with the Committee in the said Report.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do agree with the Committee in the said Report.

ORDER OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1961-62) BILL (FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

Adjourned Debate on the Second Reading—
(25th August).

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): The Supplementary Appropriation Bill has always been criticised by those of us on this side of the House because we have had so many of them in one year indicating gross inability on the part of the Government to look after our finances. I would like to say, however, that we do not believe, and it is not our meaning, that Supplementary Appropriation Bills should not be brought before this House

We appreciate fully that quite often it is necessary for the Government to bring Supplementary Appropriation Bills having regard to the exigencies of the moment and to unavoidable circumstances and unforeseen occasions. This Bill is the first Supplementary Appropriation Bill that is being brought for 1961. We are now in the month of August, and it is to be hoped that when we hold our next meeting there will not be three Supplementary Appropriation Bills. In other words I expect this Supplementary Appropriation Bill to be the only one that will be brought before this House for the year 1961.

We are now going into the ninth month of the year and I do not think that any reasonable person in this House will expect the Government to bring one, two or three other Supplementary Appropriation Bills for this same year of 1961. That is my point, and I hope it does not happen. If it does, then it will mean that the Government has gone back to its old practice of wastefulness.

We have a financial problem in this country and that is the almost incurable adverse balance of trade which this country is having all the time. Surely, the Government can do more than it is doing at the moment in order to bridge the gap in our balance of trade. The Minister of Finance in his speech indicated, even though in a very shy manner, that the gap in our adverse balance of trade is increasing. I think that something must be done about it.

I am not suggesting that whenever the gap in our balance of trade is increasing and is adverse against us, it is necessarily a bad thing for the country. That is not my suggestion. But it seems that there are aspects of our economy which need to be looked after and in respect of which our balance of trade is increasing adversely against us, which we can prevent. If our balance of trade increases adversely against us in respect of capital goods we should in future stop importing a lot of things from overseas so as to reduce the gap, especially if it is created by the import into this country or by the dumping in this country of a great deal of luxury goods which we do not require for the development of our country.

It has been advocated here several times that prohibitive duties should be imposed on highly luxurious goods, which are being dumped in this country to-day. There is no doubt that many overseas countries are over-producing a lot of commodities and are all looking for markets in which to dump them. By so doing they increase this gap which we do not want to be increased. I think the time is now due when the Government must do something about it; they should not fear whose ox is gored.

There are very expensive motor cars which come into this country every day. Our people, in their ignorance, simply because they want to appear big and rich—people who have no money but want to appear rich—they all go on spending their money on these cars, some costing £1,500, some £3,000. I think, Sir, that anybody who wants to ride in a luxurious car in a country where luxury cannot be afforded should be made to pay for it through the nose. If the Government imposed a certain duty on cars costing more than £1,200, for instance, I think many people would run away from buying those cars. They would think twice before buying one.

Not only that. I think that if these duties are imposed, not only on motor cars but on other luxury goods, people would be encouraged to come and start industries in this country to produce all these things which would help the economy of the country by providing work for people, by bringing foreign capital into the country and also by making it unnecessary for us to buy goods from overseas.

It is high time that the Government ceased listening with one ear and allowing what they listened to to go out by the other ear. It is high time they did something about this. If they do not, there is going to be trouble at some future date. A few people cannot be riding in big limousines of £2,500 while there are people in the streets who cannot buy a bicycle, and they expect that there is going to be quiet and peace in the country. I think that the sooner people like Mr Ogunsanya gave away their *Pontiacs*, their automobiles, the better.

An hon. Member : Buy a small car like me.

Chief Rosiji : I would like to say that on a number of items provided for in the Supplementary Estimates we must congratulate the Government. Foremost among these things is the provision which has been made for the purchase of shares in the Nigerian National Shipping Line.

There has been a lot of criticism about this Shipping Line and I think that what was obvious to the people of this country many months back, is now obvious to the Government, namely, that the Government cannot hope to run this Shipping Line in the interests of the country while associating with people who have the monopoly of shipping in West Africa. They did not only associate with them, but it is these same people who also control the Conference Line and all the shipping in West Africa and in other parts of the world, that they have appointed as malignant Agents for the Shipping Line. This is so elementary that one wonders why the Government had gone into a thing like this at all.

An hon. Member : The hon. Member for Egba East (Chief Rosiji) does not know anything about the Shipping Line, that is why he is criticising.

Chief Rosiji : If the hon. Member interjecting were in the Cabinet at the time that I was there, I am sure that he would have stood in front of the Speaker to divulge secrets of the Cabinet as well as what he had said at the time he was a Cabinet Minister !

I think that this is a step in the right direction, and I think that, even though this action of the Government is belated, they should be congratulated on listening to the voice of reason and not being adamant after having been proved to be something like fools.

I think also that the question of investment by Government in various industries is a matter which should be fully discussed in this House at some future date because it does not appear to me that the policy regarding Government investment in industries has been cleared before this House. I would like to see the Government to make a statement here about what their policy is. They have invested in a number of enterprises. They are now, it seems, going to invest in the sugar industry.

There is no doubt that there is no further capital in the country with which to carry out these investments and I have no doubt that in the course of time there will be great pressure on the capital available in this country for investment in all sorts of projects. I can, therefore, see good reason in the Government taking the initiative to invest in a number of projects.

However, I would like the Government to make a statement here about the future of their investments. Is it the intention that these investments should be sold later, or is it the intention of the Government to keep these investments in the various projects in trust for the people of this country ? This is a matter of policy which the Government should clear before this House so that we can know exactly where we stand in the matter.

While I am still on the question of industries, I would like to add that the Government have already taken a number of steps with the purpose of encouraging the operation of industries and the initiation, in particular, of industries in this country. But I would like to say that the Government cannot do too much in this respect. While encouraging foreign investors to come into this country to

operate a number of industries, the Government should always have at the back of their minds the participation of Nigerians in these industries.

I know very well that the Government have always said that Nigerians should participate in industries which are set up in this country, but it seems to me that they have not done anything positive to make this idea bear fruit. Participation in industries is not done by word of mouth. If a person wants to participate in industry and has no money with which to do so, he is just deceiving himself : he is not a participant, no matter what position he holds or is supposed to hold in the organisation.

I would like to know what the Government is doing to make participation by Nigerians in industries a reality and not just a sham. I think that they should present to us what plan they hope to put forward in order to make this participation a reality.

We are all very pleased that we now have a Minister for Foreign Affairs. Foreign affairs cannot be dealt with lightly, especially at this time when we have become independent.

It seems that there are some aspects of foreign affairs which the Government is treating lightly. I refer in particulars to our representation in New York and the United Nations. We have in New York a gentleman who is a good man, a gentleman who is an absolutely harmless man—I do not think he can wish evil for anybody. But I would like to say that the goings on in the United Nations, in New York, are such that demand the representation of our country by a man whose qualifications go beyond being harmless and being good.

I think that the politics of the United Nations to-day require a man who is absolutely dynamic. There can be no limit to dynamism. We require a man who is a very good mixer, who is able to move among all the representatives from various countries with confidence. It is quite clear that representation at the United Nations to-day does not merely entail reading speeches in the Committees or in the General Assembly ; it also involves organising behind the scenes. I think that the gentleman we have there to-day is too harmless to be able to organise behind the scenes and is too good to be dynamic.

Whenever other African countries move ahead and talk in a way which we regard as too boisterous, in a way in which many of us think they have no right to talk whilst we the giants are there, we should not forget that they are able to do so from a position of strength. Indeed it is because they are in a position to keep in touch with people in other places and are therefore able to give leadership in the United Nations. Nobody who has worked there,—and I am glad that many of the Ministers here have had the opportunity of going there to see what happens—but nobody who has had that opportunity will fail to see that being a half invalid is no asset in the United Nations. Any such person will find that there are African nations represented at the United Nations by dynamic people who go round all the Missions giving leadership.

What leadership have we given since we got to the United Nations? What have we initiated in the United Nations, at least, in regard to the African and Asian Nations?

I think that without trying to insult anybody—and it is far from my intention to cast aspersions on anybody, particularly since nobody can help being what he is—but in the interest of this country I think that we should have a different type of representation at the United Nations. We, as we have always said in this country and as other people have said outside this country, are in a position to lead Africa; but we cannot lead Africa now. The place where we can lead Africa is in the United Nations Organisation. Representation at the United Nations is most important; Washington is not as important as the United Nations; London is not as important. Therefore, we should have our best men at the United Nations.

Now, having had my say about this I feel clear in my mind. Whether the Government does anything about it or not is their business. But if I did not have my say here, if I failed to clear my mind the guilt would for ever be with me.

People outside this country are asking questions—I am not talking of Nigerians alone; other people are asking these questions—“What are you doing in the United Nations? Who is that man you have there?” I think we are in a position to rectify the position and if we

do so it will be to the good of this country. But if we do not do so then the Government has failed in its duty.

I notice that there has been an appropriation of £50,000 in respect of an underestimate for Committees, Commissions and Enquiries. £50,000 was originally allocated for this purpose and the Government has now found it necessary to allocate another £50,000 for this purpose. Government funds must be well spent and if such funds are not well spent it is our duty to say so. I would like the Government to deny, if they can, that there has been an underestimate of £50,000 because of the useless expense they have plunged this country into by the institution of the futile enquiry into the National Bank. I think that the amount of money that has been wasted on this Enquiry is such that the Government—

Mr Speaker : Is Mr Udenyi rising on point of order?

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : Yes, Mr Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr Speaker : I could not hear that, Mr Udenyi. Will Chief Rosiji continue his speech?

Chief Rosiji : I think that whenever the Government spends any money they should well and wisely. Perhaps the opportunity will arise in future for us to speak more fully, not on the Enquiry itself, but on the conduct of the Enquiry.

I think that this Government has misled itself in many ways by appointing Advisers who are incompetent. I think that the earlier it changes its mind about the type of Advisers it appoints, the better. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Really, some of the Members interrupting are getting rather out of hand and I think that I had better deal with them specially.

Chief Rosiji : Following up my statement that Government expenditure must be backed not only with ability but also a revision and inspection of whatever they are spending the money on, I would like to mention a further expenditure which has been allocated here for the anti-erosion scheme at the Bar Beach. We have had plenty of concern about the erosion that is going on at the Bar Beach and the

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

Government has been taking some steps and spending a lot of money in performing experiments, digging up sand and putting it somewhere at the Beach. Further money is now being appropriated for the scheme. We would like to know how far its experiments have succeeded.

Only recently, about two months ago, there was a big scare at the Bar Beach. A number of houses were washed away, luckily, no lives were lost, but the sea moved in and people who used to go there for holidays and picnics were unable to do so because the sea had encroached far inland. There has been no statement here in the House about this danger. The people of the country are anxious to know what the position is in regard to erosion at the beach.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member has exhausted his time. Will he please wind up ?

Chief Rosiji : We want information about this.

Finally, I would like to end by speaking on our Economic Mission. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Will Mr Mbah, please behave more decently ?

Chief Rosiji : This country, the Government must appreciate, is a poor country and when we go out to ask people to help us to increase the wealth of our country, we should not give a false impression outside. If we give the false impression that we are wealthy by going to them in big, long robes and trailers and by taking 30 to 40 Delegates in one Mission, I think, we are giving the wrong impression and we will not have the success which we want to have.

Mr Speaker : You are entitled to no more time.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : On a point of information, may I ask for your assistance in this matter ? The Minister of Works spoke a few minutes ago that there is no indication that this debate will end to-day. The Report of the Business Committee has just been distributed and it is quite clear here that only to-day is allotted to the Second Reading of this Bill and only one day is also allocated for the Committee of Supply. I think if we cannot rely on the words of the Minister and the Government, then this country is going to the dogs.

Mr Speaker : Order ! This should have been discussed when the Report of the Business Committee was introduced to the House. I shall not allow any discussion on Business now.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : In addressing myself to the speech on this Appropriation Bill, I would like to confine my remarks to quite a few items, namely, foreign policy, which is contained here, and our Economic Mission.

I would have been very happy if the Prime Minister or our newly installed Minister for Foreign Affairs were here. I would like to say, however, in their absence, that everybody would agree that with the appointment of the hon. Jaja Wachuku, the country is looking ahead to the type of foreign policy which this country had hitherto looked forward to get. I must say that we wish him the best of luck ; but there are tremendous obstacles and difficulties ahead for him to handle most dynamically.

In the first place, the morale of the entire Foreign Service Staff is now at a low ebb. The information I have is that the brilliant boys whom we recruited from the Universities on the eve of our independence are now being dumped aside and superimposed. Who by ? By mediocres, by halfwits, people who have, perhaps, political backing. I want to say that the strength and future of this country will depend on the type of diplomacy we project abroad. If these people we are now injecting into the Foreign Service are not the type of boys that would reflect the high standard and integrity of this country, then we are doomed, but God forbid. I know that the entrance examinations for entry into the Foreign Service of the United States and that of the United Kingdom are among the most difficult assignments anybody can have. They are like the old Indian Civil Service. If you got into it you could be sure you were one of the best boys.

Such boys are being used in other countries but here, barely one year after independence, everything seems to have gone differently. I would like the Minister of Foreign Affairs to address himself to this issue.

The boys whom we drew from Oxford, Cambridge, Ibadan and from the best Universities of the world and injected into the Foreign Service are now being thrown aside. We had trained them by sending them to France and

Australia, but they are now dumped aside in preference for, I understand, those who do not even have a General Certificate of Education. If this allegation is true, I think, it is a very serious one which the Minister of Foreign Affairs must have to give us a good account of in this House.

The other point I would like to make concerns the reorganisation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): On a point of order! I would like you, Mr Speaker, to tell this House why the Ministers who ought to have been here to listen and to be able to reply to the allegations are not here. There are only two and a half Ministers on the Bench!

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of Order, I think it is most unfair and in fact it gives a very poor impression of my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) to describe three Ministers as two and a half!

Mr Speaker: Let us get down to business.

Dr Ezera: The other point I would like to make concerns representation abroad. Prior to our independence the entire world had looked up to Nigeria as the on-coming giant, and indeed, Nigeria is a sleeping giant. As I have said on the Floor of this House several times, we have the most knowledgeable, enlightened, and perhaps the most dynamic people in this country. Of all African countries Nigeria probably possesses the greatest manpower, human resources and talent. Yet, it is difficult to see how this on-coming giant, whose independence was awaited with great fanfare, after one year of independence has behaved on the international arena.

I have paid tribute to the Prime Minister on his debut at the United Nations and I have done so most sincerely even though some people tried to attribute certain motives to it. I firmly believed that he had tried to project this country abroad; but since then what have we seen?

We on this side of the House would like to tell the Prime Minister that there is dissatisfaction in the whole country; that there is despondency in the rank and file of the youths of this country. We cannot control the students any more. I was mobbed when I was still at the University

College, Ibadan, for trying to defend Government policy. But the stage has now come when we can no more defend the indefensible.

All that the people of this country want is a dynamic and positive policy which will give leadership to this country, and the whole of the African continent. Give us that leadership, and we will be amazed at the degree of support which the Government will receive.

We make no claim to leadership. The attributes of leadership are inherent in us. I must say that there are times when a small David, a dwarf who is under three feet in height can deal the severest blow at a *Goliath* and even conquer a *Goliath* who is over ten feet tall. Let us not live under the illusion that we are big. It is the type of leadership which we exert that will make us big or small, and that leadership can only be seen in the mirrors of the international arena and in the United Nations.

It should be remembered that there are people like Adlai Stephenson representing the United States, Sir Patrick Dean representing the United Kingdom and Mongi Slim representing Tunisia, and a host of others. We should face up to the fact that the time has now come when the Government must take a firm stand.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): On a point of Order, if the hon. Gentleman can mention the names of the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and Tunisia, there is no reason why he should not also mention the name of the representative of Nigeria, whether he is worthy or not.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of Order.

Dr Ezera: I have mentioned these names not to cast any aspersion on any individual but just to draw an analogy and an inspiration. I know we have more knowledgeable people in this country who are even better than Mongi Slim of Tunisia, Quaison-Sackey of Ghana and even Adlai Stephenson of the United States. It is our hope that the newly installed Minister of Foreign Affairs will address himself to this all important aspect in conjunction with the Prime Minister.

My last point concerns the demand we have been making on the Floor of this House for an All-Party Committee on foreign policy and on African Affairs. I remember that I put up

[DR EZERA]

a Motion to that effect on the Floor of this House and that Motion never saw the light of day. I have always believed that if Nigeria is to project herself to the world, her foreign policy must be clearly and precisely based on her national interest, and national interest alone. Extra Parliamentary Conferences are good, and I think they have done quite a lot of good, but they are by no means a substitute for the type of All-Party Parliamentary Committee on foreign policy which we demand on the Floor of this House.

The All-Nigerian Peoples Conference, as an Extra Parliamentary Conference, has served its purpose. It has galvanised and synchronised for the Government all shades of opinion in the country. The Parliament and the people of this country are looking for firm and positive leadership and we who are speaking now are Members of the supreme Parliament of the land and it is this Parliament which must endorse any type of foreign policy which the country will adopt.

The last point I would like to make is to cajole the Government a bit and to say that hitherto, it has done a fine job in the Congo. We are all extremely happy about the role it is playing in the Congo, and we do hope that it will continue to play that role.

I was also extremely interested when I read in the newspapers that our most respectable and most scholarly Minister of Justice has been invited to the Congo. One has to tune to the international wave-lengths of world opinion to know the calibre of the man we have in the Minister of Justice of this country. He is an international figure of no mean repute who is doing his country a world of good. His work should be appreciated and is indeed appreciated. We are happy about that. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Will Mr Briggs, Mr Odulana and others please keep quiet ?

Dr Kalu Ezera : I will therefore urge the Government to do all in its power to have a very powerful mission established in the Congo (Leopoldville). It is not enough to send out our individual Ministers and experts to the Congo. I think that the Congolese are finding their feet now and that the time has come to assume that role of leadership which will bring

the Congolese people to their political stability. It is only by setting up a powerful diplomatic mission there that we can help them find their feet. I hope that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs will take that advice.

One other point which I would like to make is in regard to our economic missions. A lot has been written and a lot has been said about our economic missions abroad, but I think that if we put them on a balance, the result of these missions might perhaps tilt the balance to the positive side. Nevertheless, I have my fears.

I am very happy to note that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is coming in now, for he was a most important member of our Economic Mission which just went abroad. The intention of the Mission is a noble one ; the result, as I said before, would yield some profit. But we who have been on the sidelines watching as observers have not been happy at the type of picture we paint of Nigeria abroad.

When we gather a motley crowd, a jamboree team of 40 people in their flowing gowns, and go from one country to another, it might be all right, but the pity is that as soon as the Federal Government's team leaves a country by the front door, another Regional Government's team arrives by the back door in their flowing garments. The Northern team would come in with all its power, proclaiming issues of foreign policy for Nigeria, proclaiming economic doctrines for Nigeria and the people soon begin to ask : "Who is this again?" "Another Nigerian mission?" As soon as they leave, the Western team arrives, a team supposed to be a parliamentary delegation which has come to study parliamentary methods in a Europe deprived of democracy and parliamentary government ! After that, the Eastern team arrives.

I think that the time has come when the dog must wag the tail and not the tail wags the dog. The time has come when the Federal Government must stand firm as the guarantor of our freedom, of our sovereignty, of our integrity and as the sole Government representing this country abroad. When it goes abroad, it should represent the strength and the vitality of this country. But when we have all these huge delegations in their flowing garments, say 17 or

20 odd members in each, we confuse our hosts and make them ask: "Which of them is the real Nigerian team?"

As I said, the aim might be good, it might be a noble one, but in the long run, I sincerely think that the Prime Minister himself must think seriously about this. We must ask ourselves: What impact have we made on the Middle East, Western Europe, United States of America and so on and so forth? Ours is not the only Federal Government in the world. The federal structure of government is in most other countries. We have countries like the United States, Australia, Canada, Switzerland and India which have federal or quasi-federal forms of government, and they do not make a mockery of themselves by presenting our disunity and diversity abroad. We oftentimes forget that the composition of such a crowd plays down and even subverts the role of the legitimate Federal Government. That has to be stopped.

All that one has to do is to tune into any sound wavelength and one will hear the W.N.T.V. or W.N.B.S. as powerful as, if not more powerful than the N.B.C. in Lagos. In the Congo and in Germany, we take pleasure in the knowledge that people going to hear our various kinds of national songs and programmes broadcast from Nigeria. What then has happened to the Federal Government's transmitting station? We must project the personality of the Federal Government over and above that of any of the Regions, and I think the time has come when we must do this and do it firmly. I am speaking with all sincerity in the hope that the time has come when the Federal Government must divest itself of the illusion of being a peace-maker, of being a Government of destiny, of being a show-piece of democracy in the world. It is *bunkum*. The world is laughing at us. We must project the Federal Government more than the Regional Governments or break up.

And so while the economic missions abroad may have gained, on balance, the loss we have sustained in terms of prestige, in terms of distorting our picture abroad I submit far outweighs any profit that would emanate from these missions. It is precisely that confusion that I am attacking. In the arena of international politics, what matters is power and that power must be translated in terms of national interest. We do not see delegations from

Massachusetts or from New York in the United States, we only hear of United States of America. Yet it is a country of more diversity than ours, a country, in fact, of 200 million people; and yet we keep on hustling for power here and there.

The time has come when the Federal Government must stand firm. I would be happy to hear of Nigeria abroad through the medium of the N.B.C. representing the whole country. I should be sad to hear it from the Eastern Region or from the Western Region because it emphasises our division. That is my point.

I hope the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister were here, but since they are not here I still do hope that the Prime Minister will give us a day when we will have to debate foreign policy exclusively. We are hoping that he will allot a day when we will debate this major issue confronting the country. Why should I come to the Floor of this House and not be told our policy on Angola, our policy on Algeria, our policy on Bizerta and our policy on Berlin? We are intelligent people, we are not ignorant people who can be moved about at will; we want to know what is happening on these burning issues.

Parliament must be told our policies on the Congo, on Angola, on Bizerta and on Berlin. We want to know and debate them on this Floor. There is no need bringing us here like a herd of sheep from all over the country, then wangle the whole business of the House so as to have it finished in two days and then send us back.

As I said, there are certain times when the truth must be told, no matter how bitter. We are ardent supporters of the Government but we want that Government to reflect the views and the aspirations of this country, otherwise we are *kidding* ourselves. If we continue to live in this illusion of grandeur, thinking that all is well, the day of reckoning will come when it will be bitter. We do not hope that that day will come if we can take advantage of the situation. And so with these few remarks I support the Bill.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): On a point of explanation, there appear to be typographical errors in the Report of the Business Committee of the House. The

[MR ENEH]

Committee recommended that two days be allotted for the Second Reading of the Bill and two days for the Committee of Supply. But in the Statement which has been circulated to Members it is stated that one day was allotted for the Second Reading and one day for the Third Reading.

If you read the Report further on, Sir, you will find very far down that by the end of the first day Heads 22 to 45 shall be taken by the end of the second day Heads 46 to 62 and Heads 601 to 605 shall be taken. You will then find that there is a conflicting statement there, and I would like with your permission, to correct that. The true position is that there are indeed two days allotted for the Committee of Supply and two days for the Second Reading.

Mr Speaker : The Chairman of the Business Committee has just reported that two days were allotted for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and not one day as has already been agreed to by the House. This matter should not have been raised at this moment, but it seems rather ambiguous to continue without making the necessary corrections. With the leave of the House, therefore, I will direct that it be recorded as two days for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and two days for the Committee of Supply. Is that the wish of the House?

Amendment agreed to.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) : In commenting on this Appropriation Bill I have to confine myself to two or three items. The first is the Cabinet Office. Many times people have expressed fears about the position of these offices here. It still makes me wonder when I see so many buildings going right near the sea. Last year, I noticed that the sea has advanced more than sixty yards inland and many trees which used to afford us shade are sinking into the sea. There are many buildings of our Ministers and hon. Members on Victoria Island. I do not know what assurance the Government has that those buildings will not sink into the sea one day.

I remember, that a place in the Northern Region was once suggested as possible headquarters for the Government, that is around Kafanchan. I think it is high time that these offices were removed into the interior part of the

country, in short the Northern Region. Why I say so is that in a bid for power by all means by our neighbours we may be bombed one day. Again if the offices are removed to the Northern Region, that will reduce the amount of money paid for the transport and mileage allowance of Members because most of the hon. Members come from the Northern Region and the money thus saved could be used for something else.

I take this matter seriously and I do hope that the Government will think about it and do something tangible about it.

On Members' quarters, I do not know what is going on at the Ikoyi flats but in the Victoria Island flats we do not have any means of recreation. We do not have tennis, library or any sort of game. Most of us fall asleep in the day time because we have nothing to do, and some who feel like going to town do so. I hope that the Federal Government will see to it that something is provided for hon. Members for recreation.

Turning to internal affairs, I think that if any person, either from the Opposition or from the Government party, travels out to represent this country abroad and makes a statement there, it is not right that whilst he is there he should have criticisms of his speech right back in Nigeria either on the radio or in the newspapers. When the Prime Minister was overseas recently and made a statement representing the views of this country on the Bizerta situation a certain political party in this country criticised the statement.

I do not see the reason why anybody in this country, irrespective of his political affiliation, should criticize our leader's speech. For this reason I would like the Governments of this country to declare this unlawful. Many of us are working hard to ensure the unity of this country. There are still some who break the wall of unity which is being erected. I feel that this sort of thing is bad indeed and should be stopped.

I now want to say something about the economic situation of the country. I feel that there has been something wrong somewhere. I arrived at this conclusion because I have noticed that the standard of living of the majority of the people in this country has fallen considerably. The poverty of the people

is becoming more and more pronounced. It does not mean, however, that the country itself is poor. We have a lot of money circulating in the country. Yet, it is true, that the greater proportion of our money has gone to where I do not know. Personally I do not know what we can do about it. I hope that the Federal Government will be assisted by the Regional Governments to examine this situation.

Not long ago the people of this country were very rich and were living quite abundantly. It is unfortunate to notice that our people are becoming poorer and poorer and the rate of poverty is rising at a tremendous rate. All the avenues through which our people hitherto got money are diminishing rapidly or have now actually closed completely. I would, with your permission ask the Government to do something to improve the present position of the people of this country.

I noticed with regret when I visited Jos that an industry is being established there either by the Government or by the Regional Government in partnership with the British Government. This industry will start operation in November. This industry uses imported coal whereas we have our own local coal. I asked the Manager, Mr Davies, why this is the case. He replied that it is because our local coal does not contain a certain substance, I think he called it anthracite. Well, if the coal already discovered and being mined lacks this important quality, why is it that other coalfields are not worked to see if they contain anthracite? The Government should do this. I am sure that many industries will be established as a result of the existence of this important material. And these industries will definitely employ many of our unemployed population. When Mr Davies told me why coal is being imported to work the industry I asked him to give me his explanation in writing. I am sure the Minister has heard something about it. May I appeal to the Government once again to do something about it in order to reduce poverty and the unstable economic position of this country.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : There is one particular paragraph in the statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance to this hon. House yesterday, and I would like to draw the attention of Members to it. The paragraph

goes as follows, and I will quote it with your permission, "A constant theme of my Budget speeches has been the injury done to the nation through evasion of customs duties by smuggling and similar frauds, and last April I was able to inform the House that Government's measures to fight this evil had met with considerable success. But there is no room for complacency, as is shown by recent revelations of organised fraud in the second-hand clothing trade, centred on Port Harcourt".

I do not know if the Minister of Commerce and Industry is feeling proud about his fellow-countrymen trading vigorously on second-hand clothing. These clothes were used by unknown people in many parts of the world. All of us heard when, on the occasion of his installation, the Governor-General said Nigeria should not be inferior to other countries of the world. But with the present trade in second-hand clothing going on I do not know if we are still maintaining the prestige of Nigeria.

It seems that the Government allows this business to go on because of the money it collects from traders by way of customs duty. By consistent importation of these commodities into this country I wonder if we are not portraying ourselves as inferior people bearing in mind that these clothes had already been used by people of other nations.

An hon. Member : It is very unhygienic.

Mr Brown : I am really very happy that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry was a member of the Economic Mission that visited many parts of the world recently. We would like him to make a statement on the Floor of this House and to say whether during his tour he saw any country importing second-hand clothing from Nigeria. I am speaking seriously and I hope that everything will be done by the Minister of Commerce and Industry to put a stop to this importation of second-hand clothing. It is very degrading to the prestige of this country. I am not here to mention names of people who trade in this sort of degrading commodities. All I know is that it is a very bad business and should be stopped.

Several hon. Members : Mention them, mention them.

Mr Speaker : Order !

Mr Brown: The Minister of Finance, a few days ago, announced the Government's intention to employ the use of helicopters to combat smuggling in this country. During his Budget speech he failed to make mention of the announcement made by him on his return from the Economic Mission. I wonder how successful the use of helicopters to combat smuggling will prove to this country. I must warn the Federal Government to stop copying everything Action Group.

The Minister of Finance also told us on the Floor of this House that he was going to employ more hands as Customs Police, Customs Officers, and probably military force to combat smuggling and he thought he would get the approval of this House to do so. A few months later he announced his intention to employ the use of helicopters. How are we going to get these helicopters? Are we not going to pay for them? How can we combat smuggling with helicopters? Are the smugglers flying in the air? Are they no longer travelling on water and on the land? How can we make sure that we can spot out these smugglers who we all know work by night and by day. Personally, I think employing the use of helicopters to combat smuggling is a waste of time and revenue. I am sure that it is not going to help us. I feel it is the wisest thing to advise the Minister of Finance in this circumstance that this new proposal to use helicopters to spot out smugglers will not be of any benefit to the Government of this country, and that idea should be dropped at once. Everybody in this country knows that for some years now Nigerian businessmen have not been allowed to carry on business with businessmen in other parts of the world. We should not be tied to the apron-strings of the British businessmen. Our people should be allowed to have free trade with other nations of the world.

Before my last visit to the United Kingdom, I bought a bottle of White Horse whisky from Kingsway Stores, Lagos for £1-18s-6d, but in London I noticed that a friend of mine from Aden bought the same bottle of whisky—White Horse—for 8s-6d a difference of £1-10-0d! If I had the chance of flying from London to Aden before coming home, I would have bought my own bottle of whisky there. A difference of £1-10s-0d! Is that not big enough? I am perfectly sure that if the

prices of foodstuffs in Nigeria are lowered, that is, a little bit lower than the prices of foodstuffs in Ghana, Douala and Fernando Po, there can be no reason why Nigerians would prefer to go to Ghana, Douala and Fernando Po to smuggle goods into this country. If these goods are sold at a price a little bit lower than that in Ghana, Douala or Fernando Po, the smugglers will not make any profit.

Prices of imported goods in this country are too high and Nigerians themselves are not feeling proud to purchase these goods any longer. When our Ministers with their heavy salaries go to Kingsway Stores and U.T.C. to do their own shopping, they should think of the average Nigerian who cannot afford to go there. The prices of imported goods are too high. The Minister of Commerce and Industry is aware of it and we want him to tell the people of this country if his own brother at home who is not a Minister can afford to buy them.

The Minister of Finance also made a statement yesterday about the Police Force. When we get to the Committee of Supply, I will go into detail about the Police Force. I will only refer now to what is happening in my area.

A good sum of money can be saved by refusing to give Policemen advances to buy bicycles. Policemen in the Eastern Region, particularly in Calabar Province, do not use their bicycles any longer for their official duties. Everyone of them now goes about in taxis. If one lodges a complaint at the Police Station, the complainant is bound to hire a taxi for as much as £3 before any policeman will agree to go and investigate the complaint. The person who is also accused must hire a taxi for the return journey of the policeman to the station.

I have already reported this matter to the Commissioner of Police in Enugu urging him that this practice should be stopped forthwith. If policemen are not prepared to use their bicycles to carry out their official duties they should not be given bicycle advances. Policemen should not give innocent citizens the additional punishment of having to hire taxis for them. I am happy that the Minister of State for Police Affairs is here and I hope he will take care of my complaints. If his men are not prepared to use their bicycles for official business, their advances and allowances

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should be cancelled and the money should be used for providing other amenities for the people of this country.

With these few remarks, I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I am very grateful to be given this opportunity to say a few words on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

First of all, I would like to say that the enlargement of the Police Force which the Government envisages is good news to the people of this country. We know that the members of the Police Force have been neglecting their duties and we would like to have a Police Force that will be able to check the rough drivers on our roads. Hon. Members know that they stand the risk of losing their lives if they are not careful on our roads because we have a lot of rough drivers and our policemen do little or nothing about this. If the Police Force is enlarged, I am sure that these drivers will be checked.

The enlargement of our Police Force will also mean employment. I am sure hon. Members know that there are many young people in this country without jobs and how difficult it is to keep them in the house. If the Police Force is enlarged, this problem will be a little bit solved.

The expansion of the Police Force will also mean a greater maintenance of law and order, especially in the Western Region. As we all know, the Western Region is now almost a dungeon for certain political opponents of the Action Group, N.C.N.C. and N.P.C. refugees are running away from the Western Region. The reason for this is that the Action Group Government of the Western Region is trying all it can to recruit its own Police Force.

It was only recently that we read in the papers that the Government of Western Nigeria wants to have a Police Officer to be known as the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police with authority covering the whole Police detachment in Western Nigeria. This is definitely contrary to the Constitution of this country. The Action Group should not be given the chance to run their own Police Force when the Federal Government is in charge of the Police Force of the whole country. This is definitely—

Mr Speaker : You can only discuss the financial and economic policies of this Government in the Second Reading of this Bill, otherwise, I will rule you out of order.

Mr Ememe : The efficiency of the Police Force leaves much to be desired. Policemen want to be rich just like any other civilian in the country. They all want money simply because the system of economy in this country places a premium on money and they cannot do otherwise. If one is not rich, one is not recognised. Therefore, our policemen also want to be rich and, to be rich, they force themselves into corruption. They accept bribe; they do all sorts of things known to Members of this hon. House. They do not even hide it. They receive their own bribe in the streets. When our policemen have degenerated to that level, there is no hope for justice in this country, and there is no hope for law and order.

I am recommending to the Federal Government that the only way to remedy the situation is not the setting up of boards or organisations or by all kinds of intimidation, but by a change of the economic system of this country. I am recommending to the Federal Government that we should change from the Capitalist system to the Socialist system. If we continue with the Capitalist system in this country, our people will continue to be interested in getting money; and the more they get interested in getting money, the more they will receive bribe; the more they will be smuggling goods from other countries in order to get rich. All the money and energy we waste in trying to prevent people from being corrupted, we should use to reorganise our economy, and there will be no need for corruption.

Another point I would like to raise is the expansion of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I agree with the last speaker in that I am grateful to the Government for trying to expand our Foreign Service. We are regarded as the "good boys" of the British Empire. Our name must be removed from the "good boys" list and placed in the enviable book of true nationalism. We must not continue to be the "good boys" of the British Empire. We are free, and we must assert ourselves as free people.

Our foreign policy appears to be a novelty in international politics. We are neutral in policy and yet we are not in the neutralists'

[MR EMEME]
 camp. This policy is misleading, even to some of us who have studied international politics. We do not know exactly what our Government is after.

Now that we have a substantive Minister of Foreign Affairs, we are all hopeful that a lot of changes will be forthcoming. I would suggest a few changes in that line, the first of which is that there should be a revision of our foreign policy. If we are neutral, then let us be really neutral—

Mr Speaker : Mr Ememe has spoken a lot on foreign policy, which is down for debate later on. Will he please concentrate on financial policy.

Mr Ememe : I would like to state that the system of passport endorsements in this country leaves much to be desired. Very often, when the citizens of this country want to travel overseas, there is a great deal of limitation on the endorsement of their passports. I do not think this is a good system for a country that is for neutrality and friendship with all nations.

Mr Speaker : That also is foreign policy.

Mr Ememe : I also wish to point out that the Government should allow free trade—I mean that this country should have free trade with the other countries of the world. Some of us who may have the chance of going into the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will notice that there is a list of many countries from which one may or may not order goods. I think that this type of limitation is too colonial for this country. We must trade with all nations, because it is to our own advantage. Why should we trade only with Britain and America, and forget about trading with China and other countries? I think we should have the chance to spread our trade to other countries. After all, we are friendly with all those countries, and if free trade is what we are aiming at, then there should be no limitation by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the countries from which goods may be ordered.

I mention the specific case of cement, because it is evident that the Federal Government is trying to stop Nigerians from ordering cement from the Soviet Union and some other countries. This is absurd. Even though it is a fact that we have cement factories in Nigeria,

I want to ask : who are the people selling this cement? They are the British firms in Nigeria who are selling the cement at a high rate—cement which we manufacture here in our own country! The cement manufactured in Britain is sold at 12s-0d per bag, and the cement manufactured in Nigeria is sold at the same price. This is absurd when one considers that labour in this country is very cheap. Why should cement from this country be as high as 10s-0d per bag—even as high as 13s-0d or 14s-0d per bag? The reason is that when we manufacture cement here, we hand it over to foreign firms to sell. These foreign firms do not want to get rid of the cement that is manufactured in their own country, and for that reason they sell our cement at the same price as their own. Why should we not import cement from the Soviet Union, cement that will sell at 8s-0d per bag?

Finally, I wish to say that the Government may be failing in its duties if it places regard only on educational qualifications when recruiting staff for the Foreign Affairs Service. Recruitment of staff into this Service must be spread over the whole country, so that there will be equity and fairness to all our people.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : Many Members seem to be under the misapprehension that our trade is controlled by people from the outside. I assure hon. Members that it is the intention of the Government to seek trade everywhere in the world, so long as that trade is in the interests of Nigeria. That is the important thing.

Secondly, hon. Members are aware that recently we visited all the countries of the world. We have brought back goodwill and hope of improved trade. Very soon I shall lead a delegation, which has been approved by my Colleagues, to some of the Communist countries to sign a trade agreement.

It is a fact that we are absolutely a free people—but we are free to retain our friends. All that we want is to have free trade, better trade, improved status for the Nigerian people.

Somebody talked about allowing cement to be ordered from elsewhere—and so kill the young cement industry in our own country. I will give an example. I visited an Indian factory where bicycles were being made. The selling price of the bicycles in India is about £21,

but if the bicycle is being sold abroad it is reduced to £15. In other words, special conditions are attached in order not only to satisfy the home demand—and of course one must pay more in the home market—but also to encourage the export trade on favourable terms. Even in England, to ride a bicycle costs more than it does here in Nigeria. If we pay a little more for our own manufactured goods, we must appreciate that we are giving employment to our own countrymen.

Another good thing which hon. Members have to appreciate is that this is a Government under which everybody is free to speak and act as they wish. I hope that my hon. Friends of the Opposition will take a lesson from us and behave in their own areas as we behave here.

I quite agree it is one Nigeria for all Nigerians. Fortunately, we are broad-minded.

The question of second-hand clothing has been raised. I, too, am not very happy about Nigeria importing second-hand clothes. Fortunately for us, textile factories are being built and are being expanded to cope with our clothing needs. The trouble with some of our people is this: rather than buying Nigerian goods, they rather go on buying second-hand clothes from abroad.

If hon. Members can help me to re-educate some of these people, then it will be quite good. I shall be quite happy to grant money and make the condition suitable. Go out and propagate that it is not in the interest of Nigeria for people to import second-hand clothing.

In any case, we should stop playing politics when national interests are affected. Many people talk about people being over-paid and yet, when they come to receiving their salaries, they are the first to go and draw! For example, I know of one hon. Gentleman here who was away during the last session of the House, busy trading and getting agencies for his friends and yet regularly drawing his salary. In fact, he was writing letters—very strong letters—to the Clerk of the House that he must be paid in advance. Of course, he found that the cost of living in America is very high and bills are very expensive, so he has to be paid in advance.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): On point of order. There are many things intended by the Minister to be said as a joke, but when they are published in the *Hansard*, people will not recognise them as a joke. I think the Minister should be more careful.

Mr Speaker: We should allow a small digression, but when it goes too far, perhaps we should try to avoid it.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Thank you very much, Sir. I will not go too far. And that tells people that those who live in glass houses should be very careful in throwing stones.

The most important thing then is this that in the economic development of our country we should do our utmost to ensure that all Nigerians, irrespective of their party affiliations or Regional background, must be given the maximum encouragement in order that they may improve their standard of living in the community. That is the duty for every one of us. I may say that in this particular respect I get the co-operation of my Regional Colleagues.

It is true that many Nigerian delegates go out to advertise their commodities to foreign countries. I see nothing wrong in that. The only thing which would be wrong is for one Region or one section to run the other down. So long as they do not do this, healthy competition may even make us work harder and get better results. And it is in this spirit that the Federal Government has allowed the Regions, private citizens and everybody to go out and get the best they can for the country.

Mr Speaker: Will Mr Obi please keep silence.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: As the House seems to be satisfied with my explanation, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South): I rise to support the Second Reading of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to congratulate the Government on their foresight in planning for a sound development of our country. I would like to associate myself with other speakers, with a few observations. Most of the things I would like to say have already been said by those who have spoken before me.

Many hon. Members : Sit down, then.

Mr Enefola : The first point I would like to make is in connection with the security of this country. The security of this country lies in the hands of the Police. When I see a sum of money voted under the Head for the Police, I begin to think that still enough money is not given to this Department. When we hear and see things happening in some parts of this country, like the Western Region, it is an alarm when we talk about law and order having broken down in the Western Region. It is a great alarm, and a serious thing too, and I begin to think about the Police and what they are doing. I begin to think about the intelligence section of the Police Force. I feel that more money should be voted for this Department, and those Ministers who are in charge of this Department should try and see that law and order is maintained.

Already our Policemen have distinguished themselves in the Congo ; their presence in the Congo is still a blessing for this country. I see no reason why we cannot put our house in order before going out to put the house of other people in order. If our Police can keep order in the Congo, I see no reason why they should not keep that order in our country. Therefore, I would very much like this Government to see that our Police is well-paid, well catered for and well disciplined. They should have all the advantages that will enable them to maintain law and order in this country.

We have to say something, especially about those who are in charge of our Police, about what we have been reading in the papers and the allegation made against the Commissioner of Police. When we come to the Head we shall discuss that.

Another point is in connection with imports. I would like to associate myself with those who have expressed dissatisfaction with these second-hand clothes. Second-hand clothing has got a new meaning in our society. In all sections of our society there is a special name reserved for second-hand clothing. In my own language we call it "Anigbaku" or "those who pack the market". Although many people have said that there are people who want it, but this is not the right type of clothing for our country.

The snag is not in the importation but in the type of clothing which comes into the country. It is not good for our poor people to be shabbily dressed in some of these second-hand clothes. They buy suits or coats and trousers made of woollen cloth, which is not suitable for this climate, and most of these clothes are tattered. It does not look well in the eyes of strangers when they come to our country. We should, at all costs, try and stop second-hand clothing from coming into this country.

We have textile mills. We have one in Kaduna. This Government should help the Regional Governments to assist these textile factories in manufacturing cheap clothing for the poorer classes. After all, none of us here buys second-hand clothing for personal use. We do not buy it for our children. If we can afford the money to buy school uniforms and good dresses for our children, we should not reserve such other clothing for our poor people. They buy the second-hand clothing merely because it is cheap, even though it does not last long. Our Government should rack its brain to try to help to bring about cheap clothing for the poor people and try and eliminate the second-hand ones.

The third point concerns the articles imported into this country and price control. It is quite true that price control in this country is not up to the standard it should be. The Government should do something better to control prices. The reason why prices are so high in this country is because of middlemen. For example, some time ago I went to buy a stole from a shop in Lagos. I asked the man the name of the shop from where he had obtained it and he replied that it was U.A.C. Then I asked him whether he was a factor to U.A.C. and he confirmed this. His shop is a small one and U.A.C. is situated very near it.

They buy things from overseas and sell them to this middleman who is termed a Factor. Sometimes the other people do not see things when they come in bales and quantity, and the Factor buys them. Then there is another middleman between this shop and the local market, so that one gets the prices of things going so high.

Something must be done to control prices in this country. It is annoying to find that sometimes an article costs the same price in Enugu as in Lagos. This must be detected and checked among those who deal with our goods.

The next point is about Foreign Affairs. Since we achieved Independence last year I do not think we have anything to regret in the way the Nigerian personality is being portrayed abroad. I think, in all fields of our activities, we have so far portrayed our country in a very good way.

There was a previous speaker who was a bit dynamic. It is good to be dynamic but, when carried too far, it will bring chaos. It is not the hood that makes the monk. That is what we should realise. There was a speech, although not in a despising way, about our representatives abroad. What we want is for people of ability to represent us abroad. One need not talk in a very loud way or try to push oneself forward. It is the way one portrays one's party to the outside world that matters.

Since our present Minister of Foreign Affairs went to the United Nations Organisation meeting we have had nothing to regret. On the radio this morning we have all heard that the present person who is representing us spoke very nicely and plainly in portraying this country, so that we have nothing to regret about our representative.

I would like this Government to make a statement about something we heard a few weeks ago. Mr Kasavubu was to visit this country. I do not know why he did not come again. Although he was associated with the death of their first Prime Minister, still I think we should invite him as well as Tshombe. We want him. He should come. (*Interruption*).

Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East): That speech is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker: Order. Will the hon. Member please be relevant.

Mr Enefola: I am saying that we should try and invite African nationalists and those who are Heads of States in Africa in order that they may learn for themselves what real progress means. It is good for us to try and give a chance to all those who are in charge of government affairs in Africa to visit one another.

That brings me to the point of—

Mr Speaker: That is irrelevant.

(*Mr Lana rose*)

Mr Speaker: Mr Lana, please sit down.

Mr Enefola: I would like to make a point about our Economic Missions abroad. Somebody has remarked about the way in which the Federal Government goes abroad in rotation with the Regional Governments. It is quite good that economic missions should be sent abroad by each Region. That has enhanced the progress of each Region and the country as a whole. But what is wrong is that they do not consult and work out their itinerary together. Some months should elapse before another Region goes to one particular country that has already been visited, otherwise we may seem to be a bit worrisome to those countries we go to. It is not actually bad for all the Regions and the Federal Government to travel abroad on economic missions. We should try and encourage it because that has helped us a lot.

With these few observations, I beg to support.

Mr V. L. Lajide (Ogbomosho North): In supporting this Bill I have a very short comment to make. There is a local proverb that if a child is appreciative of a gift he yet receives other gifts, and on this core I have the pleasure to express the unalloyed gratitude of the people of Ogbomosho, my constituency, to the hon. Maitama Sule, our dynamic Minister of Mines and Power and also to the Federal Government for making it possible for Ogbomosho to have electricity. The opening ceremony was performed just seven days ago by the hon. Minister and for this we are really grateful to the Federal Parliament and all concerned in bringing our dream to an accomplished end.

Now that we have electricity we really need other amenities. Of all the tribes in Nigeria you will find that, besides the Hausa man, the Ogbomosho man is a confirmed emigrant. Go through the length and breadth of Nigeria and you will find him; go to the French territory, Ghana and elsewhere in West Africa and you will surely find an Ogbomosho man. The reason is that there is nothing to encourage him at home—no industry. Since the Government has given us electricity, we hope that they will also give us industries in order to help bring these people back home.

[MR LAJIDE]

We are also appealing for a post office befitting Ogbomosho. The one we have has outlived its usefulness.

One other important thing is for the Government to make it possible for a railway line to be built from Ibadan through Oyo, Ogbomosho to Ilorin. Indeed, this will be very useful to the people in that area. It will serve the people of Fiditi, Awe, Oyo, Iseyin, Shaki and other places in that area.

We have also one serious handicap in respect of Federal scholarships. If an enquiry is made into the list of scholarships one will hardly find awards to Ogbomosho candidates.

Mr Speaker : There are too many private conversations going on, rather loudly, which should not be. I expect that Members, if they must, should converse in undertones.

Mr Lajide : We are now appealing that scholarships should be awarded to Ogbomosho boys and girls.

With these comments I support the Bill.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : May I assure the House that there is no doubt that the Government is alive to its responsibilities, and has been quite stable. I am always worried many a time when people criticise the Government unnecessarily. The outside world has a very high regard for our Government and there is no need for some Members to indulge in criticism for its sake.

Some hon. Members : Tell the Opposition!

Mr Udenyi : I am speaking to both the Opposition and to some members of the Government parties, for criticism often comes from both sides of the House.

I must also assure the House that I have the utmost confidence in the hon. Minister of Finance. People have been talking about the Economic Mission. I hope they do not forget that money is the live-wire of all undertakings. Without money you cannot do anything in this country; there will be no development. All businessmen have to borrow money in order to establish their businesses.

I wish to emphasize the need for more industries, for it is a matter with which I am very much concerned. Without industrialising this country, nobody will be happy, except

a few. It is necessary to find employment for everybody in this country. As we all know there are some people in the so called senior service who are paid £200, £100 or £50 a month, while there are others especially labourers, who earn on the average about £5 or £3 a month. It is for this reason that I believe that this country needs rapid industrialisation. I am asking the Council of Ministers therefore to take a very serious view of this point, for without further industrialisation our independence will be a sham.

I would now like to turn to education. No doubt education is most important; for knowledge is the passport to success in life. It is the weapon with which we must arm ourselves in order successfully to fight the evils of ignorance, disease, poverty and their accompanying evils. Therefore I would like in future to see that more money is made available for this important arm of Government.

The Government should also give due consideration to the Military Force. It is the key and foundation of any Nation. We have won independence, but that is not all that matters. It is important to watch the use to which we apply it. How can we say we have got independence when we are still at the mercy of other Nations? This world is a mixture of sorrows and happiness. Suppose there is an attack on Nigeria tomorrow, what are we going to do?

Several hon. Members : We shall all go out and fight.

Mr Udenyi : If we ask for help from other Nations, they may lay down conditions which might be detrimental. Therefore, we must make the Military Force so attractive that even a man of my own status would like to join it.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Adamawa) : In supporting the Bill, I should like to refer particularly to the speech made by the Minister of Commerce and Industry on International Trade and the recent Economic Mission of which he was a Member. I am particularly pleased to hear that the Government is very mindful of the present biased and unsatisfactory state of their Economic Policy. It is biased because one can see that Nigeria has been dealing with her former colonial master, Great Britain, and her Western Allies. This is too bad.

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[Adjournment]

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Nigeria has a very great undertaking towards Pan Africanism. With all the implications of our policy of positive neutrality, it behoves us to be very careful how we handle our Economic Policy. It is one thing to anticipate Nigeria's economic future and the success of our Economic Mission, but it is another thing to base our political stability on our Economic Policy. This is very important. I am very much pleased with the views expressed by the Minister, and as we have time to debate our Foreign Policy, I think, I should confine myself to that.

I should like to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry on the point which I raised on the Floor of this House in April. That is, about our tobacco industry which is being monopolised by the Nigerian Tobacco Company. When I brought this before the House in April, I thought, though the time is so short, that there might be some improvements, but on the contrary, I have found that it is getting worse. I appeal to the Minister to take this very seriously because the tobacco industry is one of the important industries which we have in Nigeria and its monopoly by the Nigerian

Tobacco Company is contrary to our demand. We must find ways and means of exporting our tobacco abroad.

An hon. Member : Nationalise it.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : It should be nationalised, I quite agree with the hon. gentleman. The Minister should be able to contact our tobacco planters who certainly realise that the Nigerian Tobacco Company is not working in their own interest. Though it is a source of income yet our farmers' interests should be protected.

And it being 11.45 a.m., Mr Speaker interrupted the business, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).

Debate to be resumed Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(The Minister of Mines and Power).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 28th August, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cost of Economic Mission

O.369. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Minister of Finance how much was spent in passages, allowances, *et cetera*, on the recent Economic Mission which he led to various countries.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : To date, the Mission has cost the Federal Government £27,000. Until all the bills have been received in Lagos, it will not be possible for me to break down the final cost into the various items referred to by the hon. Member.

National Bank Inquiry

O.370. Mr A. A. Ajibola asked the Minister of Finance, how much it cost the Government to engage the services of barristers and other professionals who sat at, or appeared before, the National Bank Inquiry in July 1961 by way of professional fees, passages and hotel bills respectively.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : Three thousand, nine hundred and fifty-three pounds have been spent to date on legal and professional services, together with one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-two pounds on passages. In addition, free transport and accommodation have been provided. These have been charged to the normal provision for the maintenance of the Conference Visitors Unit and of the Government V.I.P. accommodation in Lagos. It is not the practice of the Government to raise an internal charge for these services, but the amount involved will not have exceeded £500.

The Economic Mission

O.371. Mr M. C. K. Obi : asked the Minister of Finance, how much it cost the Government to send the last world wide economic mission.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : I have nothing to add to my reply to Question No. O.369 at this stage.

Congo Operations

O.372. Mr N. D. Ukah : asked the Minister of Finance, how much has the Federal Government of Nigeria so far spent on the Congo operations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence : The total amount spent on the Congo operations up to the 30th June is estimated at £204,981-11s-9d.

Mr D. N. Abii : Why is it an estimate ? Did the Minister not know when he spent it ?

Idiroko Customs Control Post

O.373. Mr D. N. Oronsaye : asked the Minister of Finance, whether he will consider erecting a new Customs Control Post at the border at Idiroko to replace the present one which is reached after a prospective immigrant has already gone one mile into this country through uninhabited areas of land.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : Yes, Sir. A new Customs Post, situated within one hundred yards of the frontier, has already been established at Ikolaje, near Idiroko Customs Station, and came into operation on the 12th July, 1961.

Report of Economic Mission

O.374. Mr A. A. Ajibola asked the Minister of Finance when he will give a full report of the recent Economic Mission to the House.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : Consideration will be given to presenting a full report to the House, when the Economic Mission has completed the second stage of its tour overseas.

Mr. A. Akomolafe : Why will the Government not publish the report of the mission already undertaken ?

The Minister of Finance : Government does not intend to put the report piecemeal before Parliament. The Government is aware that the Regional Governments should have a report on the first stage of the Economic Mission and arrangements are being made to inform those Governments of the present position accordingly.

Cost of Economic Mission

O.375. Mr A. A. Ajibola asked the Minister of Finance whether he will state the total cost to the Government of the recent Economic

Mission led by him indicating how many Ministers and officials were in the Mission, how much was paid by way of allowances to each Minister and each official per day, respectively, and how long the Mission lasted.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : As already stated, the Mission has to date cost the Federal Government £27,000. The Mission included six Ministers of which three were Federal Ministers and three Regional Ministers ; the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom also accompanied the Mission. There were also four Nigerian businessmen.

Thirteen officials, of which three were Regional officials, accompanied the Mission.

In the case of Ministers, a refund of hotel bills for accommodation and breakfast up to ten pounds was paid. In addition, a nightly allowance of five guineas was paid. Where Ministers were in transit, they received a travelling allowance of two guineas instead of the nightly allowance of five guineas. Businessmen and officials were given a refund of their hotel bills for accommodation and breakfast up to seven pounds. In addition, they received a nightly allowance of three pounds.

The Mission was away for fifty-three days.

Nigeria's Sterling Balances abroad

O.376. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister Finance if he is aware of the evil consequences of leaving large sterling balances in London when Nigeria needs the money for development purposes ; and if he has any plans to reduce them drastically in the interest of Nigerian progress.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The Government is keenly aware of the need to ensure that all possible steps are taken to mobilise Nigeria's resources for the financing of the country's development, including local funds and funds invested overseas. To this end, the Federal Government, together with the Regional Governments, have been drawing down their balances to provide resources for their development budgets. It has also been possible, through the internal development loans, to encourage a substantial switch from overseas to local Nigerian securities. It is the firm intention of the Government to continue to pursue action along these lines.

Tax on Luxury Goods

O.377. Mr R. N. Muojeke : asked the Minister of Finance whether in view of the country's ever-mounting consumption of luxury goods, he is prepared to raise tariff walls against the importation of luxury goods, such as television sets, and the more expensive cars.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : Many luxury imports are already heavily dutied but if, for revenue, social balance of payments or other reasons, increases in the rate of duty become warranted, my honourable Friend, the Minister of Finance, will not hesitate to take appropriate action. The hon. Member will now, however, expect me to be specific as to the nature of timing of any measures which might be involved.

Use of the Bank Rate

O.378. Mr R. N. Muojeke : asked the Minister of Finance whether he is considering using the weapon of Bank Rate in order to correct the economic disequilibrium of our institutions be they financial, commercial or industrial.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : It is not clear from the question precisely what economic disequilibrium the hon. Member wishes corrected. I do not think it can be said that our financial, commercial or industrial institutions are in any state of disequilibrium.

While it is true that the weapon of Bank Rate is used from time to time in some overseas countries to bring about changes in the economic state of those countries (for example, an increase in the Bank Rate to curtail internal borrowing and to encourage the inflow of overseas capital to strengthen the balance of payments position), such a weapon is not available yet in Nigeria. Although our money market is gradually developing and our Central Bank can exercise limited control over the activities of the commercial banks, our financial framework is still being developed and expanded and the Bank Rate mechanism cannot be employed as a corrective measure until the financial framework is sufficiently developed. The hon. Member will be aware that the Central Bank does publish from time to time its minimum rediscount rate but to date

that has been used only in connection with the rediscount of Treasury Bills issued on behalf of the Federal Government.

Koko Port

O.379. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Finance how much has been collected as customs duties in Koko port since it was resuscitated.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : No revenue from Customs duties was collected at the port of Koko from its designation as a Customs Port until the 30th June, 1961. I understand that this is because until the rehabilitation of the port is completed, it is not possible for ocean-going ships to load or discharge cargo there.

Mr Oronsaye : In view of the reply of the Minister, does he not think that it is worthwhile for the Government to develop the port further for ocean-going steamers?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : It is the policy of the Government to develop all the ports of Nigeria.

Jail Breaks

O.380. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many escapes from all Federal prisons were made from 1st January, 1961 to 31st March, 1961, and how many of the prisoners who escaped were recaptured.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : There were thirty-six escapes during the period 1st January to 31st March, 1961, details of which are as follows: From Federal prisons 9; from outside hospitals 2; from labour gangs 25. Of these, 15 were recaptured and 21 are still at large.

Immigrants

O.381. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Internal Affairs the number of immigrants admitted into the country from 1st October, 1960 to date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : The figures for the number of non-Nigerians who entered Nigeria since 1st October, 1960 cannot be easily obtained as the return and collation of

figures from all points of entry takes time. The last complete return by the Department of Statistics shows that 12,726 non-Nigerians came into the country between 1st October and 31st December, 1960.

None of these persons were allowed to immigrate on a permanent basis.

Europeans in Nigeria

***O.383. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many persons applied for Nigerian citizenship and how many of them were successful since 1st October, 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : I regret that the Minister cannot state what is the European population in this country as he does not understand what the hon. Member means by "European". If the hon. Member would define this more clearly in another Question the Minister will attempt to answer it. Therefore, any answer given the hon. Member now can only be misleading.

The Department of Immigration does not classify people by their continents of origin but by nationality. As stated in the Minister's answer to a Question during the Budget Session, the Government of Nigeria does not practise racialism even to the extent of noting racial origins. So, any answer ultimately given must be in terms of nationality.

Palm Oil Mills

***O.384. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he proposes to establish pioneer palm oil mills in Ahoada Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : No, Sir. The establishment of pioneer oil mills in any part of Eastern Nigeria is the responsibility of the Eastern Nigeria Government.

Impact of European Common Market

***O.386. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what advantages or disadvantages would Nigeria derive or suffer from joining the European Common Market.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The Treaty of Rome which set up the European Common Market makes no provision for the membership of non-European countries. Therefore, Nigeria cannot join the Common Market.

Mr R. N. Muojeke : In view of the fact that the European countries are forming a Common Market, is the Minister prepared to encourage the formation of a West African Common Market ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : This seems to me to be a new Question and I need an advance notice of it.

West African Common Market Countries

***O.387. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many West African Countries have already joined the European Common Market.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : None, Sir. Membership of the European Common Market is open only to European countries.

Nigerianisation Committee

***O.388. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia :** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what action has been taken to implement the recommendations of the Nigerianisation Committee with reference to the training of the staff of the Shipping Section of the Department of Marketing and Exports.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The rapid Nigerianisation in the Shipping Section of the Department of Marketing and Exports together with the imminent abolition of the Department on 31st March, 1962, have reduced the need for the setting up of specialised Training Schemes as recommended by the Committee. Sufficient numbers of Nigerian officers are given facilities to acquire "on the job" the experience necessary for the efficient performance of their duties.

Compared with 1959, when there were 13 expatriate and 7 Nigerian senior officers in the

Shipping Section of the Department, there are now 9 expatriate and 16 Nigerian senior officers in the same section.

New Expatriate Companies

***O.389. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi :** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many new expatriate companies have set up business in the country since 1st October, 1960 and what do these companies deal in.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : All companies incorporated in Nigeria with a registered office within the country under the Companies Ordinance were regarded as Nigerian companies whatever may be the nationalities of the shareholders.

However, section 239 of the Companies Ordinance provides for the registration of foreign companies incorporated outside Nigeria but possessing established places of business in Nigeria. Twelve such companies have set up business in Nigeria since 1st October, 1960, in the following fields :

Engineering	5
Insurance	2
Air Transport	2
Road Engineering	1
General Merchandise	2

Federal Government's Industries

***O.390. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many Federal industries are in Nigeria ; how many are in each of the Regions, especially in Calabar, Uyo and Anang Provinces.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : It is not the policy of the Federal Government to set up industries itself. The Federal Government sets out to provide the incentives and conditions which will themselves attract industrial investment. There is, however, the Federal Experimental Boatyard, Opobo in Anang Province which is maintained from Federal Government funds.

Merits of the Economic Mission

***O.391. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how will the recent world tour of a Nigerian Economic Mission

[MR N. D. UKAH]
bring about an increase in the prices of our chief exports: palm produce, cocoa and groundnuts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: The tour by itself cannot affect prices of our products. These are determined by the demand and supply position existing at any particular time.

Our tour demonstrated, however, that there are large potential markets for our products in countries with whom at present we have little trade.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

MINERALS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Minerals Ordinance, presented by the Minister of Mines and Power; read the First time; to be read a Second time This Day.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

That the Proceedings on Government Business other than the Proceedings on the Adjourned Debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1961-62) Bill (25th August), be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), and such Business shall be taken at the following times:—

(a) on the conclusion of Proceedings on Second Reading till 6 p.m., and

(b) from 9 p.m. onwards.

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

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): I do not think that this is an occasion for levity. I think that it is a shocking state of affairs that, without giving any reasons whatever—(Interruption).

Mr Speaker: These interruptions must stop.

Chief Enahoro: I was saying that, without giving us any reasons whatever, the Minister expects us to assent to a night sitting. May I say that night sittings are not a luxury and that they should only be used out of necessity.

The programme before us calls for us to rise on Saturday. No Member of the Government has yet told us why it is necessary for us to rise on Saturday. We are prepared to stay here for a few more days (Some hon. Members: Oh!) Yes, of course, we are paid for it. We are prepared to stay here for a few more days to do justice to Government business.

The purpose of Parliament is not merely to rubber-stamp Government business and Government recommendations. We have been elected by our various constituencies to come here and give adequate consideration to proposals by the Government. I think that the programme which has been outlined this morning will prevent Members from doing the duty which they have undertaken to do to the country and to their constituencies.

I listened very carefully when the Minister moved that Motion, and I do not want to use hard words. But I do say that it is disrespectful to the House just to get up and move a Motion that we shall sit at nine o'clock, without offering any reasons whatever. It is not sufficient for the Minister to be assured of the majority of his own supporters. Far more than that, the Minister should ensure that all the facts are placed before this House—it is the Minister's duty to give very good reasons for any suggestions which he may make.

I do suggest very strongly to the Minister and to the Government to withdraw this Motion. If he does not withdraw it, on principle we will divide the House on this issue, because this is not the first time that this sort of thing has happened. It happens again and again at every meeting of the House. Last Saturday we protested when the business report was outlined, and one had thought that the Government would take that protest into consideration in arranging the business for this week. It is most disappointing that this has not been the case.

I beg to oppose this Motion.

The Minister of Finance: I am sure that the hon. Member for Ishan East (Chief Enahoro) is not serious when he says that just because the House is to sit late to-night, it is a sign that the Government is treating the business of the House with levity. There is nothing of the kind in the mind of the Government.

Now, the second point is that he says that if we do not withdraw this Motion they will divide the House. Of course I know that "divide and rule" is the stock-in-trade of the party in opposition.

The hon. Gentleman also said that it is not a necessity that we must sit to-night. I agree it may not be a necessity, but I want to assure him that it is a need. Therefore, where there is a need that Government business shall be dealt with by night or by day, it must not be misunderstood. Surely the hon. Member will be the last person to suggest that because the House is sitting at night the business of the Government is thereby not being carried out properly.

What we are asking the Opposition to do is some overtime, and some hard work. We are saying in effect that Government business and the Bills to be passed are so important that this step is necessary. It is essential that our hon. Friends should do some work, and if they are prepared to do so surely they will agree with the Government that this night Sitting is a special need. It is common knowledge that the House of Commons would sit until the morning if need be. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : These interruptions are really wasting our time, and I think they should not be allowed to continue.

The Minister of Finance : The hon. Member for Ishan East also said that the House shall adjourn on Saturday, *sine die*. I must say I do not know where he got that information. I never said such a thing. When the Business Statement was made on Saturday, nothing of the kind was said on the Floor of this House. The House surely is not going to adjourn on Saturday, but will continue with a debate on Foreign Affairs from Saturday to Monday; and my colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be here to answer fully any questions that hon. Members may raise.

I think my reason for not making a speech on the Motion is that the Motion itself is self-explanatory, and there was no point in wasting time on it. I am really surprised that the hon. Member for Ishan East should raise a storm in a tea-cup over this issue.

A. Opia (Aboh) : I support the Motion. However I must comment on one or two points which, in my opinion, are very essential. I

do not see any *need*, as the Minister puts it, for us to have a night sitting to-day. If there is no extraordinary reason for it we really feel that the meeting of the Parliament should continue in the normal way. I certainly disagree with the hon. Gentleman on the other Side who suggested that the Motion should be withdrawn. I feel that because this House is an enlarged House of about 312 Members in future it will be wise to allow sufficient opportunity for Members to speak on most of the Bills being presented to the House. It is no use rushing through business. Therefore this should be perhaps—(*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker : Order, I am sorry to say that we are behaving rather like market women, which is not expected of us at all. Will hon. Members please observe the debate in silence?

Mr Opia : I think it is the consensus of opinion in this House that we should have sufficient time to debate our Bills and I feel that in future we should see that this is one of the last night sittings we have.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : Speaking quite soberly, I think that this is an uncalled for Motion. As Chief Enahoro said, night sittings are only used when there is a necessity for them. There is now absolutely no such necessity, and there is no emergency.

At the last Budget Session when much time was wasted we started on night sittings and most of the items of the Estimates were guillotined. There were many things which Members wanted to talk about. I really think that it is a disgrace that it should be the practice of the Government to rule without the Parliament.

The night ought to be the time for us to study the Bills and there is a good number of them before us. Therefore, these nights should not be spent in coming here to rush the Bills through because the Leader of the House and Minister of Finance wants to go on one of his familiar journeys next week and so does not want to stay here to give us time to do the work which we have been paid to do.

Quite seriously I think the best thing is for the Leader of the House to withdraw this night sitting. Failing that I am supporting the Opposition's Motion that we divide the House.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I support the Motion. I beg to disagree with my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, who is only seemingly serious. I know that he was certainly not serious for many a time he has absented himself from Government business. Often he has found time to play golf when Government business was being conducted or else has chosen to stay at home when he should have been in the House. Now, I just cannot see why he should be so sentimental on this matter, or indeed why he should play politics with it. If he was serious at all, he should have been up and doing himself.

Night sittings did not start with this Parliament. It is the practice the world over. If he wants an utopian Government, I am afraid that utopian Governments exist only in theory. We are not here to be convinced that Government is not conducting its affairs satisfactorily. I think the best place for him to make such a statement, if at all he has to make any, is definitely the Western House of Assembly. I am sure he will agree.

I beg to support.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I strongly support a night sitting, and I will give my reasons. In the first place, there is no intention whatever to rush this House. We all do our home work at night and we are not rushed. Therefore, if we take our business here seriously, I think the atmosphere of the night helps to ensure mature deliberation in this House.

I also feel that variety is the spice of life, and I strongly support the idea that every session of this House should have at least two night sittings for the following reasons. We have many people who work in the day and who would like to listen to the debates but they can only come at night. Therefore at every session of the House if we mix the day sittings with one or two night sittings it will be of assistance to those people who want to listen to the debates but who can only do so at night.

Again, all hon. Members must remember that we are all human beings. Our Ministers are charged with the responsibility of executing the laws we pass here; they will see the laws

observed. After all, we do not come here just to pass laws and go home. If we pass laws and they are not carried out then it means that our Ministers are not doing their work. We want them here when we debate, but we must remember that whilst these debates are going on the work of the Government also goes on. The Ministers are therefore called upon to be here and at the same time take care of the work outside. We must go a long way with them so that they may have the time to carry out the duties we want them to do. One must remember that one could be a Minister and one might have much to do.

Now, my last point is that this continued debate is already encroaching on the time we have for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and the more we talk the less time we have to debate the Second Reading. If we want to speak on the Second Reading we had better stop talking now and continue with the business of the House. I would like to remind the Opposition that to divide the House would mean wasting more time because that will take at least thirty to forty minutes. I think the question should now be put.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I think that this is a matter which should not be treated with light-heartedness and I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to view the conduct of the Leader of the House very seriously—

The Minister of Finance : I must protest, Sir.

Mr Speaker : Order, order! Is the Minister of Finance raising a point of order or a point of explanation?

The Minister of Finance : A point of order, Sir. The hon. Member for Egba South has no right here to question my conduct personally. If he talks about the conduct of the business of the House, yes, but not my personal conduct. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : There is so much interruption that we are not getting on with the business. I think I should be guided by the *Ayes* or *Noes*.

Question put and the House divided.

Ayes 172; Noes 46.

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[Business of the House]

28 AUGUST 1961

[Business of the House]

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AYES

AYES

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6	I. S. Onwuchekwa	116	G. O. D. Eneh
7	S. Nnaji	117	Albatam Yerima Balla
8	J. C. Chukwu	118	R. O. A. Akinjide
14	U. U. Eko	119	E. C. Akwiwu
15	V. A. Nwalieji	120	A. Opia
16	J. A. Akor	122	Dr K. Ezera
18	F. I. Okoronkwo	123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya
19	Muhammed Ningi	131	Sarki Dakhatu Yola
20	Muhammadu Kumo	132	Usman Gwarzo
21	M. Barko, Maaji Kashalla	133	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
22	Shettima Ali Monguno	134	Alhaji Mohamed-Munir
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa	135	
24	Yusufu Ilesha	137	Alhaji K. O. S. Are
25	A. Isandu	139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto
29	Ladan Isa	156	E. A. Odo
30	Garba Jabo Abubakar	157	J. O. Ede
32	Saidu Zango	158	Shekarau Omar
34	P. I. Ejukwa	159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar
35	S. A. Yerokun	160	Sanni Gezawa
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41	I. O. Chikelu	163	Inusa Tudun Wada
42	J. U. Udenyi	166	Salihu O. Abdul
43	N. Nwangbo	167	S. A. Oyewole
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48	J. B. Eboigbodi	171	Kaita Damale
49	N. Enwo	186	Aminu Yelwa
50	D. D. U. Okay	190	P. O. Tokula
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki	191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar	192	Abdu Bauchi
54	A. A. Ramalan	193	Isa Iko
56	Sule Abba Biu	194	Hamidu A. Bayero
57	Alhaji Kabir Bayero	196	Abdusalami Olomoda
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero	197	S. A. Babatunde
64	Alhaji Muhammed Bello Abdurraman	199	D. O. Enefola
65	D. O. Ahamefula	200	J. A. Yacim
66	U. O. Ekenekot	201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
67	J. K. De. Omomadia	202	Alhaji Mohammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki
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70	O. C. Ememe	218	Abdullahi Mahuta
72	L. N. Ezeani	221	Muhammadu Kaoje
73	N. D. Ukah	222	Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona
74	R. N. Muojeke	223	Balang U. Barami
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78	C. A. Odigbo	225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona
79	F. A. M. Arnadi	229	S. A. Ojukotun
80	U. O. Ayeni	230	Wada Nas
83	Abdullahi Maikano	231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
85	Maina Waziri	232	Ibrahim Nadabo
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi	233.	L. Alhaji Daura
87	Umaru Gumel	234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadejia
90	Saidu Daura	235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
94	C. Chiedozie	250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
96	J. U. Odey	251	Mohammadu Korom Madakin Pategi
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici	253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
102	J. O. Igwe	254	Abdulkadir Dukku
104	P. O. Eleke	255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar
105	O. O. Nweke	258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
107	Dr P. U. Okeke	259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange Sokoto
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 277 Halkali Maigari
 281 Peter Ipu
 282 Aminu Salaiman Dutse
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 288 Shehu Na Ita Sokoto
 289 Mohammadu Jajuna
 Ibrahim Na Maitama
 Alhaji Harunna
 Alhaji Bello Dandago
 Prime Minister
 Minister of Finance
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Minister of Economic Development
 Minister of Education
 Minister of Establishments
 Minister of Communications
 Minister of Labour
 Minister of Lagos Affairs
 Minister of Mines and Power
 Minister of Transport and Aviation
 Minister of Works and Surveys
 Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande
 Minister of State, Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju
 H. M. Adaji
 Alhaji U. A. Ahmed
 M. Amechi
 Ahmadu Fatika
 T. A. Lamuye
 S. Lana
 Usumanu Maitamari
 S. F. Nwika
 F. E. Offor
 R. B. K. Okafor
 E. T. Orodi
 N. A. Ezonbodor
 Ibrahim Tako
 D. C. Ugwu
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 141 W. Briggs
 142 Chief A. Enahoro
 145 J. S. Tarka
 146 P. E. Ekanem
 150 A. Akomolafe
 151 S. D. Lar
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 176 P. B. Olatunde
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 184 Chief R. A. Orok
 185 Auta Anzah

204 M. B. Afanideh
 206 Chief A. Akerele
 207 I. A. Brown
 211 J. M. Damla
 212 J. D. Odebunmi
 213 S. U. Idiong
 214 K. Swem
 215 L. O. Tobun
 236 A. A. Ajibola
 237 T. I. Etukudo
 238 V. T. Shisha
 239 Chief P. Dame-Oboh
 240 D. S. Udo-Inyang
 242 M. C. K. Obi
 244 J. A. Akinyemi
 245 B. A. Ajayi
 246 Chief D. A. Ogunleye
 247 Oba S. Oladiran
 268 S. A. Oladapo
 270 W. J. Falaiye
 271 D. Bulus Biliyong
 274 S. O. Fajinni
 275 G. Yilgwen
 276 D. K. Aihonsu
 278 S. O. Ogundice

Tellers for Noes

Mr M. A. Omisade
 Mr J. A. Olaore

[SECOND READING OF BILLS]

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move :—

That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (1), the day appointed for Second Reading of the Fatal Accidents Bill, Civil Liability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Flags and Coat of Arms (Amendment) Bill be brought forward from Wednesday, 30th August, to *this day*.

This was just a technical error committed by my Colleague when he said that the Second Reading of this Bill will be on Wednesday. It was originally meant for to-day but it is common practice that when a day has been allotted for a Bill in Parliament, one cannot bring it forward without informing Parliament. Accordingly, this Motion is necessary in order to rectify the error.

The Minister of Education : I beg to second.

Chief A. Enahoro : This is not merely a technical matter. The effect of passing this Motion would be to negate the stand which the Opposition has suggested that this House should take in regard to the sitting of this House to-day. Therefore, Sir, as a matter of principle and consequent on the earlier Motion our stand is the same, we intend to divide the House on the issue.

If the Minister had not brought forward this second Motion, notwithstanding what we said in respect of the first, it would have been possible, upon the closure of the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to-day, to adjourn because there would be no other business for us. The intention of this Motion is to enable us to take the business set out in the lower part of the *Orders of the Day*. If this Motion was not passed we could not take them—

The Minister of Finance: We could have arranged it otherwise.

Chief Enahoro: No doubt the Minister could have arranged it differently; that is precisely what we are complaining about—the fact that he arranges these things *otherwise* without the consent of the House and sometimes even without consulting the Business Committee.

We are opposed to this Motion, and we shall divide the House on it as a matter of principle.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): We are not fighting for the fun of it over the way the Leader of the House is handling the business of this House. We would like to be told the reasons why things should be arbitrarily changed in this House. We would not like to be bullied into submission. This House is composed of respectable gentlemen, respectable in their homes, respectable in their constituencies. This House is not a private club where the Leader of the House can arrange things to suit his own personal convenience.

Throughout last week he did not sit down to plan the business of the House but instead went about raising false alarms all over the country. The Minister left the business of this House in the hands of a man he knows is absolutely incompetent and untrained for the job and he now comes to this House to regret that there was a *technical error*—a technical error in the highest Parliament of this country where we represent several million people.

We oppose the Motion, Sir. We know that we are going to be defeated, but I challenge the Government or the Leader of the House to allow a free vote on this issue. I know that the Members of the N.C.N.C. who have signed undated letters of resignation will not

be able to vote according to their conscience, but the respectable gentlemen from the Northern Region should be allowed to exercise their free votes on this matter.

I will end by appealing to the gentlemen in the Cabinet to see to it that good and efficient advisers are allowed to arrange the business of this House. We would not like to be bullied into submission, we would not like this House to be turned into a private club or a board of directors of a company of which the Leader of the House is the Chairman.

Mr Adeniran Ogunsanya (Ikeja): I am speaking on this Motion in a totally different tone from that of the Opposition. It is not true to say that once business is concluded, taking into consideration the first Motion, that after the proceedings at 6 p.m., that is at the end of the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and that there will be no more business left. There will be enough business even without this Motion.

If we look carefully at the Order of the Day (at least those of us who have had breakfast before coming here!), I think it is about time matters coming before this House should have enough notice. I am emphasising this as a Member of the Government Bench. Bills which are of far-reaching importance to the people of this country like the Fatal Accidents Bill and the Civil Liability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill need not be rushed. I am sure that in these matters we on this side of the House require longer notice than just being told that we must do to-day what had originally been scheduled for Wednesday. Even speaking as a lawyer, I cannot, in spite of almost seven years' experience, go through these Bills without prior notice. I am sure that this being the Parliament of this country, and since we have to see to the proper administration of these Bills, we require to study them much more carefully.

Even if this Parliament were composed of Members who are all lawyers, I am sure they would not be able to do justice to either of these two Bills. (*Applause from Opposition Benches*) I do not need any acclamation from Opposition Bench. It will interest the hon. Members for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) to know that I am not one of those people who are perpetually afraid of Chief Awolowo.

[MR OGUNSANYA]

I think, that it is not too late for us to continue at 9 p.m. I am not opposed to working late. There is nothing wrong in working late. We can take the other Bills to-day and allow the others to take their places at the proper time already scheduled for them. Therefore, even if the Government finds it difficult to do anything on this occasion, this should be a warning for the future. We are not prepared to act as a mere rubber stamp in these matters.

The Minister of Finance : I can understand my hon. Friend the Member for Ishan East (Chief Enahoro) stating that he opposed this Motion on principle. It means, therefore, that the Opposition has chosen to oppose whenever it suits them to do so. But what are the facts? The facts are clearly that the hon. Gentleman is quarrelling with our passing this Motion despite the fact that these Bills could be debated any day, and in spite of the fact that Members have had sufficient opportunity to study them.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Ikeja (Mr Adeniran Ogunsanya) is almost in his tenth year of practice at the Bar. He is a good and capable lawyer, I must admit. But as a legislator he is a new comer. Therefore, it is only wise for him to study his facts and check them, as he has always done when he has a case to argue in the law courts.

These Bills were first gazetted in the month of March this year and it only shows the laxity, the incapability and the hopelessness of the Opposition to say that enough time or notice has not been given them. They are simply quarrelling with nothing in this Bill. If these Bills were published in March, they have therefore been given sufficient time to study and digest them. If they had done this they should be prepared to debate them any day.

At this stage I want to warn the Opposition not to try to drag me in the mud.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : The hon. Minister of Finance should choose his words. He cannot warn the members of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker : There is nothing wrong with his words.

The Minister of Finance : If I may say so once again, I would like to tell my friends of the Opposition to warn some of their members

not to start again with this nonsense. The hon. Member for Egba South (Chief Akin-Olugbade), for example, obviously knows that he and most of his leaders are living in glass houses and should not throw stones. I have got sufficient facts to silence them with if they choose to continue.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : I contributed to the Debate on the Motion and I made my views known to this House. If the Minister of Finance has any answer for them he should give them. He cannot threaten me. If he has facts I also have them.

Mr Speaker : There has been no breach of order in the Minister's speech.

The Minister of Finance : I was saying that my hon. Friends of the Opposition should warn some of their people who live in glass houses to stop throwing stones. I know that some of them who make these false allegations and raise false alarms have nothing to lose. But there are more important leaders of their party who certainly have a lot to lose. Chief Akin-Olugbade has nothing to lose. Either as a lawyer or as a legislator or as anything else he has nothing to lose because he is not a man of substance of any kind.

Mr Speaker : Order, order, the tone of the debate is degenerating and I must say that I will not allow it to go further. (*Interruptions*). Will Mr Akomolafe please stop interrupting?

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North-East) : But Mr Briggs wishes to raise a point of order.

Mr Speaker : He is not entitled to speak until he has been allowed to do so.

Mr Briggs : On point of order, the Leader of the House is using a most unparliamentary language by attacking Members of this House. I think it is very unparliamentary for the Minister to say that a man is without substance.

Mr Speaker : I think he was throwing back the weapon that had been thrown at him.

The Minister of Finance : Finally, I would like to say that I, on the Floor of this House, had the courage and the magnanimity of saying that there was a technical error in this matter and I thought that it would have been enough for the opposition to consider the explanation I had given namely that this Motion was intended to correct that error.

I think that these Bills are ripe for debate. The House had already this morning passed a Motion for a night sitting, and we are only bringing forward this second Motion in accordance with the programme which had already been prepared.

I commend it to Members of the House on all sides. I ask them to pass this Motion so that we may proceed with the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): I rise to address Members on all sides of this House, and to appeal to them to stop wasting time. Let us continue with the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! The hon. Member for Ilorin Central must be heard in silence.

Mr Babatunde: If civil servants can work at night, why not us also? I simply want to avoid this waste of valuable time. If we look carefully at the number of the Opposition and examine the result of the last Division, we can see that some honest men have voted for us. I ask hon. Members to stop this child's play and let us get on with the business of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (1), the day appointed for Second Reading of the Fatal Accidents Bill, Civil Liability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Flags and Coat of Arms (Amendment) Bill be brought forward from Wednesday, 30th August, to *this day*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1961-62)
BILL [SECOND ALLOTTED DAY]: ADJOURNED
DEBATE ON SECOND READING

(25TH AUGUST)

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read Second Time.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): Mr Speaker, it was not my intention to intervene on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill at this stage, but I am compelled to speak this morning strictly on technical points.

It seems to me from the record of speeches that were made by Chief Rosiji and Dr Ezera when the House last met, that there was a

flagrant breach of the Standing Order of this House. It seems to me that Members do not take the time to read their Standing Orders and to understand what is to be discussed at any particular time. I am therefore compelled to raise this matter for it should be the duty of hon. Members to study the Standing Orders prior to the meetings of the House so as to avoid wasting precious time which other hon. Members might put to constructive use.

I read the speech that Dr Ezera made, the greater part of which was on Foreign Affairs and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Standing Orders 63 and 64 are quite clear, and I would like to read them now. Standing Order 63 (3) reads as follows:—

“After the Motion for the Second Reading of the Bill” (that is the Appropriation Bill) “has been made and seconded, the debate thereon shall be adjourned for not less than two days and when resumed shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the Government’s financial policy.”

Standing Order 64 says that the same condition applies to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but with certain modifications, that is as to time and date. I will read it, so that Members will know, when debating this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, what they should talk about, and so not waste the time of the House. Standing Order 64 reads:—

“If at any time a Supplementary Appropriation Bill is introduced into the House, the provisions of Standing Order 63 (Appropriation Bill) shall apply to the stages of and the proceedings upon Supplementary Appropriation Bill, except that after the Motion for Second Reading has been moved and seconded—

(a) the debate shall be adjourned until the next sitting day;

(b) not more than two days shall be allotted for the Second Reading; and

(c) not more than three days shall be allotted to the consideration of the Bill in Committee of Supply.”

As the Minister of Finance said, this country is now independent, and as I have intimated to the Acting Leader of the Opposition beforehand that it is our intention, the intention of the Government, to give this House two days to discuss foreign affairs.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The hon. Minister is not speaking within the scope of the Bill.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : With the greatest respect to the Speaker, I am only giving them notice of what we intend to do. I am not discussing foreign affairs. I am only telling them in my speech what we intend to do and that therefore it is not necessary for anybody to discuss foreign affairs now.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : The point of order I want to raise is in connection with the Minister of Foreign Affairs teaching the Speaker of this House the procedure to adopt.

Mr Speaker : I should think that he is qualified to teach the Speaker but I have already ruled his speech out of order.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : With the greatest respect to Dr Ezera, I think I can teach him the Standing Orders of this House. I have been in this House since 1952 and I understand the custom and tradition of this House. Also I have been privileged by this same House to rule the House and therefore I think I am in a position to teach him the Standing Orders and not to teach you, Sir.

I have no intention of answering any statement that has been made by any hon. Member now. We have two days to debate Foreign Affairs and any Member can say anything. I can assure the House that the Government is in a position to answer every word and every sentence which is uttered. I may add that those words and sentences will be answered with dignity and responsibility.

What the Government expects of every Member of this House is that he should criticise the financial and economic policies and give concrete proposals. The Government does not claim all the knowledge, all the experience and all the information available for building up the economy of this country. This country is politically independent but not yet economically independent, and that is the reason why the Government has undertaken to plan for five years in stages. We have taken this step in order to find something concrete, something real, something tangible, something one can give to one's constituents.

I expect that Members of this House would tell us the feelings of their constituencies ;

what they want ; their economic conditions and what should be added to the Government's plan. I have read through the whole speeches but I have found nothing but empty verbiage. There were no constructive proposals. Nothing at all.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : Rising on a point of order, I would like to say that we have heard the Minister and according to him two days have been allotted for the debate on Foreign Affairs. I would say that this Parliament is a Nigerian Parliament and not a school or an institution. Therefore the Minister should not give us any instructions at all. We shall wait for his own day and then listen to him.

Mr Speaker : I would ask the Minister, as far as possible, to speak within the scope of the Bill rather than on the Standing Orders.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : As far as I can, I think I have been speaking within the scope of the Bill, though I am always subject to the ruling of the Speaker.

The Government expects any Member who stands here to speak on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill or the Appropriation Bill to discuss its financial and economic policies. The fact is that these gentlemen speak the whole time on foreign affairs which is absolutely irrelevant. In fact, there is another provision of the Standing Orders which makes them completely out of order. They use the foreign affairs as a platform to prove their ignorance in the field of economics and financial matters. It is only a matter of sentiment. I realise that one has to be critical to show that one is an intellectual, but I have read the speeches of these so called intellectuals, and as I have said, I would not reply to them.

One does not become an intellectual by merely making loud speeches. Intellectuals do not discuss intellectuality.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo) : I wonder what is wrong this morning. The Minister is still using the Floor to teach the Speaker his work, although we are discussing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I think it is high time we tackled this subject.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree that there should be a better occasion for the Minister's explanations on these matters which are very

useful to the House. I would remind him that he should not expect every Member to be an international Parliamentarian. We are all just learning and I think we are subject to a few errors which he is quite right to correct, but which he could probably better do on other occasions.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not wish to teach anybody. We were all elected under certain conditions and we were supplied with these books and we were supposed to read and understand them. When a Member gets up here to ridicule either a Minister or the Government on a matter which he is not conversant with, and gives the impression to the populace that he is an expert and has information which he has not, it is only fair that, on the Floor where he makes the assertion, he should be met on equal terms. I have been very careful not to mention anything about anybody. We all are here and I am not talking Ibo or Yoruba or Hausa as the case may be.

I would not say anything at this stage, till Saturday and Monday when the debate is due. I shall then be in a position to make an appropriate remark at the appropriate time. I have only raised this point so that Members who may want to speak on this debate should confine their remarks to the economic and financial policies and leave foreign policy alone.

They asked a question, in the concluding remarks, "Why was the Prime Minister or the Minister of Foreign Affairs not here?" That is in the speech. This is the answer to it. The Committee Stage is the proper time for me to anticipate that anything could be raised under specific Heads and I therefore expected to be available at that stage. On this occasion however, I was engaged in some other matter of particular interest to this House.

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

Sitting suspended : 11.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.10 p.m.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : I have listened carefully and with amusement to what the Minister for Foreign Affairs said about speeches made by respected Members of Parliament from both sides of the House. I have personally known the Minister since 1954 in the old House. The Minister unfortunately stood

here to blow his own trumpet and in a very nasty way he disqualified speeches which he knew to be very relevant.

If Members in this House, particularly new Members who do not know the Minister concerned, read the speeches which were made by the Minister when he was a Floor Member of this House between 1954 and 1959, they will understand the reason why the Minister dared to attack the reasonable speeches made by Chief Ayo Rosiji and Dr Ezera on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

I remember very well that on Saturday when these two hon. Gentlemen were making their speeches, they each had with them a copy of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I remember that Dr Ezera specifically mentioned that he was making his speech with due regard to Head 44, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. I do not understand why the Minister should attack these speeches because this particular Head is in the Estimates. It was not inserted there as a decoration but for Parliament to debate and make constructive suggestions.

When the hon. Gentlemen concerned were making their speeches, they made specific references to certain sums of money spent and wasted by the Federal Government with particular reference to sub-heads which I see printed in black and white in the Estimates. I therefore think that the Minister merely wanted to parade his knowledge. We all know that he is the Minister for Foreign Affairs and that he is holding a very important portfolio. He does not need to stand on the Floor of this House to blow his own trumpet or to make us realise that he is an important person in this country.

I would like the Minister to realise that he is not the only man—(*Interruptions*)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Hon. S. Lana) : On a point of Order, Mr Speaker, I do not think it is proper for my hon. Friend the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) to attack the Minister personally. It is out of order.

Mr Speaker : I still have to hear more from the hon. Mr Tarka before I decide whether it is a personal attack he is making or not.

Mr Tarka : It is unfortunate, Sir, that some Members who have lost the confidence of their constituencies should come here to waste the time of this House by making uncalled for points of order.

A lot of time has been wasted on inter-party wranglings, inter-Regional jealousies and competition, which time could have been devoted more usefully to industrial development and the better reorganisation of our national economy. Such time would have been more usefully employed in furthering the interests of the ordinary man in this country to-day. But what happens? We find that party politics supersede the interests of the nation.

We were elected to Parliament to represent not only our own constituencies but to represent the interests of those people, our own countrymen, who have not been privileged to be elected into Parliament. Therefore this country can be a happier abode for everybody. But we find that the Federal Government devotes most of the finances of this country to unnecessary luxuries, tours abroad with a train of over forty people, and our money is spent on useless globe-trotting—(Interruption)

Mr Speaker : Order! Order! Hon. Members must refrain from persistent interruptions.

Mr Tarka : Money which could have been spent on education, on the improvement of the lot of the masses of this country, has been spent by forty or more people globe-trotting in all parts of the world with no results at all. We can understand it if Ministers go abroad in order to advertise the country for the sake of attracting foreign investments, but we cannot understand the usefulness of more than forty people going abroad to advertise simply one country.

There are some people who are supposed to be responsible, and who are in the Federal Government, who make speeches which are in complete breach of the interests of this Federation. I cannot understand why a Minister of State in the Federal Government should make speeches which are contrary to the pronouncement of the Prime Minister of the Federation on an important issue, a pronouncement which is to the best interests of the whole country.

Similarly, as I said before, there is too much time devoted to inter-Regional quarrels. One will find that in any one Region it is the question of a particular party preaching the interest of one Region against the rest of the Federation.

Mr Speaker : Order! Will the hon. Member please concentrate his speech on the scope of the Bill, that is the financial policy of the Federation?

Mr Tarka : What I was saying is that these quarrels retard the rate of economic development of our nation. The Federal Government takes delight in magnifying its planlessness. These quarrels do not speak well of our nation. Various Governments in this country, and the Federal Government in particular, have succeeded in creating dissatisfaction in this country. I am sure that this state of affairs will make prospective investors lose confidence in the whole nation. For this reason I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister, and also to all sides of the House, to see to it that these extravagant statements are checked.

We must discourage the idea of spending too much money on personal emoluments in this country. There are many fields in which the Federal Government can usefully apply the finances raised by the common man. But what do we find? We find that most of this money is spent on personal emoluments and on globe trotting. The ordinary man in the street does not derive any useful result from the money which he raises in the form of taxation. The corrupt politicians indulge themselves in excesses. The common man is not satisfied at all. The Federal Government, I must repeat, has not done enough to improve the lot of the ordinary man.

We are now independent for about ten months. But if one goes to our prisons one finds that the jails are filled up with culprits. This is a sign of discontent amongst the people.

It is a pity that certain Members of Parliament who live in Lagos, Enugu or Aba waste their time talking about Regional Governments maltreating them. I would like certain Members in this House who do nothing but sit down in their own palaces and do not go out to hear the worries of the common man to come to the Northern Region of Nigeria and

that will make them stop talking about the breakdown of law and order in any part of the Federation. Our economy is planned to suit Regional needs. Our laws and regulations are made to comply only with the Regional interest. This shows, again, a sign of weakness on the part of the Federal Government, and also in the drafting of the laws and regulations of this country.

The Federal Government should embark now on a large scale scientific research. There is a class distinction everywhere in the Federation. As a result of this some people feed fat while more than 70 per cent of the population go hungry or are poorly sheltered and poorly clothed. This is a sign of negligence on the part of the Federal Government. The cost of living is soaring high, and whilst we have Ministers living in palaces the masses live in very poor quality buildings. The result is that it is difficult for the salaried people and the wage-earners to keep fit. All these things promote dissatisfaction in this country.

Our road programme is poor. Time and money are lost in our internal trade. Lives are also lost on road accidents because of poor quality road surfaces. I am sure that money spent on these badly constructed roads can be sufficient to build good and safe roads. This, again, is a sign of planlessness on the part of the Federal Government.

In this country we have a Police Force which we should be proud of if improved. But rather than doing that we find that the Government does not encourage youngmen to take up their positions in our Police Force. Parochialism and nepotism have been allowed to reign in the Police Force. Unqualified men are promoted if they satisfy the needs of the Government parties. This makes such men agents of the political party in power.

The Federal Government intends to create a police state in some parts of the Federation. The Federal Government likes to suppress the progressive activities of certain Parliaments in this country because such Parliaments do not support the bad activities of the Federal Government. It has been decided from time to time to use the Police and the Army against certain elements in this country. I would like to assure the Federal Government that while we of the Opposition support measures which are intended to preserve law and order in this

country we will not submit to any threat of subversive acts meted out by the Federal Government.

The Federal Government has failed to Nigerianise the Army. As a result of this the Army which is our main-spring for defence in the event of war is still in the hands of foreigners. If, for example, war breaks out between us and Great Britain or her NATO allies, do we expect that these foreign elements in the Army can very effectively apply directives given by the Federal Government against such NATO allies or Britain itself?

I think that in most of the independent countries to-day there is a great stride towards the localisation of the Army and the Police, but the Federal Government of this country has not made any reasonable attempt to localise the Army to suit our independent status. The Federal Government must look into this and introduce immediate radical changes for the good of the masses, even if it is at the expense of the privileged few. We can expect good foreign external relations only when there is unity, stability and satisfaction at home.

I want to call upon the Prime Minister or the Minister of Defence to make a categorical statement on an issue which has from time to time provoked controversy, and an issue which is of great national interest. It is in respect of our most unpopular Nigerian Defence Pact. Recently, at the All Nigerian People's Conference, a Minister of State made what I regard as a pernicious statement to the effect that Nigeria would review its Defence Agreement. But it has now become common knowledge that after the heads of the Defence Agreement were initialled, the Federal Government set up a Sub-Committee which struck out certain thorny issues, and as a result of which the British Government has indicated that it has lost interest in the first Defence Agreement. What has happened?

The Federal Government, rather than coming out to tell the truth to the nation, is trying to use the All Nigerian People's Conference to throw out the Defence Pact. There was an attempt—I was present myself at the time—by the Minister of State in charge of the Navy to get the All Nigerian People's Conference to pass a Resolution asking the Federal Government to abrogate the

[MR TARKA]

Defence Agreement. We would like a statement made in respect of what has become or what is going to become of this unwanted Defence Agreement. I do not want to spend a lot of time on this particular issue. I think there is a Motion going to be debated, calling upon the Federal Government to act in a manner which will restore public confidence in the Government on that particular issue.

Mr J. U. Odey (Ogoja East) : I support the Second Reading of the First Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Looking through the estimates for the Ministry of Communications, I find that the Ministry have not asked for additional funds to run their services. An answer to one of the Questions asked in this House a few days ago showed that the Minister lacks the funds to run some of the projects in the Five Year Development Plan. In that Plan I think there was an extension of two years to make up for some of the projects that could not readily be taken up. The two year period is coming to an end, and the answer to one of the Questions about telephone extension in a certain area showed that this project might be put off because the Government might be in need of funds to complete the work it had envisaged.

If such is the case, I would appeal to the Minister not to put off a particular project—that is the telephone service in Obudu, a place that has a permanent boundary with the Cameroons. There is no good road leading from Ogoja to that place, and if there happened to be a breakdown of law and order, and if this breakdown of law and order were to spread to that region it would be very difficult to let others know what is really taking place in the area. Therefore if the Minister contemplates postponing some of the projects until the next Development Plan, I suggest that he pays particular attention to this area.

Another point is in connection with the second-hand clothes mentioned in this House. The weight of opinion appears to be against the importation of second-hand clothes to this country. To me it seems rather late to do that—we could have done it earlier on. There are very many poor people in this country, many of them depend on these clothes and if

the supply is stopped very suddenly I think it will leave a very serious gap, and the public will not welcome that.

It is all very well saving our reputation abroad, but the world knows already that Nigeria is one of its young countries and that it is a poor one. Our Ministers go out to look for funds to set up one industry or the other. I think that to stop these second-hand clothes coming into the country is to do a disservice to our people. I think that if it becomes necessary to stop the importation of these clothes, it should be done gradually, for they have been of great help to many people in this country.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : I support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

The Nigerian Police Force is one of the most essential departments of the Government, if democracy and the rule of law will be allowed to prevail in this country. The recent happenings in Western Nigeria are a matter for regret. The Police Force is certainly meant to keep law and order but to-day hundreds of law-abiding citizens, because of their political beliefs, are now languishing in gaol in the Western Nigeria. Certainly, if the Police Force has been discharging its duties well, without fear or favour, many of the people now in gaol would not be sent for trial before those political stooges who are otherwise known as customary court judges in the Western Region.

The Western Nigeria Commissioner of Police once said that he was not aware of the mass arrests and conviction of opponents of the Action Group in the Western Region. But now that everybody knows what is happening, what action has he taken to check these arrests? This shows us that the attitude of our Police leaves much to be desired.

We of the N.P.C. are not expecting the break down of law and order in any part of the Federation but it is our belief that the Police has helped the wicked politicians of the West to achieve their aims. The Police should not be used for such a thing.

I would also like to suggest that *zebra crossings* be adopted in some of the major roads within the municipality of Lagos. This system would assist our Police in controlling

the traffic and at the same time lessen the rate of accidents in Lagos. I believe that the system, if adopted, would be very advantageous to the teeming masses of this country who are either resident in Lagos or go to Lagos on a visit.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs (Hon. E. T. Orodì): On point of explanation, we wondered very much when it was that animals were allowed in this House. We have an Opposition Member who is carrying a bird on his head now.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Parliamentary Secretary in raising his point of order spoke of "animals" in the first instance, and later on about "a bird." The hon. Member to whom he refers wears a hat which can very well be mistaken for a bird.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) : The Parliamentary Secretary seems to have lost his sight by crossing the Carpet.

Mr Ede : I was saying that a system of Zebra Crossing would be very advantageous to the people of this country. The people would be offered the opportunity to cross the roads with the minimum of difficulties, without having to spend all their time on the road-side gazing at the hundreds of vehicles using these roads. Many workers having stopped at the bus stops spend a considerable time before crossing to the other side of the roads where their offices are. They therefore arrive late at their offices. I am sure that *zebra crossings* would be very useful along the Azikiwe Street, Balogun Square and the Broad Street.

While supporting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill I should like to talk about the independence celebrations. The first anniversary of the attainment of independence is a unique occasion and every citizen of this country should live to enjoy this day. But it seems to me that the Government is trying to confine the celebrations to Lagos only whilst the teeming masses of this country, the electorates who are mostly farmers, will not have the feeling of such an important occasion. I therefore call on the Government to make a better provision, either directly or through the Regional Governments, in order to ensure that the celebrations are accorded the importance they deserve.

Finally, I would like to say something on the maintenance of law and order. This is a duty incumbent on all citizens, but if the Action Group wants to outlive this principle of humanitarian benevolence, I see no reason why our able Government should condone their irresponsibility.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : I do not think anybody should quarrel with the amount of £3 million provided for in this Bill or ask why this amount should be spent. However, I urge that it should be spent judiciously. We say this quite a number of times here and I feel that any Minister responsible for spending Government money should bear this in mind.

I should also like to turn my attention to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This Ministry is responsible for giving licences to trading firms either foreign or local.

M. Wada Nas (Kankara Kogo) : On a point of order. I think the hon. Member should try to speak the official language which is English.

Mr Speaker : I think he is.

Mr Tobun : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I was speaking on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and about their giving of licences to traders to import goods into the country ; these firms may be foreign or local. In a way, these licences are restricted, and what I am trying to put before the House is that these foreign traders, they may be British, Italian or other nationalities, leaving the local people aside, these foreign firms should be given equal treatment.

There are certain restrictions, no doubt which I am not quarrelling about, but here in Nigeria, we have certain people whom we are discriminating against. We also discriminate against the Embassies of certain nationalities and when I say that I mean the Russians. But I am not a communist.

An hon. Member : But you are a tribalist.

Mr Tobun : I am a Yoruba. I understand restrictions are placed on imports from these people. I do not know why. They have their Embassy here. The other people to whom we give licences for their goods to be imported into this country also have their Embassies here.

[MR TOBUN]

Why should we refuse to grant licences to the trading firms to import goods from some countries? I think common-sense should dictate that when a country has an Embassy here, that country should enjoy the same privilege and the same right as the other countries who also have Embassies here. What we do now is that we refuse licences to people who want to import goods into this country; probably it may be cheaper than those goods which we import from Japan or from Britain, we do not know. I think the Minister in charge of commerce and trade should look into this.

Nigeria is a neutral country and though we have our education and other things from Britain, we were under the British rule before we became independent and we are in the Commonwealth. I agree, but since we are independent and we have been grateful to Britain who brought us up, I think we cannot do more than that. A few days ago we read in the papers that about 500 people in a certain section of Britain tried to wage war, in a way, against our people in Britain and then we begin to discriminate against certain nationalities here because British people brought us up. We hear of what is happening with our people in Britain: very many of our people have died in Britain on several occasions.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member should not base his argument on newspaper reports

Mr Tobun: I was speaking on what I read from the newspaper and therefore we should not discriminate against the issue of licences to any nationality or any trading firm here. The Minister of Commerce and Industry should have a certain schedule within which he must work so that he must not discriminate against anybody.

I should like to speak on the Ministry of Lagos Affairs. This Ministry is very much remarkable. There is a particular thing about this Ministry and that is in connection with the L.E.D.B. The Minister appoints the members of the L.E.D.B. and since this section is within his port-folio, he should look into its affairs carefully. There are many things going wrong in this particular section, especially the section of the Tender Board. The members of the Board are very corrupt. I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to look into this section of his Ministry

An hon. Member: On a point of order. I think it improper for the Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) to bring to the Floor of this House the members of the L.E.D.B. when they have no opportunity to defend themselves.

Mr Speaker: He has not so far dealt with individual members of the L.E.D.B. He has only referred to the Board in general and he is criticising the activities of the Board which is quite in order, I think.

Mr Tobun: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I should like wind up because my time is up, but before I do so, I wish to speak about the fishing industry. The people of my constituency, (I come from Epe Division), the fishermen in Epe Division have made persistent complaints that people from Lagos here who are fishing with modern equipment like boats, *et cetera* destroy their nets. My people whom I referred to are Lekki and Solu Orunmija. They are complaining that their fishing nets are being destroyed by the fishermen from Lagos who are using modern fishing equipment.

Also, the Ports Authority make things difficult for them by taking a greater portion of the sea and these people do not go into the sea. I wish the Ports Authority and the fishermen from Lagos would give consideration to these people and that the Federal Government would do something about this.

Mr Speaker: Order, order! It is now 1 o'clock and, under the Standing Orders, I have to suspend the sitting until 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

M. Shekarau Omar (Katagum North East): I support the Second Reading of this Bill, but I will confine myself to the Economic Mission which was recently sent abroad by the Federal Government. While I appreciate the sending of Federal economic missions abroad, I am not at all happy with Regional economic missions because it shows to the outside world that Nigeria is not one country or rather that it is not united.

Although our constitution provides that each Region is responsible for its development in its area of jurisdiction, that does not warrant a Region to send economic missions of its own abroad. If the Regions want industries to

develop in their areas, let them draw up their plan and give it to the Federal Government to go and seek loans on their behalf.

Recently, a Federal Economic Mission was sent abroad together with representatives of each Region. This is good. They went as one country and with one national voice. Recently too all the four Governments of Nigeria had economic missions abroad, each had its own way and means of attracting foreign investors for its own Region. The Federal Economic Mission was busy asking the investors and industrialists to invest their money in Nigeria. The Eastern Economic Mission was telling investors to come to the Eastern Region where they would have greater prospects. The Northern Economic Mission was saying to investors and industrialists: "Invest your money in the Northern Region where it is most secure". The Western Economic Mission was also preaching the same thing.

Is this not competition between the four Governments of one country? I heard one Member saying that by sending different economic missions the Regions would have more prosperity. I do not accept this view at all because by sending abroad Regional economic missions we are doing more harm to Nigerian unity than good. I want the Regions to be prosperous and to have different kinds of industries, but this can be done through Federal economic missions. These numerous economic missions went to nearly the same countries and the same towns, each following the other. For example, when one of the missions leaves one country after concluding arrangements with investors and industrialists, another mission comes to that country and makes a different arrangement. A third one comes and the fourth one comes to the same place, and they are all from the same country! Is that not ridiculous?

Again, by sending these numerous economic missions abroad we are confusing the minds of investors because they would begin to wonder where they would invest their money safely, as each economic mission had told them to come to its own Region.

Let us stop sending Regional economic missions to the outside world. My suggestion is that whenever any kind of mission will be

sent overseas, it should be through the Federal Government. If it is necessary to amend the constitution for this purpose let it be amended. Let each of the Regions have its own representatives on a mission that is headed by the Federal Government so that Nigeria will face the outside world with one national voice and one national outlook.

I beg to support.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central): I am associating myself with the views of those speakers who praised the Government for their efforts to raise the standard of living in Nigeria. In this case I think it will not be flattery to praise the Minister of Finance for his efforts in trying to put Nigeria on the world map.

In supporting the Bill I must mention some aspects of it that have not been adequately dealt with. This is in connection with our trade with overseas countries. The position of our adverse balance of trade is shockingly distressing. If we turn to page 73 of the latest issue of the Nigerian Board of Trade Journal of April-June this year, we will find that all the countries with which Nigeria has trade relationship have favourable balance of trade with Nigeria. We buy goods from Hongkong down to Norway, but they do not buy from us. This is also applicable to our benevolent nation, the United Kingdom.

On the same page we can find that the United Kingdom exports her goods to this country to the tune of £91 million or more whereas she buys from us to the tune of £71 million pounds only. The difference between our imports from the United Kingdom and our exports to them is very wide and something must be done about it. If we take the case of Japan we will find that our imports from Japan are worth £27 million whereas our exports amount to only £2 million. I think this is a situation about which we must all be concerned. What we buy from these countries might have been good if they were capital goods, that is, plant and machinery with which we can industrialise our country. The unfortunate thing is that these goods are mainly consumer goods. We buy toys from Japan, stockfish from Norway, expensive and air-conditioned cars from the United States of America, and so on.

[MR MUOJEKE]

If we want to correct our adverse balance of trade the Government must take the lead. The Government must show us that they are doing something about rectifying the position of trade in this country. Most of us heard not long ago that the British Prime Minister went to the House of Commons in a taxi-cab. In this country, I doubt if any Minister of State or even any Member of Parliament can do such a thing. They cannot because they think it is derogatory.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): The question of going to Parliament in taxi-cab or in a car is irrelevant to this Bill.

Mr Speaker: They are not entirely irrelevant.

The Minister of Finance: You will find, Mr Speaker, that when the hon. Member for Enyong South, (*Mr Ekanem*), is not serious he looks downwards but when he wants to speak seriously he looks upwards.

Mr Muojeke: As I was saying, if we want to lead we must start by showing the man-in-the-street that both the Government and the Parliamentarians are quite conscious of the present position of trade, and are prepared to do something to improve it.

Another point is the question of tours. Tours in themselves are not bad. It is a way by which the existence of Nigeria can be felt in the world. There is nothing bad about them at all. But one thing I want to say is that whenever we go on a tour of the outside world we must leave behind us in the countries we visit good impressions. We can further enhance this by leaving behind propagandists, salesmen, businessmen who can educate the people of countries visited about Nigeria and her people and resources. Tours must be undertaken to cover the fields which will be to the best interests of this country.

If we want, for example, to advertise our products we can only go to those countries that are likely to buy those products from us. If we want to import political ideologies we can only go to those countries where we can learn something that will benefit us.

It is interesting to note that we are increasing our expenditure to maintain the Nigeria Police. This, in itself, is not bad. But if we remember

that despite the expenditure on the Police law and order still broke down in the Western Region, we are not happy. There is a competition which is not healthy between the Western Government and the Federal Government in the West. This competition is meant to show which of these two governments is stronger. Now they have created the post of Inspector-General of Police in the N.A. Police.

Mr S. G. Lar: The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) is discussing something which is a Regional matter.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please confine himself to relevant matters? The subject of Local Government Police does not come within the scope of the Bill.

Mr Muojeke: I was speaking in connection with the expenditure on the Police because the Police is a Federal subject. I must mention that it is high time the Government did something to protect our infant industries. Now we import orange squash, lemonade, gin and the rest of commodities which can be produced in this country. The best way in which we can protect our infant industries is by building tariff walls against imported goods. We must do something about it. The import of stockfish must be banned. A canning industry must be established in the country.

I beg to support the Bill.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West): I rise to—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr M. Amechi): On a point of order, the Standing Orders of this House allow Members to attend Parliament in civilian clothes, but the dress which the hon. Member for Pankshin West has on now is not a civilian one but a Gboko war dress.

Mr Speaker: Order, order! I am afraid, I am not qualified to judge which is civilian dress or military dress.

Mr J. M. Damla: The Federal Government has gone too far in developing the urban areas of the country, and we in the rural areas are suffering in consequence. I am sure that hon. Members who live in the rural areas will support me on this.

I appeal to the Minister of Communications, that it is now time that at least one post office was established in each constituency. The Federal Government should stand firm in developing urban and rural areas equally.

I want also to appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to tour Plateau Province. A lot of land is being wasted by the mining industry, and in due course it will come about that the farmers in that Province will have no land left for farming. Something should be done to see that this land, which is being spoiled for farming by mining activities, should be re-levelled so that it is suitable once again for farming.

The Minister should note also that in this Division one acre of land costs £32, whereas in my Division one acre costs only £4. I do not know why such a difference should exist in the cost of land in one place and the cost of the same amount of land in another. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : It is rather disgraceful the way hon. Members treat the ruling of the Chair. I expect more gentlemanly manners towards my rulings.

Mallam Inusa Tudun Wada : On a point of Order, Sir. I think the hon. Member is making too much use of his notes—which is against Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please make less reference to his notes ?

Mr Damla : I should like to refer also to the fact that the Ministry of Information is not doing much good work in the country. It is a fact that people outside this country cannot hear our news over the radio, and I think we should allow our publicity to extend to all foreign countries. Our people abroad are often heard to complain about this.

The Minister should also look into the activities of our newspapers, particularly the "Daily Times". Much of the content matter of our newspapers is false, and there should be some way of controlling this.

Another point is that at one time somebody said that we Nigerians would not like our Prime Minister to give the wrong impression to the outside world.

I would like the Prime Minister to warn the Minister of Information who is doing his work

on behalf of the Prime Minister. This Minister is always making comments on the Action Group—

Mr Abubaka Isandu (Jos North West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of information, I would like the hon. Member for Pankshin West to be specific because the Prime Minister is not an ordinary Member. We want to know the person who said that our Prime Minister was not representing the country well.

Mr Damla : I am very sorry for my hon. Friend the Member for Jos North West who lost his deposit during the Regional Elections. What I am saying is that we do not want the leaders of this country to put us to shame. Therefore we are telling them to be careful whenever they are overseas.

I would also like to appeal to the Minister in charge of Police affairs. It is his duty to see that the Police Force is discharging its duties well. We do not want the Nigeria Police to be victimising Opposition Members. It was a shameful thing to arrest Mr J. S. Tarka and the five other men without good cause. It was a malicious arrest. The Nigeria Police should not arrest only those in the Opposition parties. I would add that the Police has failed to find out the cause of the riot in Tiv Division.

It will be a good thing for the Prime Minister to warn the confused N.C.N.C. men about their ridiculous statements regarding law and order in the West. If he does not warn them these N.C.N.C. men will put this country into trouble.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

(*Mr Speaker, having recognised M. Salihu Abdul several hon. Members who had stood up in their places still remained standing.*)

Mr Speaker : Order. I know that Members are very anxious to speak but it is impossible for so many Members to speak at the same time. The Speaker is bound to recognise only one Member at a time. I will ask hon. Members to realise that there are over 300 of them, and it is rather depressing for the Speaker, after he has called upon a Member to speak, to find many Members still standing and wishing to speak !

I called upon M. Salihu Abdul to speak now.

M. Salihu Abdul (Igbirra): I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

In the first place, I would like to congratulate the Federal Government for not falling short of expectations in any respect, especially with regard to her services to the country despite the obstacles placed in her way by the wicked Action Group.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East): On point of order, Mr Speaker, may I refer you to the fact that the target of the Members on the Government Bench is always the Action Group and the Western Region. I think that if they get up to speak they should have their points ready and not make the Western Region their only target.

Mr Speaker: Order! I expect hon. Members to avoid provocative speeches that merely waste our time.

M. Salihu Abdul: A good number of industries have already been initiated by the Government all over the country. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Will Mr Ekanem please keep silent?

M. Salihu: As I said, a good number of industries have already been established all over the country, but when one thinks of the situation of unemployment throughout the country to-day, one will no doubt be forced to conclude that there is a lot yet to be done by the Government. The Government should see that industrial projects are spread evenly all over the country. There is no point in giving too much to some places while other places are completely neglected, under the pretext that such places are not considered suitable for any industry. Igbirra Division is completely neglected not only in this respect, but also in all other aspects which are supposed to come within the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Due to unemployment, coupled with lack of sufficient farm land in the Division, the population decreases by a reasonable degree every year. In Afenmai Division alone, that is in the Western Region, there are over 1,000 *Igbirras*. This was revealed in the last census,

which means that the figure might have increased considerably by now. In fact, my people are continually moving in good number to the Western Region in search of employment and farm land and I am sure Members will appreciate how unpleasant and difficult it is for a non-supporter of the wicked, notorious and treacherous Action Group to live in the Western Nigeria. I very much hope that the Government will view the situation with great concern and then do something to help the people of Igbirra.

It is quite gratifying to note that the Government is making all the necessary preparations to sign a trade agreement with the Communist countries. Free trade with all the countries in the world will not only promote trade relations with all the foreign countries concerned, but will also reduce the present adverse balance of trade. It is however, my humble suggestion that the trade agreement with the Communist countries should be on equal terms, the first initiative, if any, being given to the Western countries.

A certain hon. Member made a remark last Saturday about the academic qualifications of certain employees in the public service and he even went as far as to suggest that only people with degrees should be employed as such. I am taking this opportunity to remind the hon. Member that degrees alone are not by any means sufficient to determine the suitability of any person for any employment and the commonest proof of this is the case of Dr Chike Obi. Dr Obi is said to be one of the greatest mathematicians in the country to-day, but why was he kicked out of the N.C.N.C. and the Parliament? It was because he was found wanting in other essential qualities that determine the suitability of any person for anything.

The hon. Member should, therefore, tell his students that the appointment of employees to the public services are normally based on many factors of which academic qualifications is one and one only and, above all, the students should wait for their own chances.

Bearing in mind that this is a coalition Government which is pivoted on a delicate balance, I warn very strongly that we hon. Members should be very mindful of our speeches both inside and outside this Parliament.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu): I hope that it is not out of order, if I congratulate the Speaker for his impartiality, balanced sense of judgment and integrity. I say this because under whatever kind of atmosphere, you, Mr Speaker, have always been able to calm the occasional storms of our debates and have demonstrated to us here your extremely balanced sense of judgment in considering various issues.

I wish also to commend the Government under the able leadership of the Prime Minister not only for the Government's economic activity, nor merely on account of the peace and tranquillity prevailing under the Federal Government's economic programme, but also at the same time for the measures taken by the Federal Government to invite capital and investment into this country. There is no doubt that the Prime Minister is a man of cool headedness, one above sentiments and full of sagacity.

I am sure that we do not want the type of things happening in the Congo to take place here in Nigeria. Why I say so is that when there is peace and quiet the people themselves will have liberty. I would also like to add that we give our commendation and thanks to Sir Abubakar for his ingenuity in trying to see that peace and order reign supreme in this country.

I suggest that in view of the relics of disorder and antipathy in certain parts of this country, the Prime Minister should call a conference of the Premiers of the Regions, summon the Inspector-General of Police and all the instruments of law and order and see that disorder and persecution are stamped out in those areas where they are rampant.

On the Government's economic measures, I would like to say that their industrialisation policy is commendable. The Niger Dam, the River Niger Bridge construction and the Government's intention to establish more industries to consume Enugu Coal in order to alleviate the sufferings of 4,000 workers who had gone out of employment are praiseworthy.

I have to commend also the Economic Mission which went overseas under the leadership of our indefatigable Finance Minister. Many of us may not be able to assess the

impact of that Mission, but I think we live to assess their potentialities and their successes. I say this because since their return, I have received two letters from abroad and they are all commendable. It was all good testimony to the activities of this Economic Mission abroad and we will have to reap the benefit. (*Interruptions*).

I do not want interruptions because if I speak of those who are destroying this country the people concerned will hear and hear it well. So, I want to talk, please.

I thank the Government for the reconstruction of the Police quarters at Enugu. There is no doubt that in some parts of this country, Police buildings are not very satisfactory and for a long time now at Enugu, which is the capital of the Eastern Region, the housing of the police has not been adequate. Recently I have noticed that a very big building construction is going on in the Police Station at Enugu and I thank the Government for listening to public opinion on this. After all those who maintain peace and order should live in good houses. Indeed a look at some police stations in other areas of the country will reveal that the quarters of the Police are not very good. But at the moment, I think the Government is carrying on a very good programme. I only want dynamism to be infused into that programme.

Another point is the question of controlling the importation of articles so that prices of these articles will not soar higher and still higher. Our workers survive on a minimum living standard which is not satisfactory as yet. A great deal is being done to improve this, particularly in the sphere of workers' housing and the control of rents. The Government is doing all these things, but we want the control of imported articles especially the prices of articles and other stable commodities. We want the Government to do something to control their prices so that the workers will not always clamour for increased wages but will draw consolation from the fact that their real incomes have been improved considerably by way of amenities.

We want the Government nevertheless to look into the question of a minimum wage standard. It is true that we are an infant country just having achieved independence but I am suggesting to our Government to consider the introduction of a minimum wage. I know

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

that it may not be practicable at the moment but if they look into the possibility of having the minimum wage, I think the workers will be very grateful.

I will now turn to Defence. We want the strength of our army to be doubled. At least we should be providing for ten fighter aircraft a year; we should be able to boast of a few more warships every year. The present international political tension is fraught with uncertainties and we may not be able to forecast what will be the future with reference to war. It is therefore not very good if Nigeria is taken unawares, and for that reason it is wise for our Government to budget for very substantial sums of money for our defence. At least we ought to be able to provide for the best available conventional weapons of war. I do not refer to rockets; we should at least be able to purchase fighter aircraft so that countries around us will not only fear our size and population, they should also fear our military strength.

Not that we should employ such weapons in dominating others; we need these things as a safeguard in case of eventualities.

I want to appeal to the Government on the question of regionalisation and tribalism. This is where we wish the Prime Minister to do all he can to reduce the spirit of regionalism or tribalism in this country. I believe that this country is working towards unity, and we want to have that sense of unity so that Nigeria will speak with one voice. If we begin now to go that way, it will be in the best interests of this country. That is why I appeal to the Prime Minister to take the initiative.

I know that the Prime Minister is a very busy man and that it is not an easy matter to be at the head of a country's affairs. Some of us who have seen him at work, know very well that he is doing his work creditably well and on this question of tribalism particularly, we want him to take a real dynamic action to see that all the tentacles and anomalies that may militate against anybody anywhere in this country are eradicated.

Finally, I have nothing but commendation for the Government. I will say so because if you look round throughout Africa only Nigeria is being spoken of as a place where the rule

of law goes on, minus the Western Region. I want to emphasise particularly Nigeria as a whole, because we speak as one voice outside. Our internal squabbles must be killed but outside we want to speak with one voice.

I have seen some international experts who came to this country. They said they have toured the whole of Africa but that Nigeria is the only place where there is some sense of law and order and that we are ruled in the parliamentary system and that the rule of law is being adhered to. I say this not for any other person but for the Prime Minister because it is only in the Federal Government particularly that this rule of law is adhered to strictly.

There are some places where the Opposition cannot talk, where the Opposition cannot oppose, and it is only the Federal Government under the leadership of Sir Abubakar that this assurance has been given. I want others to emulate now.

There is yet time for anybody to have a change of heart. The days of any persecutor, any prosecutor and anybody who oppresses are numbered. All they have to do is to have a change of heart. I wish to thank the Prime Minister.

M. Saidu Zango (Zaria Central): I support the Second Reading of the Bill, I am appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to prohibit the import into this country of inferior quality linen textiles from Japan and other foreign countries, as the importation and distribution of such goods tend to undermine the economy and prestige of our country.

Nigerians require the best quality and not the inferior kind of goods brought in large quantities for them to spend their good money to purchasing. Our national dress requires varieties and it takes twelve to fifteen yards of cloth to complete each one. Inferior linen cloth can only be used for a fortnight because it shrinks and fades very quickly before or after it is sent to laundry. The superior kind of linen on the other hand endures for one year or more. Every Member here will agree with me that the whole country is filled with the inferior type of linen goods which do not stabilise our economy.

I have to express on behalf of the people of Zaria Central, their sincere thanks to the Minister of Communications for paying heed to their humble request by the undertaking of the extension of the present inadequate Post Office building now under construction. I desire also to appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to listen to the prayers of the people of my constituency (Zaria Central) for the expansion of the Zaria Police Office not before long. May I also plead with the Minister of Defence to improve the housing of soldiers who share rooms in Zaria. Lastly, I am appealing to the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs for the increase of the hardship allowances paid to our ex-servicemen from 25s-0d a month to £5-0s-0d a month.

I beg to support.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): I rise to speak on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1961-62 which the hon. Minister of Finance had proposed at the behest of His Excellency the Governor-General. As a lot of grounds have already been covered by hon. Members from all sides of the House on various Ministries, it will be proper to speak on other items of the Bill so that I may not repeat anything said by former speakers.

The Minister of Finance during his report of the Economic Mission, stated :

"I now wish to refer to the work of the Economic Mission which has just returned to Nigeria. As Members will recall, the Mission left Nigeria on the 28th of May, 1961 and travelled right round the world....." (Column 2244, *Official Report*, 25-8-61).

I quote again from the same Minister of Finance's speech :

"The second stage of the Mission leaves Nigeria on the 24th September and will visit Western Germany, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Israel, Lebanon and the United Arab Republic". (Col. 2246, *Official Report*, 25/8/61).

May I now humbly ask, through you, Mr Speaker, the need for another mission since they have travelled right round the world already? To me, it may mean going outside the world to the moon or to the sun, thus

imitating the Russian and American spacemen. That is by way of explanation so far as the Supplementary Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance is concerned. If he had travelled round the whole world there is no need for him to go again. But if he can explain that he has made a slip we do not mind if he wants to go again.

I now wish to congratulate the Minister of Education for the recent publication of over 500 scholarships awarded both locally and overseas. This is about the highest ever awarded in this country. But whilst almost all the fields of learning are contained in these awards, I notice one important field of learning not included, and that is geology. The exclusion of this important field of learning should be urgently reviewed by the Minister as it is very primary in regard to our economic development and present day pursuit. There are so many treasures in this our God-given land we cannot now look upon expatriate geologists to locate them for us as before. We have heard enough of "it is not there" or "it is there but not in commercial quantities". A hint to the wise is enough about that.

Again, I would like to suggest that the time has now come for our honourable and respected Minister of Education to have in his Ministry school doctors and nurses. The Ministry can start with one or two doctors and their duties will be to go round schools, say one or two schools a day as may be practicable, looking after the welfare of school children, checking their health and looking into some kinds of children's diseases which school masters have no knowledge of. These qualified doctors will be able to examine them and send them, where necessary to appropriate hospitals and other places for cure. I implore the Minister to look into this and start the experiment in the Federal capital schools.

I now come to the Ministry of Establishments and I refer the Speaker to the speech of the Minister of Finance in the *Hansard* of last Friday. He said :

"Under Head 605 provision of £400,000 is made for a further injection of capital into the African Staff Housing Scheme whose present funds are quite inadequate to meet present needs." (Col. 2241, *Official Report* 25th August, 1961.

[MR ODULANA]

The African Staff Housing Scheme is meant mainly to ease housing congestion, especially for Government servants. But what do we get from it all? African staff who have been benefited under the scheme in the past did not wish to vacate Government quarters and most of them are actively engaged in direct trade with the houses they built with Government funds. In these Government quarters where they live they pay very little rent and they pay very little interest on the money they get from the Government on loan, but they hire the houses built with Government money to firms and other agencies for huge sums of money as rent. The Minister is advised to take drastic steps against this sort of ungrateful, selfish practice by those concerned as there is a lot of discontent and grumbling from the general public and other officials in this country.

Turning again to the hon. the Minister of Finance's speech relating to the Development Fund, he said that the House should vote about £100,000 which is needed for the L.E.D.B. to enable them to continue the Central Lagos Slum Clearance scheme. This loan is going to be free of interest. But, Sir, between the last Budget Meeting and this one, the Government declared its intention, shortly after the L.E.D.B. land scandal, to reorganise the Board. Up till now no indication has been given about this reorganisation and principally for which the most senior Nigerian employee of the Board in the administration was removed. At that time there was strong public feeling that this senior official in question was removed because of allegations made by an hon. Member of this House.

Mr Speaker : I think these details should be left for the Committee, otherwise we shall be consuming a lot of time on one particular point.

Chief Odulana : I agree with you, Mr Speaker, but my contention is that under this item £100,000 is to be voted and before I can support it I must give my reasons; and if I am not going to support it I think it is my duty to give my reasons.

The Government declared that they were going to make certain investigations about a certain Department which they have not made and now it is put in the Estimates that they are going to vote £100,000. It is necessary to ask the Government the reason for this. The

Government cannot make the necessary investigation, the Board itself has made an investigation and cleared the official in particular and the official himself made a statement similar to that of the Board in the Press. Now you want the Members of this House to agree that £100,000 is going to be used for this.

I am raising this point because the slum clearance scheme for which this money is to be voted was greatly assisted by this senior official who was removed. This official was then working with an expatriate head and you will realise that during the initial stage of this slum clearance scheme there was a lot of hue and cry in the country that the Government wanted to deprive Lagos indigenes of their houses and land and what not.

This senior person who is a lawyer helped the Government in this disreputable dealing. As a lawyer and at the same time a man with wide experience in administration it is surprising that he can do this sort of thing. What do you see? Just because one Member of this House came here and gave wrong information which was later cleared by the Board, the Officer was removed and he could not be recalled.

This particular Member is in the House now. I want to tell him that it is his duty to apologise to this House and also to the senior officer whose appointment was terminated. As a lawyer he is expected to know better. When he was making this wrong statement he was on my left in the House, but now that he has been kicked out by the N.P.C., because of his disloyalty, he is no longer where he used to sit. He has been transferred to the other side. I do not think it is proper for a Nigerian to be treated as that senior officer was treated in this country.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member for Ijebu South is going too far. I am not saying that he should not discuss expenditure but the proper time to do so is when we come to the appropriate Head and Item, the expenditure of the sum of £100,000 he is talking about.

Chief Odulana : I agree with you, Mr Speaker, that I still have time to raise this point but I think I am making a very grave statement in favour of this officer who has got no opportunity to defend himself on the Floor of this House.

I would like to mention that the Minister of Transport has done well by allocating the sum of £500,000 for the services of the Nigerian Ports Authority. I have to congratulate him for trying to put the Nigerian Shipping Lines on its own feet.

In the Ports Authority we have a new Chairman, Mr Ohikere, and a new General Manager, Mr Wallace. Mr Wallace is a man with wide experience and these two men, I have no doubt, can raise the standard of work of the Ports Authority. I beg to support.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. The Federal Minister of Finance is such a successful Minister that both the Government and the Opposition find it impossible to pick holes in his programme. The Federal Government, as we are well aware, has made the climate of Nigeria conducive to investments from people abroad. This has been responsible for the large sums of money flowing into Nigeria from sources outside Africa.

I must, first of all, deal with the Economic Mission that went abroad recently. One great disadvantage we have had in this country for a long time is that while our boys and girls in schools study everything about other countries of the world, they had not been studying much about Nigeria itself. The recent Economic Mission undertaken by the Federal Government is placing Nigeria on the map. Every country in the world now realises the importance of this country. I will also advise that in addition to having Economic Missions, this Government should also send out missions in athletics, music, drama, soccer and so on, so that our boys and girls can play, dance in England, America, Asia and many other places. This will enable other countries that do not know Nigeria very well to understand Nigerians and also those that wish to trade with us will pour their money into Nigeria.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Many people have spoken about our adverse balance of trade. I do not believe that certain facts and figures quoted from the Trade Journal are correct. If one looks around in Nigeria one will find various industries that have been established. There is the steel rolling mill at Enugu, the cement industry

near Lagos, and many other industries in many parts of the Federation. It is obvious that the machinery for these industries was imported from overseas. Our adverse balance of trade could be distressing if our imports had been mainly made up of consumer goods, as against capital goods. At the moment, therefore, I have no reason to quarrel with the Government because we are getting the machinery and we are establishing industries here and there in the Regions and in Lagos. When these investments begin to bear fruit we shall offset the present adverse balance of trade.

In the present circumstances, I can only appeal to the Regional Governments and, particularly, the Federal Government, to see to it that the siting of the industries that are being negotiated is not done in discriminately. There should be a co-ordination by the Federal Government so that the industries are sited in places where there are raw materials to feed the factories, and where climate is favourable, and fuel, power, roads and markets are available.

Very many speakers have quarrelled with the economic missions by the Regional Governments abroad. As long as our Constitution is plain on this, there is no reason to quarrel with any Government that undertakes economic tours. For instance, you are aware of the recent economic mission undertaken by the Premier of the Eastern Region, and we know for certain that industries worth up to £10 million have been attracted to Nigeria because of these tours. We do not quarrel with the Eastern Government for doing that. There have been many fruitful results of various economic missions.

There is also one important economic mission that went away from Nigeria a year ago, and which brought to Nigeria a new source of income. There were labourers in Fernando Po who were being paid about 30s a month, and who are now being paid about £4-10s-0d a month. Much of this money is being retained in Nigeria, and I suggest that the Government should continue to undertake such missions annually.

I would like to refer to the decision of the Federal Government to send one of our most senior military experts to the United Kingdom.

[MR ENEH]

Lieutenant Col. Agui-Ironsi. What is he doing there? Immediately Lieutenant Col. Agui-Ironsi travelled to London another lieutenant-colonel was posted from London to take his place in Nigeria. One would have expected that when he went to England a Nigerian should have been appointed to the post he vacated. That is the point, the major point. What is the use of his being in England? What is he doing?

One is told that he advises the High Commissioner for Nigeria, but this is silly. The position here is very, very bad indeed. He is taking care of young men who are being sent from here to England to do a course, and whilst Ministers are in England he takes them to places where there are officers in training. Those surely are not the duties of a competent soldier who is well qualified. The work he is doing is the work that was being undertaken previously by a retired colonel in the British Army. I would like the Government to recall this gentleman to his former Division, and to make arrangements for a retired Army lieutenant colonel or Army major to advise our Commissioner overseas.

I would like to ask the Government whether it is correct that the Police Department is buying second-hand lorries from private individuals. If that is correct I think that Government should not allow police officers—well-placed officials in high positions—to start negotiations for second-hand lorries from transporters in Nigeria. This type of thing kills our economy and it does not help this Government at all.

While our Minister was in Japan, the Japanese Government referred to the fact that they did not like their products to be delayed in Nigeria. This brings me to one aspect of the Nigerian Civil Service. It takes a very long time to handle matters in the country's public service. Files are passed from one man to another, and it takes about 20 days for one file to change hands, and this state of affairs has continued all along the line, to our shipping business, and to the warehouses. We want to ask the Minister of Finance to do his utmost to see that there is more efficiency and speed in our Civil Service.

Finally, I should be failing in my duty if I did not give praise to the Government for the programmes which it has put forward, and I hope that the tranquillity prevailing in this country will continue.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Speaker, I should like to reply to some of the important points made by hon. Members, but I want to assure the House that I have no intention of closing the debate. Members can speak after I have spoken and make further points; if they do bring in any new points, naturally at the Committee stage I shall try to reply.

I would like to begin by replying to my hon. Friend, Mr Damla. He spoke about conditions in the rural areas, whilst forgetting naturally that most of the points he made were matters for Regional Governments and not for the Federal Government. If he wants us to control the rural areas or do anything at all, I should recommend to my hon. Colleagues and the Prime Minister that the only duty we have to do there is to assist my hon. Friend to remove his rural cap, his rural *agbada*, his rural shoes and his rural language.

The Deputy Speaker : Order! There are too many interruptions.

The Minister of Finance : My hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) spoke on several things but being a very clever businessman he ended with a note to satisfy his own pocket. As a contractor for the Ports Authority he realises what would happen to him if he were to attack the new Chairman and the new General Manager. So, he came to the Floor of this House to make us believe that he loved them very much and that they were the most efficient people.

Chief Odulana rose on a point of explanation—

The Deputy Speaker : Order! Does the Minister yield to a point of explanation?

The Minister of Finance : I do not yield, Sir. The hon. Member for Ijebu South also made so much fuss about the provision of £100,000 for the L.E.D.B. to clear the slum areas of Lagos and tried to oppose it by saying that we should not give this money to the people who are there at the moment. I really cannot follow his argument and I am sure that

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my hon. Friend, the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*), and other Members will not agree with him in his views.

Chief A. F. Odulana : On a point of order, Sir. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance that I am not a contractor for the Nigerian Ports Authority and at the same time to say that I did not ask that the £100,000 should not be given to the L.E.D.B.

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! In rising on a point of order, the hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*), seems to be trying cleverly to get away with a point of explanation.

The Minister of Finance : Now, the Federal Government believes in doing the right thing for the people no matter whose ox is gored. Therefore, it is only necessary that we should give out this money to continue the good work that the Federal Government has undertaken in Lagos through the agency of the L.E.D.B.

The hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), asked for a statement on Government policy on investment. This is, of course, a subject with which my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, is closely associated and one on which he is better qualified to speak. However, hon. Members will remember that in the policy statement on finance, the ten-point plan which I laid before this House in April 1960, I made it abundantly clear that it was the policy of our Government to encourage the growth of industry. We have also made it clear that, as a Government, we welcome private enterprises and take no rigid view of the degree of local participation. Nevertheless, if private investment is to flourish and the rate of the industrial organisation is to be accelerated the Government must lend a helping hand. And that is exactly what we are doing.

It is impossible for Nigerians to participate in big projects, and where such a possibility is absent the Government should invest public money as long as the company is well established and is bound to be profitable. As soon as it is possible for Nigerians to buy these shares from the Government they should be allowed to do so.

It was for this reason, for example, that the Federal Government took a leading part in financing the Cement Factory in Nkalagu.

There is also a Metal Industry and it is desirable that it should be given a national flavour. This is one of the reasons why the Federal Government is investing in the Sugar Industry.

Naturally, the fact that the Government does invest directly in these projects does not mean that this Government objects to investment by Nigerian individuals. As a matter of fact, the contrary is the case. I have made it exceedingly clear that it is our intention, as a Government, to ensure that the ownership of industry is placed as far as is possible in the hands of Nigerians. That is why we are giving support to the Lagos Stock Exchange which I had the pleasure of opening a few days ago. That indeed is why we have welcome the various local share issues which have been made in recent times ; that also explains why it is our policy, whenever the opportunity occurs, to enable Nigerians to take over Government's share holdings by the purchase of shares. We will continue to pursue this policy but the fact must be recognised that at the moment there is a shortage of Nigerian private capital. Therefore, inevitably, for major industrial projects, Nigerian participation must take an official or a semi-official form through the agency of Shareholding by the Government or Development Corporations.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Egba East, the self-made Shadow Minister of Finance, has therefore not said anything new, excepting that he wants to plead ignorant of the fact that the policy of the Government, as laid down, is not one that meets with his views.

Now, I would like to touch in passing a very delicate matter raised by the same hon. Member. He wondered whether the increase on the Vote for Commissions of Enquiry was to enable us to finance the National Bank Enquiry. This matter at the moment is *sub judice* and I think that the Member for Egba East as a legal practitioner, should realise that it is against the Standing Orders of this House to raise that matter. But I would like to say that this Government has a responsibility to safeguard money which belongs to the public of Nigeria by introducing a sound banking policy. And no amount of weeping, no amount of motions filed here, there and yonder, is going to deter this Government from instituting any enquiry. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order, there are too many interruptions rather more intensely from the left. Would the House please listen to the debate in silence ?

The Minister of Finance : I just want to say that we have a responsibility and that responsibility will be discharged. It is no use putting off an evil day. And if people have nothing to hide they should be prepared to face the music.

Both my friends on the Opposition and on the Government Benches have spoken of the Economic Mission. I want to get some facts straight. Some Members have stated that the Mission consisted of 40 members. This was not so. There were only 24 members in the delegation. It should be remembered that this Mission was asked to go out to project the unity of Nigeria, by including Ministers and reasonable officials from the three Regional Governments.

The Mission went out not just at the discretion of the Federal Government, but as a result of requests made by Regional Governments that after attaining independence, Nigeria should go out with the delegates of all Nigerian Governments on an Economic Mission. All reasonable people will agree that to select Ministers with their secretaries from three Regional Governments and the Federal Government is not an easy task. Therefore, in view of the importance and size of our country and the need to have people from the Regional Governments in the delegation, Members will agree that 24 was not a number that could be considered extravagant.

I want at this stage to say that whenever we are criticising others, we must be careful about what we are doing. The Minister of Trade and Industry from the Western Region, hon. Chief Adeyi, went with us. He co-operated with us ; we worked well together. But since our return, what has happened ? He has now gone back to Europe touring the very places mentioned by the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*). He took with him 15 farmers from the Western Region and he is going to be followed by hon. Chief Akin Deko with 33 farmers from the Western Region. (*Interruption*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order ! It is really unfortunate that I have to call for order ever so frequently. Many Members are still anxious to put in a word ; and the more we go on like this, the more impossible it becomes. If you listened in silence, I am sure the Minister of Finance would have finished by now.

The Minister of Finance : Fifty people from the Western Region, the smallest Region in the Federation, are going out to study agriculture.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : I do not think it is necessary to emphasise that. The Members of the Opposition of this House do not represent the Western Regional Government. Views expressed by us are expressed by the Action Group party.

The Minister of Finance : I am grateful to the Member for Egba South, (*Chief Olu-gbade*). He should realise that the Opposition represent a political party that is in power in one Region and, therefore, whenever they are criticising other people, they must realise that the members of the public will ask a question about what their own Government is doing in the Western Region.

These 50 members of the two simultaneous delegations are an example of the type of squandermania that all reasonable people must detest in this country. I must say, Sir, that our Economic Mission did excellent work. The Mission, I repeat, has done excellent work for the country and within a reasonable period of time the people of this country will realise what investment possibilities, what industrial possibilities and what other forms of economic possibilities have been arranged by this Mission for the benefit of our people, for the purpose of raising the standard of living of our people.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Egba East, (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), also mentioned the question of imbalance of trade, and other Members also spoke about this. I mentioned in my speech that the Government is not in favour of this and that we had taken certain measures which we thought would clamp down on the importation of certain luxurious goods.

One hon. Member suggested that all cars costing over £1,200 should be sur-taxed or should be seriously taxed. I am sure that the

day this Government takes a decision to impose extra tax on such cars, the hon. Member for Egba East will be the first person to shout at the house-tops that the Government has come again. It is the policy of Government that this type of luxury goods must be taxed properly. Despite the fact that we have imposed this type of tax on luxury goods, their import has increased during the last few months. What else are we supposed to do ?

Finally, I would like to thank hon. Members for their contributions to this debate. As one hon. Member said, the criticisms, in my mind, are fair enough. It shows that our financial policy is really sound. There is really nothing new in these criticisms; they are the usual familiar criticisms, and I am in a way used to them. There is however one assurance which I wish to give hon. Members about imbalance of trade.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry has already taken steps for the establishment of industries in this country which will produce goods for our people's consumption so that they may stop the importation of these luxury goods as much as possible. I think that in this task we also require the co-operation of everybody. If we produce cigarettes in Nigeria, our people do not content themselves with the smoking of cigarettes produced in this country, but will take to the smoking of Craven 'A', like my hon. Friend the Member for Ishan East (Chief Enahoro). During the groundnut season. during the seasons when our farmers sell their goods in this country, people leave the local markets and go into the Kingsway Stores to buy their groundnuts, and other goods! My colleagues know this very well.

Let us try to tell our people to try and patronise the local producers in whatever they produce here in Nigeria. We should all be prepared to make sacrifices; even if the goods we have locally are not good enough, let us take them.

The Deputy Speaker : I do not know for how much longer the hon. Minister of Finance intends to carry on, but he has only two minutes more.

The Minister of Finance : Sir, all I am trying to say is that the time has come for us to be able to carry our national interest to our economy, that whatever is produced in Nigeria

should appeal to us more than things produced in Japan. I think that is something that will help us; that is the type of thing that we wish to see in this country. We are looking forward to seeing motor cars, bicycles and even aeroplanes being manufactured in Nigeria for Nigerians to buy.

M. Mohammadu Koro, Madakin Pategi (Lafaji Pategi) : I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I would like to congratulate the Federal Government for their efforts and also the Minister of Finance in particular and other hon. Members of the Cabinet for their foresight in planning a sound development of our country. I know that the other side may say "If we were there, we would do better". That is of course easy to say, but it is very difficult to do. Without exaggerating, the progress of this country as from the 1st of October up to the present day warrants commendation.

I know that all I had wished to say has been said by some Members but I want to mention one or two more points.

First, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his hard work. I know that few amenities such as water supplies, electricity and radio sets have been provided for Members at the Victoria Island Flats, but I would like to suggest that it would be good and very useful to provide first-aid boxes in the Flats which will reduce the number of Members and their families attending the hospitals.

Turning to the Minister of Internal Affairs, I would like to point out the importance of Police duties. The amount allocated to the Head, one may say, is inadequate. The security of this country lies on the shoulders of the Police. If they are to do their work with justice, without fear or favour, without partiality, without discrimination and without playing politics (for it is the responsibility of the Police to preserve law and order), they should be paid well. I shall not mention why Law and order is breaking down; that is comprehensive especially on what is going on now in a Region.

Speaking on the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, I would suggest to the Minister that the dredging of the River Niger be speeded up. In general, the Ministry is performing its duties very well but I have to make this suggestion.

[M. MOHAMMADU KORO]

Recently, one Nigerian warship the *Lokoja* proposed to sail up country as far as Jebba and other places including Pategi, my hometown, but unfortunately it stopped at Baro where only a few school children could see it because the River Niger was not navigable further on. This was a great disappointment to the chiefs, school children and the crowd of people who wanted to see the newly built Nigerian warship.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry for the... His co-operation and also grants-in-aid towards the success of the experiment in the sugar cane industry at Batita in my constituency in Lafaji Pategi Division are worth mentioning. On behalf of the people of my constituency I have to thank the Government of the Federation for this.

I shall not speak much on post offices as I have been harping on this point before. I would only say that it is high time that the Regional headquarters or any suitable area were provided with telecommunication facilities and here I would like to mention my constituency Pategi in particular. The postal agency there is almost twelve years old. I checked the number of units according to the regulations and I found that the number of units obtained there is reasonable enough and that it is overdue for Pategi to have a Post Office.

If we have this Post Office there it will be possible to erect postal agencies at Shonga. I am glad that as a result of my repeated pleas the postal agencies at Sharaga in Lafaji and Pategi Division has been opened recently. Also I got a reply from the Ministry of Communications regarding post offices and telecommunications stating that they are now dealing with the future Five-Year Development Plan. I will be pleased and grateful if my constituency and other Divisional Headquarters are included in the next Five-Year Plan for post office and telecommunication development.

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

Mr T. I. Etukudo (Eket West): In contributing to this debate I want to take the opportunity to remark that I am not impressed by the way the business of this House is handled because everything seems to be done in a rush.

This does not afford a good number of Members the chance to study the Bills and to take part in the debate intelligently.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! I think the point on which you are speaking was exhaustively dealt with this morning and it will make things much easier if you go direct to the financial and economic policies of the Government.

Mr Etukudo: We all know that we owe this country some duties which should be adequately performed each time this House assembles. However, the public in general is now left with a disgruntled feeling that the poor taxpayers' money is not well spent. The debate on the Appropriation Bill is the most important aspect of the duty of all legislators. Every Member is expected to scrutinise it and to give praise where it is due and to criticise, not with malice, where some loopholes are seen.

I cannot help however accusing this coalition Government of wickedness and squandermania. On the 23rd of July a special meeting was summoned for only one day—

The Deputy Speaker: Order! I have the impression that the hon. Member is still persisting in the line of argument which I have endeavoured to dissuade him from. I would remind him again to go direct to the more immediate problem. (*Interruptions*). Order, order! I appeal to hon. Members to assist in seeing that rulings of the Chair are obeyed. It does not go down well to see an hon. Member sitting down and inciting another hon. Member to persist in some line of debate which has been discouraged by the Chair. Mr Etukudo.

Mr Etukudo: While I appreciate the idea of economic missions in order to encourage foreign investors, and although the Minister of Finance has said that the number of people on the delegation was only 24, I still feel that that number was too large. The Premier of the Eastern Region with one or two delegates went abroad and came back with investment worth £10 million. In my opinion, the proposal that another economic mission should leave in September should not be implemented.

We have so far done enough to attract foreign investors. We should pay more attention to indigenous businessmen. After we

have won our political freedom we should endeavour to gain economic freedom as well. In fact we seem to attach ourselves very much to the apron strings of the Western Bloc rather than look all over the world. I understand that the Russian envoy, who has since arrived in this country, has not yet been provided with quarters. We seem to have a special malice against the Communist Bloc.

I quite remember that sometime last month I had a letter from one businessman here in Lagos complaining that he received unfair treatment from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. His application was simply turned down because the order was from Russia. If it were from Britain or any other part of the Western Bloc I think the application would have been accepted. It really baffles me why such restrictions should not be lifted.

There are many allegations within the Federal capital that some big firms have built mansions that are well furnished for some Ministers as compensation for contracts awarded and some other favours done them. This is a serious allegation and I call upon the Prime Minister to investigate these corrupt practices. If it is true it means that corruption begins from the highest people in the community.

Some months ago, import duty was to be increased and the information leaked. The result was that some big firms like the U.A.C. had to clear their goods quickly before the effective date. When the increased duty on goods started to operate these firms also increased the prices of goods which were cleared before the new duty was imposed. The price for a 112 lb bag of flour which hitherto cost £3 is now £4 to £5 in Aba. I suggest that the Government should investigate these things and save the people from exploitation by avaricious people.

In this country now poverty in the rural areas, burden of high taxation and the exploitation from retail traders are the greatest things that worry the people. I feel that Government should look into these things.

The Federal Government should negotiate with the Regional Governments to increase the price of palm produce. The aim is to stimulate the palm produce production. It is obvious that palm produce is almost the most important economic crop in this country.

Increased prices for palm produce means that more people in the villages will be encouraged to cut more fruits and sell them.

Finally, I would like to make it clear that financial matters should concern every Member of this House. They are such that in dealing with them party-politics should not be carried to extreme. Nigeria expects everybody to do his duty to improve the economy. Unfortunately, there are so many Members of the N.C.N.C. who say one thing when they come into this House but say another when they go out. We in the Opposition are not prepared to mortgage our conscience to anybody. I can appreciate the predicament of the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*), because of the "undated letter" and so on, when he votes against his wish. We in the Opposition do things which we feel to be correct. We are not bound by any letter.

I beg to support.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): I support this Bill. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order! The volume of interruptions is increasing and the Official Reporters cannot hear clearly.

Mr Okay: I will start with the importation of second-hand clothing. I was surprised to hear the other day when the Minister of Commerce and Industry was condemning the way in which second-hand clothing are being imported from overseas into this country. But it is this very Minister of Commerce and Industry who issues licences for the importation of these goods. These goods are imported from abroad and customs duties are paid on them; they are not duty-free goods.

I also found that the Minister of Finance has introduced an obnoxious measure into the Customs and Excise whereby the imported second-hand clothings are seized from the importers. This is not good because this country is a large one. If second-hand clothing is required in some parts of the country, those who do not want them should not condemn them, nor should any one say that the second-hand clothing should be banned from being imported into this country. I can only say in this respect that one man's meat may be another's poison,

[MR OKAY]

The Minister should nullify that obnoxious measure which was introduced whereby second-hand clothings are seized and sold by public auction. If one goes to Port Harcourt wharf one finds over fifty thousand bales of second-hand clothing which were seized from the importers and one can imagine how much these are worth in cash. It is more than half a million pounds in value. These goods are seized from indigenous importers in this country. It is a very serious thing and I would like the Minister to abrogate forthwith this obnoxious measure which he has introduced in the Customs and Excise Department whereby goods are seized from the owners and sold by public auction.

A Member asked why these goods are seized. A measure was introduced by the Minister of Finance that in the event of these goods being examined by the Customs Officers and found to contain even a shirt of new clothing, the whole bale is liable for confiscation. Why should the Minister introduce a measure that if a shirt is found in one bale instead of confiscating that shirt, the whole bale should be seized altogether?

Most importers of second-hand clothing, mostly in Port Harcourt, Aba and Onitsha have been rendered hopeless because of their goods being seized and sold out. Most of them got overdrafts from the Banks to clear these goods. Where are they going to find money to pay? Their goods have been confiscated and sold by public auction. It is a very serious matter. I therefore call on the Government to see to it that the Minister of Finance abrogates forthwith this measure whereby these goods are seized and sold by public auction.

The next point I am going to make is about postal facilities in Port Harcourt. I want to ask the Minister of Communications what he is doing about providing a post office for the people who live at Mile 1 and Mile 2 on the Port Harcourt and Aba road. These people are suffering from lack of postal facilities and it is within the competence of the Minister of Communications to put up a post office to serve the people who live at Mile 2 Diobu, Port Harcourt.

My next point is on the Economic Mission, which the Minister of Finance told us is going to start as from the 24th September. I do not

like the second Economic Mission which he wants to embark upon. The Minister of Finance is from the Western Region, and the West is almost in Hell at the moment—there is a breakdown of law and order in that Region. I venture to say that there is a breakdown of law and order in the Minister's home also. He must put his own house in order before going abroad. (*Interruptions.*)

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order! Will the House please listen in silence?

Mr Okay : In the last Session of the House a Bill was introduced and passed later concerning the distillation of gin—African gin. It seems that this practice has been continuing since the Bill was passed—what is the Minister doing about it? It would seem that the recommendations of the Bill are not being put into practice, and we are doing nothing to stop these people from unlawful practices. If a Bill is passed something should be done to make sure that its recommendations are carried out.

I want to mention also the matter of Mr Proud, and what I should like to say, on the Floor of this House, is that Mr Proud, when he goes home on leave, should not come back again. Public opinion is very strong about this. We do not want Mr Proud here.

Alhaji Baba Danbappa (Minjibir) : The point that I want to make is one that is most important. The Minister, in presenting the Bill, has used a very complicated language, which is beyond the ordinary layman. He said that the additional £3 million revenue is not, therefore, an unmixed blessing. This £3 million that the Government has, must have cost the public over £30 million. That is what I want to emphasize before the House

The importation of the inferior quality of goods into this country must be stopped immediately. Immediately. Inferior goods are being brought here and sold to the public at a very high price, and the companies that are selling these goods are making unusually high profits. Most of these goods that are being imported into this country can be economically produced here and at very reasonable rates. What is the Government doing in this respect? Our intention is to industrialise the country, but the Government is very very slow in implementing this decision.

We must all do our best to ensure that the implementation of the industrialisation of this country is advanced at a speed that is unprecedented in Africa.

I now come to my next point—Japan. It is well known that Japan has one of the cheapest labour markets in the world. But we in this country have a large population that is underdeveloped, and with the industrialisation of the country these people could be employed in good jobs—and this one fact alone could give the Government a good revenue, which would equal this amount that the Government has now. Much can be done to give our own people work and at the same time bring in additional revenue. Why, therefore, do we import goods that are useless? There is a much better way of getting this revenue here in Nigeria if the Government intends to do it the right way.

It is stupid to import things that are not going to be of any use to our people. One buys a piece of cloth that will last only two or three weeks, and it is my contention that the poor man of this country can ill afford to spend his money in such a way. It is a racket, and the Government is responsible for the abolition of the importation of such poor quality articles, which are wrecking the country's economy. I am sure that if we do this the country will certainly improve economically.

My next point is the Ministry of Information. Many people have spoken on this Ministry, but one thing I think that has not been mentioned is the way in which this Ministry could produce films—very good African films—in this country. I am sure that if this venture was done properly, and was built up on a sound foundation, very good films could be produced locally and exported to earn revenue.

We have very good films in Nigeria but we do not realise that. The Indian and the American cowboy films which we have brought into this country are inferior. Therefore, the Government must do something to stop the importation of this kind of films. They are degrading the morals of the people of this country. There are people who copy whatever they see in those films whether they are good or bad. There are a lot of people who wear European clothes. Why should one wear a suit in this country?

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Why do you wear a watch?

Alhaji Dan Bappa: To keep the correct time. The third point I think is worth mentioning, although many people have spoken on it, is the Economic Missions of the Federal Government. I quite agree with the spirit of these Economic Missions. People in Nigeria are talking of unity in the country but I say that we must either accept federalism or regionalism. If we speak about unity we must also act in unism.

We have got many leaders leading their own economic missions to different parts of the world apart from the Economic Mission of the Federal Government. This the Federal Government should look into and stop immediately. If you are in one thing you either remain in it or go out of it. Nonetheless, I agree that we must congratulate the Minister of Finance for the success he has made so far. We therefore congratulate the Leader of the Mission for the success of his Mission.

But we would like to point out to him that too many cooks spoil the broth. There are unnecessary duplications in these Missions. He said that there were twenty four people in one group. I would say that they are too many. And it is alarming how this country spends its revenue unnecessarily. We must try to take the right people for the right job. Not everybody should be taken abroad. I am sure that some of the members accompanying the Minister could be better used in the country than abroad. If some of them are asked to give a report or an account of the Mission they will not be able to do so. Then, why take them abroad to publicise Nigeria of its ignorant people.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: Order, it is almost 5.45 p.m.; the moment of interruption and perhaps I might put the Question on the Second Reading.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Committee—Upon Wednesday, 30th August,

Federal Parliament Debates

2381

[Produce (Inspection for

28 AUGUST 1961

Export) Resolution]

2382

PRODUCE (INSPECTION FOR EXPORT)
RESOLUTIONS

Cocoa (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 100 of 1961) a copy of which was laid before this House on 26th August, 1961, approved.

Palm Produce (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 101 of 1961),

a copy of which was laid before this House on 26th August, 1961, approved.

Groundnuts (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice No. 102 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House on 26th August, 1961, approved.

Sitting suspended : 5.50 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.

FATAL ACCIDENTS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

As lawyers among hon. Members will be aware, it is a theory of our Law that the principles of English Common Law, the rules of equity and statutes of general application in England as at 1st January, 1900 apply in Nigeria. Among the statutes that so apply, several have to be adjusted to the local circumstances here in Nigeria.

There has been doubt about the applicability of the Fatal Accidents Act of 1846 in Nigeria. Indeed in Northern Nigeria in the last few years, the High Court upheld that this Act which was regarded as applying generally in Nigeria before did not apply to Nigeria. Quite apart from that, two subsequent amending Bills which had become law in 1908 and 1959 had introduced further changes making the Act of 1846, if it ever applied at all, more inapplicable to our circumstances.

It is against this background that I have proposed to introduce to this House the Fatal Accidents Bill which, if enacted into law, will get rid of the existing doubt about the application of English statute on the subject and also will enable us to make the law conform more to our social and economic circumstances.

For example, the definition of "family" in English Law is different from our own. An effort has been made to take into account our Customary Law of the family when we are considering the circle of dependants who would be entitled on the death of, say, the bread-winner of the family, to claim against anyone through whose civil wrong the deceased had met his end.

We have made provisions also in this Bill to the effect that only actions that arose within six months immediately preceding the death—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! The Minister of Justice.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : —provided that the executor or

administrator, where a man has made a will or has specified that his estate should be governed by English Law or in the case of Customary Law, those who would be entitled to letters of representation or letters of administration would be able to bring action within six months after that event, whichever comes earlier.

Finally, we have provided that the descendants of a deceased person killed by the wrongful act of another should be able to bring an action within three years. These are the main provisions of the Bill which I am now asking hon. Members to consider carefully with a view to accepting as a necessary measure of the form of our law.

I would like to draw attention only to one more point and that is the provision in section 6 for the assessment of damages. Where for instance the deceased person had in some way contributed to his own death, we felt that it would be necessary for the Bill to provide that the dependants of the deceased would not gain any extraordinary advantage over the legal right of the deceased himself, so that if the deceased had survived or had not been killed he would not have got anything more or less than what the dependants would have under this Bill.

I beg to move.

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

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I have a personal interest in this Bill and that is why I wish to speak early. In this country at the moment there is what we call the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. That Ordinance is as old as any other ordinance and it does not meet the needs of to-day. The country should be industrialised, it is true, and we are just starting to do it.

Now, there is a portion here in the Bill that I would very much like to speak about. In the mining field, for instance in the tin mining on the Plateau, the lead-zinc mining at Abakaliki, the coal mining in Enugu, several accidents have happened where the fault is attributed to the employee. Under the old Workmen's Compensation Ordinance the dependants of the deceased are not entitled to any compensation whatsoever because the accident is attributable to the deceased himself.

[MR EKANEM]

Now in the past they never carried out any kind of inspection either of the factory or the mine because of lack of staff or trained men to do this work of inspection. A factory may be situated in a place where you have people living and not working there. There may happen to be an explosion there I would have wished that provision were made in this Bill to pay compensation not only to the dependants of the deceased but also to those people who live in the vicinity of the place of the accident. (*Interruptions*).

I do not wish to be unduly interrupted. I have been saying that I was elected into this House and should have freedom of speech. If I am talking nonsense, Mr Speaker, under fundamental human rights I am entitled to talk that nonsense.

I really would not oppose this Bill but all I want is that some good lawyers in this House, not those lawyers who cannot read, when the time comes to apply this law, should look into it carefully. I am highly interested in the Bill because I know most of the people we represent in this House are workers and I said it in January that this is the first time the workers in this country have got men in this House to protect their interests. I have nothing but praise for the Minister of Justice for bringing this Bill.

I beg to support the Bill.

Mr Adeniran Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : This a very non-controversial Bill. It is the very best that I have seen of Fatal Accidents Acts passed since the 1846 Act commonly referred to as the Factory Act. There is no doubt that from similar Acts elsewhere in this country this seems to be the very best. It has left out nothing at all. It has taken cognisance of the existence of systems of customary law and it has taken cognisance of Muslim law and in the definition of who are broadly speaking dependants within the Act.

Lawyers in this House and non-lawyers must support this Act because it is the best which can be achieved in the circumstances. I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igalala North West) : I support this Bill wholeheartedly. The only observation I want to add is that consideration

should be given to poor salary earners. My experience in the second world war was that some people who had stayed far behind had lump sum compensation awarded to their families simply because they earned *superscale* salaries.

There are the sweepers. By this I mean the infant soldiers; the people who actually fought and conquered the enemies. Many of them died and many were injured and will remain all the rest of their lives suffering. The compensation awarded to the families of these people was about £30. I have seen some of these people and it is the pity I have for them that moved me to mention their case on the Floor of this House. I hope that the Government will reconsider their case. I beg to support.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : It has been said by one of my hon. Friends that this Bill is non-contentious. It is true. For this reason I have just one or two observations to make.

I have to point out that the Federal Government is the last of the Governments of the Federation to pass this Bill. The North passed it in 1956, the West in 1958 and the East in 1959.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah : On point of information, the Fatal Accidents Act has been in operation as far back as 1956 in the Eastern Region.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : I would like to tell the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) that this has nothing to do with labour either in the Eastern Region or in any other Region of this country.

Mr Ajibola : If the law was passed in 1956 in the Eastern Region that information only goes to support my point that the Federal Government is the last of our Governments to pass this Bill. In things of this nature the Federal Parliament should be the first to pass them. Since 1957 various hon. Members, including myself, have been mentioning this point that this Bill should be passed. There is, therefore, no praise whatsoever for the Federal Government for bringing this Bill at this time.

I feel that the Attorney-General should have brought the law up to the standard of the one existing in the United Kingdom. In the

amendment passed in 1859 in the United Kingdom, brothers and sisters have been included. From the definition we have in this Bill it is only *widow* or *widows*, either parent and child that is entered. I would like to be assured that very soon brothers and sisters will be included.

In another portion of the Bill I can see that the law tried to clarify cases where there is illegitimacy on the part of children and parents. I would like the Attorney-General to say what will happen in cases where the law courts declare the association between a man and a woman as illegal or illegitimate. I have in mind here the recent decision of the Federal Supreme Court over late Adelabu's case. Many Members will agree with me that the decision of the Federal Supreme Court on that issue was very painful to many people in this country. All the dependants of late Adelabu were ruled out as being illegitimate!

In cases of this nature I would like the Attorney-General to look into such circumstances where a man and a woman had lived together for a long time and after the death of one of them the Court declares that the wife or the husband is illegitimate.

Chief A. Akerele : That has been provided.

Mr Ajibola : No, that has been provided only in the case of the children but not in the case of the husband or the wife. Something must be done about this also. As it is now, the children will get something while the wife or the husband is ruled out.

As I have said earlier, this Government is always the last to pass laws. I will, however, mention something which this Government should consider. In this regard I would like the Federal Government to pass a Bill like the Crown Proceedings Act of the United Kingdom.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member for Egbado South is being irrelevant.

Mr Ajibola : As I said earlier, this Bill is non-contentious. I would, however, seize this opportunity to tell the Federal Government to look into obsolete and out-moded laws, bring them to this House and we will modernise them. I beg to support the Bill.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : I support this Bill. It is one of the things that people normally expect to see. For some time now we have laws of general application here which were passed in England before 1900. But unfortunately there have been cases where these laws have fallen into disuse in England. They are only useful insofar as we can dig them out and apply them in certain cases in Nigeria. I think that the idea that has prompted the bringing forward of this law should also be resorted to in sorting out some of those other cases in which old and obscure laws in England are still applicable to this country automatically.

There is one feature of this Bill among others that is very welcome. That is the one that makes a cause or action to subsist for a period of three years. Under the English law it is only for twelve months and with the Regional laws, I think they have copied the English law and the result is in many cases the cause or action only exists for twelve months.

Now, the heart-rending aspect of this twelve-month limitation comes when one deals with very evasive Insurance companies. Most of these fatal accident cases have to do with victims of motor accidents. Unfortunately, some people thought it had to do with the workers.

I think the sort of thing that raise difficulties is the case that arises from motor accidents, and it is one's experience that most of the insurance companies operating in this country exploit that twelve month limitation very unscrupulously. They would dance about with correspondence; in the first place, a notice of injury is sent in, it takes about three or four months before they acknowledge a letter promising that the matter is receiving attention, then it is another six months before they say something, and even then what is said is in no way conclusive one way or the other. Then they start saying things nearer to the subject, but by that time the unfortunate people take advice and decide what to do—and twelve months has elapsed in the meantime.

I think that such shady trees under which some of the more unscrupulous insurance companies have been hiding, should be sorted out so that the public can be given adequate protection.

[MR AKWIWU]

One also notices the wideness in the definitive section of the law. There is no doubt that again the English concept of "family" differs in a very great way from the Nigerian concept of "family", and cases that have actually been dealt with in this country, based purely on English law, have resulted in very serious hardship being wrought on unfortunate victims. So it is to be hoped that in the practical application of the law, the view—the comprehensive approach—which the law is taking of this matter, should be given very strict adherence by the law courts.

There is one thing concerning this question of apportionment of damages. It is not so easy to see how it will work out: whether the law courts will sit down and decide how much such a son should receive, which son should get £10 and which son should get £50. It is only from experience that we shall know whether it is good or bad. But be that as it may, I think maybe the safest thing might be to decide on the creation of a Trust for the administration of the funds to be realised. Otherwise one might find a lot of complications.

The story of the Prodigal Son may well be one that has come from the ancient biblical days, but I do not see that such situations can be ruled out to-day. It might be easy enough to apportion out the money amongst children, but it may well happen that one of the children is at university, and the money, if applied to his education, might in fact be to the better advantage of the family in the future than if it was split up between, for example, one who was good at tasting the latest brand of illicit gin, and the other one who is building up a large family with half a dozen wives!

You see it is possible for the money to be allocated without any real benefit coming to the family. So I think that this suggestion ought to be considered—the possibility of creating a Trust which will be applied for the more constructive advantage of the family of the deceased; this might be a more realistic approach than the mere sharing out of the money by the law courts between say the 6 wives, 20 children and a number of cousins of the deceased, which could result in each person receiving only £5 out of the £2,000 to be shared, with no real advantage to the family.

I beg to support.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): As speaker after speaker has said, this is a very non-controversial Bill, and we welcome it. It has covered much ground, and I particularly notice the proviso to law 6 that will serve to cover such anomalies as the one that arose following the death of, I think it was, Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu; this fact is appreciated.

There is one aspect of it however, which has not been properly covered. That is the question of income, expectation of life. Lord Campbell's Act, from which I think this was taken, also did not cover it. There was a case—we cannot go into details but I think it was Dangerfield's case—in which a boy of four years of age was knocked down and killed, and the damages were calculated on his expectation of life, for example, the consideration of his health, his status in life, and the amount of money he could expect. That little infant was expecting a sum of money from his grandfather's will. All this was taken into consideration in calculating the damages, and I think it has now become part of the law of England. Therefore, if we are going to accept this Fatal Accidents Bill, which I am sure we are going to accept because it is a very good thing, I am commending that part of it for acceptance by the Attorney-General; I hope he will consider it.

When the Bill is being considered in Committee I shall give further criticism. I beg to support.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West): I support this non-controversial Bill, and the Attorney-General ought to be congratulated for introducing this Bill at this time.

A Member of the Opposition has indicated that this Bill is rather late in coming. One will readily appreciate that the Action Group's Government of the West has always identified itself with the ability to initiate things early and in good time, but it is better late than never.

There are certain points which other hon. Members have referred to. I saw in paragraph 3, subsection 2 (a) that *the deceased person* is a deceased person who is subject to the system of customary law. The action could be brought by and in the name of the administrator of the deceased person's estate.

This is a very useful application. Because of the provision for naturalisation in our law, it should be expected that a few aliens or foreigners will in the course of time be naturalised. And this foresight—of making provision for customary law—is something for which the Attorney-General should be commended.

With this remark, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North): This is not a controversial Bill and we have to praise the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice.

Mr Speaker: Order! I have a message from the official Reporters that there is too much noise and they are unable to record the speech of the hon. Member. Will you please observe the debate in silence?

Mr Ogedengbe: My praise goes to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice for bringing this progressive Bill to the House. But I would appeal to him that in doing this it is not sufficient to revise our Law piecemeal. It is time for the Minister of Justice to think of appointing a Commissioner for Law Revision.

There are many Laws applicable to this country to-day which have some colonial traits. As a sovereign state, we must not only behave as one but also our Laws have got to portray Nigeria as a sovereign state. In particular, Clause 2 of this Bill goes further but does not go far enough. The Law applies to three classes of people. The first class is in Clause 2 (a) which says this relates to a deceased person not subject to a system of customary Law. A person who dies but at the time he was living he was not subject to customary Law, say a man who marries according to English Law—monogamous marriage in the court or in the church. This is the first class of people to whom this law will apply.

The second class are those who were subject to Customary Law before they died and third class, those who were subject to Muslim Law before they died. These are the three classes of people.

As far as the Muslim Law is concerned, it is very good. But it is not as good in the case of those who were subject to English Law, that is, those who marry monogamously, according to the English Law. "Family" means these: the widow, the widower, any parent, any child.

I would suggest to the Minister of Justice to include in (b) in relation to a deceased person who was subject to a system of Customary Law not being Muslim Law which means in addition to any of those four persons—the widow, the widower, the parent and the child—the sister and the brother.

An hon. Member: It is already there.

Mr Ogedengbe: It is not there. I am suggesting this because for an instance if a christian who marries only one wife, either in the church or in the court, dies only four classes of people can inherit any of his property. Now, not everything African is bad and not everything English is good. According to our custom if a man dies and leaves only one child and a brother or a sister it is the duty of that brother or sister to look after the child and train it. And where there is a duty there must be a right as well.

In our custom it is the duty of a brother or a sister to look after the children of a deceased brother or sister. And a man who has a duty ought to have a right even in our Law. After all, many of us here were trained by our brothers or sisters. Personally, I was trained in a grammar school by my sister.

Mr Speaker: Order! I have got a second message from the official Reporters that there is too much noise being made.

Mr Ogedengbe: It will look very ridiculous and most unjust if I should die to-day and my two young children, who are still very young, are not looked after by my sister. It is her duty to look after these children. My sister ought to have a right to inherit part of my property.

It is going to do a lot of injustice and hardship on Nigerians who marry according to the English Law. I know that the Minister of Justice is a great scholar and a great lawyer and will agree with me that it is a common principle of jurisprudence that the legal system of a country has got to reflect the spirit, the social structure of that country at that particular time. It is the social set up of Nigeria to-day that a brother is a keeper of the children of his brother or of his sister. For instance, if you make me a keeper of my sister's children or my brother's children and

[MR OGEDENGBE]

you are not going to work some sort of hardship on me then you are going to give me the right. Where there is a duty there must be a right.

It is not late for the Minister of Justice to amend this Bill. Probably, it was an oversight. After all, why do we depend on English Law all the time? We can have our own Law. We can legislate in this Parliament that people ought to marry according to their choice. If A marries in the church as a christian and has only one wife, he has chosen that way. If B marries three or four wives, he has chosen to be a polygamist. And a muslim who marries according to the Muslim Religion is doing what is ordained by God. What I am saying is that it would do a lot of hardship and injustice on those christians in this country who marry according to the English Law if their immediate family does not include their sisters and brothers.

I beg to support.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I merely want to raise some objection to Clause 2 of this Bill. This Bill is intended to give protection to illegitimate children and I think it is an indirect way of getting all of us to sanction polygamy. It is quite true that some of us are Muslims, some are Christians, some are pagans. All these people are entitled to their own rules, regulations and traditions.

I thought it was part of the Government's duties to restrain some people from moral bankruptcy but it seems that by passing this Law youngmen would be compelled to adopt this bad practice. I have no objection if Government intends to devise better means of taking care of these illegitimate children. What would happen under the present arrangement where one had one wife and after one had died there were about seven wives before the Administrator-General who had to determine the legitimate inheritor?

I would appeal to the polygamists in this House to allow me to air my views. I think that this is adding insult to injury because already, as I have said, we have difficulties in getting these estates settled by the Administrator-General's Office. Some have been there for ten years and some for fifteen years and some for even more.

I think by passing this Bill we will be encouraging prostitution in this country and thereby one adopts children here and there. We have more pressing problems to take care of and I do not think that it is a wise thing for Government to add more to these problems.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; committed to a Committee of the whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

FATAL ACCIDENTS BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC.)

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : We had expected to get this Bill to Parliament last April and so we put in the date "first day of June, 1961". I think we may alter that slightly and say, "on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by notice in *Gazette*". I beg to move the Amendment.

Question put agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(INTERPRETATION)

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Under Clause 2 (1) (c) we have,

"in relation to a deceased person who was subject to the system of customary law known as Moslem Law, means the person entitled to share in the award of *diya* prescribed by Moslem Law for involuntary homicide ;".

I think that in view of the fact that this Law is applicable only to the Federal territory of Lagos, and there may be claims for compensation or damages in the High Court, the word "*diya*" should be defined so that people may know what it means.

I am wondering too whether it is going to be easy to determine in the Federal territory of Lagos which sort of people come under "Customary Law" or "Moslem Law" or any other law.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : I think the definition of the word "child" is too narrow in view of the fact that the intention of this Act is to cover the families of the deceased.

In the Acts passed in the Regions—in the East and the West—"child" includes nephews and nieces. I am asking the Minister of Justice to take that into consideration.

Mr W. O. Briggs : In Clause 2 (1) (c) the definition of "parent" is the father or mother of the deceased person and includes any grandfather, grandmother, stepfather or step-mother. I would suggest that it also includes "guardian".

If a guardian is included it will include the family looking after somebody during his illness. If a person is educating someone and he is killed when he comes of age, as it is that person gets nothing in spite of the fact that he had spent so much for his education. Such a person could be the elder brother or uncle, but because he is neither the grandfather nor stepfather, he gets nothing at all.

There is a difference between a stepfather, and a guardian. I am suggesting that the Attorney-General should take that into consideration.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : I am appealing that Clause 2 be amended. A similar Bill was introduced by a Private Member in the Eastern House of Assembly some years ago and it was opposed by the Government for the fact that Bills like this are bad in that they increase our social problems in this country. I am appealing to the Attorney-General to reconsider this.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : I would like to make a brief observation on some of the points raised on this section.

The last speaker has made much of this section 2 (2). I think he might be reminded that the very thing against which he has been speaking was approved by the Privy Council in the case of *Bangbose and Daniel*, and by the West African Court of Appeal and earlier by the Supreme Court. I think practising lawyers can give him about six or seven such instances, and I do not think that the hon. Member would claim greater modesty than all the Judges up to the Privy Council who upheld this. I think this section is based, as it stands, upon what we have now called in Nigerian Law *recognition or acknowledgment of fraternity*.

The important thing is that the children that are born outside wedlock should not be left in the cold; they should be provided for. It was not their fault that they have been brought into the world. No one is advocating polygamy under this section.

As for the other point made about those who are entitled to claim under this Act, under section 2 (1) (a) and (b), I think it is important for hon. Members to remember that we are not dealing here with the right of inheritance. We are dealing with what is paid by way of compensation towards that estate. It goes as a contribution towards the estate and this will be available to other relations of the person involved.

Clause 2—(INTERPRETATION), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—(DEATH BY WRONGFUL ACT, ETC.)

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : When the hon. Attorney-General was speaking just now, he said—"compensation or damages payable to the estate of the deceased person". That is the point I wish to quarrel with under section 3 (2) which says—"Every action under this section shall be for the benefit of the members of the immediate family of the deceased person. . . ."

I would urge the hon. Attorney-General to change the words "for the benefit of the members of the family" to—"for the benefit of the estate of the deceased person". What happens where a man dies in an accident and it is found that somebody is liable or that the wrongful act is actionable in court and he is to obtain £5,000? A man who owes say—£2,000—before he dies, then, the £5,000 paid to him will not go to benefit his creditors. It will go to benefit only his wife, or child, or mother or father.

I think that may appear rather perfect but I feel the payment of damages should be to the estate of the deceased person and not necessarily to the members of the family. I expect that when people incur honest debts they should pay.

Chief A. Akerele : Clause 3 (2) (a) and (b). Under 2 (a), it is clear that people who are not subject to the system of customary laws are Europeans. Now, under (b) people who are

[CHIEF AKERELE]

subject to system of customary laws are people like us. Under 2 (a), where the deceased person is not subject to a system of customary law his Executor or Administrator should be the man and under (b) where he is subject to the system of customary law his Executor and Administrators are excluded and it is left to the choice or option of his immediate family.

Where somebody made a Will, I suppose his Executor could, as in the case of Europeans or people subject to customary law, be allowed in addition to take an action of this nature. Perhaps the Attorney-General will consider that.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : The only point I would like to reply to is the issue raised by the last speaker which has been covered adequately in that section. We say—"If the deceased person was immediately before his death subject to a system of customary law relating to estate, be brought at the option of his immediate family by, and in the name of such person as the court is satisfied is under the customary law, entitled or empowered to represent the deceased person or his estate". This has already been dealt with under the Administrator-General's Ordinance.

Clause 3—(DEATH BY WRONGFUL ACT, ETC.), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4—(LIMITATION OF ACTION).

Mr S. J. Umoren (Uyo North) : Members have already pointed out some defects in this clause. We are praying the Attorney-General that notwithstanding the fact that this Bill applies mainly to the Federal Territory of Lagos, we would ask him very respectfully to be kind enough to consult his counterparts in the Regions so as to make amendments in what other Bills might have been passed in the Regional Houses with regard to the question of time. I make this request in view of the fact that all the Insurance Companies in this country are very evasive and they would do everything possible on earth to see that they do not entertain any claims or respond to correspondence until the time limit has expired.

I know of a man who had an accident in 1957 and three years after the accident he still could not get anything from the insurance company.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : Copies of this Bill have been sent to my Colleagues in the two Regions—the Eastern and Western Regions. The Northern Region, as you will remember, passed a similar law in 1956, so that this Ordinance does not apply to that Region and, this supports the point made by an hon. Gentleman on this Side who said that this Bill is really an improvement on the existing Bills in the other Regions because it is an indigenous Ordinance.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : Clause 4 (1) states that—"Every action under this Act shall be commenced within three years after the death of the deceased person, and not more than one award of damages shall be made in respect of the same subject-matter of complaint".

I think that this period should be increased bearing in mind the amount of time that is wasted and the long delay which often attends the correspondence when trying to assemble the facts and figures concerning such a delicate matter and again the death of certain people always brings a lot of confusion and the relatives will not see things clearly to be able to take action.

Secondly, many parts of Nigeria, for example Bornu Province are very far from Lagos and it will take a long time for people to sort things out and take proper action.

The third reason might be the poverty of some relatives and when we take these matters into consideration, I think the Minister of Justice will be liberal enough to allow the extension of this period to five years.

Clause 4 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 (PARTICULARS TO BE GIVEN BY (PLAINTIFF) ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 (ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES).

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Mr Chairman, I beg to move—in Clause 6 (1), line 5 or line 30 of page C.71, after "brought" but before "semi-colon" add "and also of the conditions of health, the status in life, and in general, the expectation of life of the deceased person."

This brings in the case of a child or an infant who happens to be killed. As in Clause 6 (1) he could be useful to the person who is claiming under his estate. It is stated in Clause 6 that

"The court may, in assessing and apportioning damages in an action brought under this Act, award such damages as it may think proportionate to the injury resulting from the death of the deceased person to the persons respectively for whom and for whose benefit such action is brought".

It is in proportion to the benefit, that the person claiming under the will of the deceased person will derive from that damage but it will not apply to an infant who had not grown enough to be of benefit if he were alive to the person who is claiming under his estate. I am therefore suggesting that this Amendment be accepted so that it may cover that point which is not in it.

The Minister of Justice : I would suggest that the hon. Member for Degema (Mr W. O. Briggs) does not proceed with the proposed Amendment because it is a principle of the English Common Law and of our own that the judges who are to specify the damages to which the defendant would be entitled would take all these principle into account.

The hon. Member had referred earlier on to the case of Dangerfield but that is a case about nine years after the two leading cases on the subject of expectation of life—Rose and Ford and Benham and Gambling—One was decided in 1948 and the other in 1943. These are very relevant and the principle is governed entirely by the principles of the English Common Law.

The hon. Member has, of course, rightly pointed out that even the English pattern on similar subjects would not impinge this provision. I think we would be hampering the judge unduly if we begin to tell him how to measure or pontify damages because as was held in that case, and repeated again in this Bill, happiness does not depend upon the length of days of the deceased but upon the chance of a predominantly happy life.

Chief O. B. Akin Olugbade : Clause 6, subsection 2 says—

The Chairman : Order ! The hon. Member can only speak on this Amendment for the time being until the Motion has been disposed of.

Question put and negatived.

Chief O. B. Akin Olugbade : Under subsection 2, we have no account that the taking of any sums paid or payable on the death of a deceased person under any contract of assurance and the award of damages may include reasonable funeral expenses of the deceased persons incurred by the persons for whose benefit the action is brought.

The point on which I would like to be enlightened concerns the power of the court to include funeral expenses. If a man died as a result of a motor accident and his relations knew that he would be entitled to some money from the owner of the vehicle through the accident of which he died, they might go to the extent of spending fabulous amounts of money in respect of the funeral expenses.

I personally feel that this Bill is a progressive one but when it goes to the extent of including funeral expenses which have no specified limit—

An hon. Member : There is the word "reasonable" in the Clause.

Chief Olugbade : Yes, I see the word "reasonable" but if it is considered that the damages should include reasonable funeral expenses, why should we make it optional for the court? Why should it not be made obligatory. (*The Attorney-General rose in his place*). If the Attorney-General would like to answer I do not mind but I think that if there are strong reasons for including reasonable funeral expenses it should be mandatory on the court to include. If there are no strong reasons, I would like to be enlightened. I think that funeral expenses should not be included.

Clause 6—(ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 7 to 9 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

CIVIL LIABILITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

10.20 p.m.

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : This Bill in its first part completes the scheme of the Fatal Accidents Bill which we have just passed. It provides for the

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complementary events of someone having been killed but before his death he himself had committed a civil wrong against another person. It is essential that his death should not be used as an excuse for his inability to pay damages to the injured individual. So, Part I deals with the survival of the causes of action against a person who may have injured another before his death.

In this Bill, hon. Members will note that the provisions are a little technical and complicated, but I am sure that lawyers and some others will welcome it as dealing with those aspects of our law which have been in serious need for revision and being brought up to date.

In Part II, we have attempted to deal with the question where two or more persons jointly commit a civil wrong against another. We have provided that in such a case, if the injured person proceeds against one of them and does not get full satisfaction in the court, he can proceed against the other or others until he gets full satisfaction. But there is a provision against someone recovering damages twice over. The total that he will be entitled to recover from one or more of the wrong-doers will be the same as if only one person had injured him. We have provided also that the right of contribution or indemnity of one of two or more wrong-doers against his co-wrong doer where, if one of them alone had been made to pay the full amount of the damages, he would then proceed to recover such portion or the whole of them as the other is responsible for.

The third part of the Bill again in a remedial measure deals with cases of what we call contributory negligence. Where A and B suffer a common accident, for instance, if two of them are motorists and they have a collision and one is liable or responsible for the injury up to, say, one-third and the other is liable for the remaining two-thirds. This section of the Bill will enable damages to be apportioned on the basis of the degree of responsibility for the accident that has happened.

As the law stands, it is a question of all or nothing. It is the person who is the last chanced of avoiding the accident and fails to do so that pays for the chanced injury. This Bill seeks now to provide situations in which they are not either equally to blame or if they

are equally to blame they bear the cost proportionately. It is not the question of one of them bearing the whole cost.

I have tried to simplify this somewhat complicated Bill and I am sure hon. Members will accept it. I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation
(Hon. R. A. Njoku):**

I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time, committed to a Committee of the whole House and immediately considered in Committee.

CIVIL LIABILITY (MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS) BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC.).

The Minister of Justice : The Amendment I propose is that in Clause 1, line 5 leave out from "On the 1st of June, 1961", and insert "A day to be fixed by the Governor-General by a notice in the Gazette".

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(INTERPRETATION), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—(EFFECT OF DEATH ON CERTAIN CAUSES OF ACTION).

Mr A. A. Ajibola : I beg to invite the attention of the House to Clause 3, subsection 2 (b) which reads as follows :

"Unless either the cause of action arose not earlier than six months before his death and proceedings are taken in respect thereof not later than six months after his personal representative is authorised to act as such".

The point I want to make is that it is possible to take action against the personal representative where one is authorised, but what of the cases where none is appointed, where there is no personal representative of the deceased? Knowing that an action will be forthcoming against the deceased the person who would have been the personal representative refused to be appointed or none is appointed because they know that immediately one is appointed the second day an action is brought against him. What should be done in such a case?

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[Civil Liability Bill]

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[Flags and Coat of Arms Bill]

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There are cases where the defendant dies and the case is adjourned *sine die* pending the appointment of the personal representative and none is appointed by the family of the deceased. I would like the Attorney-General to advise the House on what should be done when such a case appears in court.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the third section of that paragraph 3 which reads :

"Nothing in this section shall apply to causes of action for defamation or seduction or inducing one spouse to leave or remain apart from the other, or to claims for damages on the ground of adultery".

Now, I wonder, Mr Chairman, if this proviso is not seeking to make the country very corrupt. If a person seduces another person's wife he causes him a very great damage indeed and sometimes it may lead even to death, and this part of the Bill seeks to exempt him.

The next point there is defamation. Defamation also may cause loss of money, loss of prestige or even loss of life. I do not see the justification for this type of proviso and so I would like it to be deleted.

Clause 3—(EFFECT OF DEATH ON CERTAIN CAUSES OF ACTION), *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clauses 4-6 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7—(INSOLVENCY).

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): If we relate Clause 3 to Clause 7, Mr Chairman, you will see the hardship into which quite a lot of people will be thrown. I know such a provision exists in English Law. I dare say that we cannot follow everything that is in English law.

Clause 7 in addition to what it says, also states that it shall be deemed to be a debt provable in the administration of the estate notwithstanding that it is a demand in the nature of unliquidated damages arising otherwise than by contract, promise or breach of trust.

I will take an example: Mr A promises to marry Miss B; well, not promise, I should say they were going together as boy friend and girl friend. Later, Mr A deserts Miss B and

marries Miss C and then dies or rather before he dies Miss B takes action against him six months before this time. The action goes to court but no evidence has been taken, no judgment has been delivered at all and then A dies.

According to this law, B cannot claim anything at all because it is otherwise than by contract, breach of promise and breach of trust. Although that promise could have been in writing under the Statute of Trust, because the Statute of Trust applies to Nigeria. Under the Statute of Trust, a promise to marry has to be in writing. Now, it is in writing and provable against the estate of that person but under clause 7, Miss B has no claim at all. I do not know whether the Attorney-General has taken that into consideration.

Clause 7 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 8-17 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

FLAGS AND COAT OF ARMS

(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Usman Sarki): I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to give to the National Flag of the Federation of Nigeria that priority over the Regional flags and other flags.

Hon. Members will agree that such a Bill is reasonably free from controversy and, therefore, I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill, read a Second time, committed to a Committee of the whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

FLAGS AND COAT OF ARMS

(AMENDMENT) BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1-2 ordered to stand part of the Bill

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

NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

This Bill seeks to amend the Nigerian Broadcasting Ordinance to enable the Minister responsible for Broadcasting to give general and specific directions to the Corporation on matters of policy or matters appearing to the Minister to be of public interest and also to enable him, after consultation with the appropriate Regional Government in the case of Regional Boards, to make recommendations to the Governor-General in Council as to the appointment of all members of the Corporation.

In addition there is a number of consequential amendments arising from Nigeria's assumption of Independent Status, and the decision of the Southern Cameroons to secede from the Federation of Nigeria.

As hon. Members will be aware, section 5 of the present Ordinance lays down that the membership of the Corporation shall be:—

- (i) The Chairman, appointed by the Governor-General in Council;
- (ii) The Chairman of the Regional Boards; and
- (iii) Twelve other members, appointed by the Governor-General in Council, of whom three are appointed by the respective Governors in Council of the Regional Governments.

Furthermore, the Regional Boards consist of a Chairman and from six to eight members.

Members will appreciate that this means that, excluding the ex-officio appointments provided for, there is a combined total of thirty non-official appointments to the Central and Regional Boards. Of these, only six are appointed by the Governor-General in Council while no less than twenty-four are appointed by the Governors of the Regions. This was done to ensure that the nation-wide responsibilities of the Corporation were emphasised and that the views of the Regions were adequately reflected.

As Members are aware, however, both the Eastern and Western Regions have now established their own sound and television

broadcasting systems and the Northern Region has announced that its own system will start in March next year. Each of the Regional organisations has been set up with overseas commercial interests to carry out commercial broadcasting, and now that the Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation is operating a commercial service, the Regional Broadcasting organisations are in direct competition with the Corporation.

As the Ordinance stands at present we have the anomalous situation where the Regional Governments are empowered to appoint four-fifths of the total membership of the Central and Regional Boards, despite the fact that the Regional Governments' Broadcasting organisations are the chief competitors of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation.

To remove this anomaly this Bill is now presented. The amendments proposed provide for:

- (i) The appointment of all members of the corporation by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for broadcasting;
- (ii) The members of the Regional Boards to be similarly appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the Minister, who will consult the appropriate Regional Governments before making any such recommendations.

Consultation with the Regional Governments is provided for in the hope that it may still be possible for the Federal and Regional Broadcasting systems to work together in the best interests of "One Nigeria".

I must now deal with the second important amendment now included in this Bill. The original Ordinance was designed to create an autonomous Corporation, although the Federal Government had ultimate financial control.

This present Bill is being introduced because I feel that it is in the best interests of Nigeria as a whole that I should be able to give general and specific directions on matters of policy and public interest when desirable.

I must point out to hon. Members that although the Bill now placed before you provides the Minister with these powers, the Corporation retains the responsibility for the day-to-day running of its affairs, for the recruitment of its staff and all allied matters, and the

amendment does not absolve the Corporation from responsibility for what it broadcasts. The Corporation is still required to provide, as a public service, independent and impartial broadcasting services.

I would like to reassure the House on this point. The Regional Legislatures, in their respective Broadcasting Ordinances, have included clauses giving the Regional Ministers these powers of direction. Nevertheless, I do not think these powers have seriously detracted from the calibre of the Regional news broadcasts, such as some of them are.

Furthermore, although the situation is not entirely comparable, similar provisions for ministerial direction are included in the Ports Authority Ordinance, the Railway Corporation Ordinance and the Electricity Corporation Ordinance. I am, however, convinced that these powers now sought are necessary.

The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has recently been likened to a wife with four husbands. In such a domestic situation it is unlikely that the wife would be able to satisfy the demands of each of these husbands. And so it is with the Corporation with four demanding Governments, the Federal Government and the three Regional Governments, all of whom expect it to give priority and preference to their own items of Regional interest.

I should like hon. Members to understand the very difficult position in which the Corporation sometimes finds itself obliged to operate. For instance, news items given full coverage in the Regions, are sent to the Corporation and if they were broadcast in full would require the N.B.C. national news broadcast to last for forty minutes instead of ten. The News Room staff must, therefore, select the items of news for inclusion in the news bulletins, and it is sometimes necessary to cut them down or even to omit some of them.

The Regions very often feel aggrieved at this and complain that they are being discriminated against. But this is not so, as I have explained.

Hon. Members will be aware that, there have been allegations of partiality and in recent months I have received a number of complaints from both inside and outside this House against items in the Corporation's news bulletins. Indeed, all the Nigerian Governments and the principal political parties have voiced these complaints. Political organisations are

naturally anxious to be given the greatest possible publicity in the N.B.C.'s news output, and it is not surprising that such criticisms should be made.

Often, however, they cancel each other out. An example of this tendency is to be found in the four complaints, made within a few days of each other by the N.P.C., the N.C.N.C., N.E.P.U. and the Action Group and I give the following examples :

(i) *Press Release issued by N.P.C. on 29th July.*

"The Northern Peoples' Congress has expressed grave concern over the continued discrimination of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation against the Government of the North as well as the N.P.C. It is surprising to note that the Director-General of the N.B.C., who is strongly biased and deliberately allows the discrimination to continue, is now coming to the North to bid farewell to the people of the Northern Region."

(ii) *Letter from the Acting National Administrative Secretary of the N.C.N.C. to the Director-General of the N.B.C. on 30th July.*

"On behalf of my party, I send you this protest drawing your special attention to the unco-operative and vexatious attitude of the News Division of the N.B.C. towards us. This is not the first time we are protesting against the inexplicable discrimination of the N.B.C. against the N.C.N.C., a partner in the two-party Federal coalition Government."

(iii) *Press Release issued by the N.E.P.U. on 31st July*

"If anybody is to complain against the N.B.C. it is the Opposition parties whose releases are being shortened or abandoned in order to give full coverage to those of the N.P.C. and the Northern Government."

(iv) *Press Release issued by the Action Group on 2nd August*

"In the view of the Action Group, the N.B.C. has all along been showing bias in favour of the N.P.C. and its partner in the Federal coalition Government. . . . Its bias is against the Federal Opposition Party.

Members will realise, of course, that since all these parties have complained, it is obvious that the news bulletins have not, in fact, been biased in favour of any one political group,

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and this fact, to say the least, exonerates the Corporation from the charge that it has failed to provide an impartial broadcasting service. Wherever possible, the Corporation has done its best to rectify any mistakes made, and it is appreciated that the News Room staff work at great pressure. The setting up of the Regional organisations has resulted in some of the best N.B.C. news staff joining the Regional organisations and this has meant that there may have been a temporary lack of experience and balanced judgment in that department.

Finally, there are several sections of the Ordinance which have become outdated as a result of Nigeria's assumption of independent status, and also from the decision of the Southern Cameroons to secede from the Federation, and the opportunity is taken to amend the Ordinance accordingly.

It is my intention at the Committee stage to introduce an amendment clarifying section 5 as replaced by clause 2 of this Bill. There appears to be an ambiguity in paragraph (d) at lines 17 and 18 of page C 427 of the Bill as published, where it refers to "one person from each Region recommended by the Minister responsible for broadcasting in virtue of the knowledge of that person of the culture, characteristics and affairs of the particular Region and his close touch with opinion in that Region", which may give the impression that the Minister referred to is the Regional Minister. In order to remove this ambiguity I shall be introducing an amendment deleting words "recommended by the Minister responsible for broadcasting" from paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 5 of the Ordinance. Furthermore, I propose to introduce another amendment which will clarify section 5 (2) as replaced by Clause 2 of this Bill.

I must explain to hon. Members that it is only on the Regional Boards that consultation with the Regional Governments is necessary and specific provision is made for this under Clause 5 of this Bill which amends section 20 of the Ordinance. I therefore propose that subsection (2) of Clause 5 be deleted and replaced by the following: "The Chairman and other members of the Corporation shall, unless they are members by virtue of office, be appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the Minister."

I therefore commend this Bill to the whole house, and beg to move.

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

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): I would like to congratulate the Minister of Information for this most progressive Bill concerning the N.B.C. I think that the time is overdue but now that it has been brought forward we are very happy about it and I think everybody in this House will welcome it.

I would like to make one or two observations, however. The plight of the N.B.C. for some time now has been most difficult. Catering for the whole country and being in competition with Regional set-ups, its plight has not been an enviable one. It has to cater for the news, the diversity of our culture and so on, whereas the Regional networks operate within limited spheres and even then present a very powerful competition to the national network. Therefore this new Bill which seeks to empower the Governor-General in Council to nominate the membership of the Corporation is a welcome one because you cannot have a Corporation with almost four-fifths of its membership drawn from the Regions and the Regions also have their own networks which compete very strongly with the national network. It will never work.

Those of us who have hitherto complained about the N.B.C. have done so precisely because we feel sincerely that it has not adequately projected the personality of this country. And I am never happy when I hear the Regional broadcasting networks attempting to do the work of the Federal N.B.C. I said so last Saturday that some of these networks of the Regions take pride and pleasure in the fact that their programmes are heard in Western Germany, in the Congo or anywhere else. That does not do credit to this country. We would like to see the national broadcasting service of the Federation, boomed across the whole world to present Nigeria in its own proper perspective.

Another point I would like to make in this connection is about news reading. I cannot resist the temptation to mention that there is a name which occurs frequently on the news. The name goes by *Abba Zoro*. It is a wonderful voice; a voice that does credit to the whole of this country. I have not, however fallen

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Corporation Bill]

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in love with him because I am not a girl. But I do hope that every effort will be made to search for similar voices in the country. There are many more of such voices like Abba Zoro's. We want to hear more like his ; voices that read the news properly, the diction and everything about it.

Here, the Minister must also be told that there are some of the news readers who bite their tongues or who go to the microphone when they are heavily drunk and cannot even read the script. They keep on biting their tongues and repeating word after word. I do not know why the Minister has tolerated such people to remain on the microphone for more than one hour. The Minister should sack such fellows right away. The Minister should encourage other Abba Zoros to take their places. We want to hear them

I want to emphasize the fact that there are many more voices like Abba Zoro's. I think that the N.B.C. staff must be congratulated on this. I am not saying this to discourage the entire staff of the N.B.C. There are other names like Nwaneri's, Horatio Ageda's, Atuana's and many others. I want the Minister to pick out these people. (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order, although the hon. Members are assured of protection I think the volume of interruptions can be a bit less.

Dr Ezera : What I would like to say is that the Minister should not leave this point lying down. The gentleman who is a disgrace to this country in news reading should be taken away from the news reading section and transferred to another department forthwith. I do not like to listen to people who keep on coughing and apologising repeatedly for hours on end. It is a disgrace to the nation. I am afraid I have to point this out on the Floor of this House so that the Minister can take note of it.

I would like to commend the efforts of the N.B.C. and I do hope that with these new amendments in the powers given to the Minister, the condition of the new Board, the efficiency of the N.B.C. will rise to its highest level and project this country adequately as we have been advocating.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : I support the Bill, and I would like to associate

myself with the hon. Member for Bende East, (Dr Ezera). I would also like to take this opportunity to make one more remark on this amendment.

I believe the aim of this Bill is to improve the standard of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. If this is the case, the Minister has one duty which he is confronted with. This is about the repeated allegation of partiality in the News Division of the Corporation. The Minister's remark when he was introducing the Bill is, of course, understandable. But I think the only remedy for this alleged partiality in the news broadcasts is to have a high-powered Commission of Inquiry into this allegation. The report of this inquiry should be submitted to the Minister who will then see if there is any substance in the allegation. If there is any substance he can then find ways to avoid such an occurrence repeating itself in the future.

The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is one of the institutions of the Federal Government which you will all agree has the task of projecting Nigeria's personality. The second paragraph in the Memorandum explains that the reason why this Amendment is before the House is because of Nigeria's assumption of independent status. This is quite well and good, but the trouble is that, if the only reason why this Amendment is brought before the House is for the Minister to have direct supervision of the Corporation for appointments of Members of the Board, then I think the Minister has one very important duty which he should face first—that is, this question of discrimination.

Whether the Amendment is passed or not, there are no measures which the Minister has promised the House on this allegation. We must have this allegation stopped, whether it is right or wrong, whether it should be proved by a Commission of Enquiry or not. I do think we should have a Commission of Enquiry to prove this allegation, and we must have measures issued to stop it.

Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North) : I oppose the Bill. We on this side of the House have no quarrel over the numerical strength of the membership of the Corporation, but we are opposed to certain clauses contained in the Bill. The original Ordinance catered for the

[MR ODEBUNMI]

Governor in Council in all the Regions to make recommendations, but now we know that something is being planned to stop power being given to Regional Government.

The Regional Government or the Party in power in every Region is the accredited representative of the people—they know the people and are responsible for knowing who are supposed to qualify for the Membership of this Corporation. The Minister of Information should revert to the original mode of appointment. I feel that the Minister of Information laid too much emphasis on party politics during his speech. That shows to everybody that there is an intention behind the setting up of this Bill.

There is a portion in the Bill which gives opportunity to a member of this Ministry to be in the Corporation, and this is unfair. The Director is here as a member of the Corporation. But there should not be somebody else from this Ministry as an adviser, or a member, because that member would not be able to do justice to the work. In the first place he would not vote against his Ministry. In the second place he would do all he could to keep his job going. Therefore, it would be unfair to have such a man on the Panel of Members of the Corporation.

In addition, I would like to say that the parties, the major political parties of this country, ought to be allocated sufficient time. In Great Britain the practice is for all the parties, particularly the Conservatives and the Labour parties, to be given equal rights to broadcast their political manifestos.

There should not be any control, if the power is taken away from the Regional Governments or the Governor in Council, to make the recommendation, then something is wrong—something is fishy. We should like to point out to the Minister of Information that he should by all means try to see that this evil is removed, that this anomaly is removed, otherwise we know that history and posterity will come to support our protest.

The Minister of Information is well advised to withdraw the Bill.

Hon. F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I rise to support the Amendment.

I want to congratulate the Minister of Information on introducing the Amendment. I happened to serve as a Member of this Board, and the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has always been accused of bias, distortion and all sorts of things.

This Corporation has not tried to project Nigeria to the outside world. To-day, when one listens to the programmes of the N.B.C., instead of listening to programmes projecting Nigeria's personality to the outside world, we can hear news from places like India, Togo and the Congo. It seems that nothing is being done to project our own culture to the rest of the world.

Then the news items in our Broadcasting Corporation do not in any way reflect our culture. The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation since it was established has not, in any way, proved as an effective instrument to present Nigeria abroad. We have at present the Western and Eastern Nigerian Broadcasting Services having very powerful transmitters. When I was a Board member we protested strongly against the faulty transmitters we have in this country. But now that the Minister of Information would be given power to give directives and check the cause of failures in the N.B.C., I think that is why we on this Side of the House welcome the Amendment. It would give the Minister an ample opportunity to listen and to correct any bad impression that might be created in the N.B.C.

Secondly, it should be the duty of the Minister now to look into the conditions of service of the staff of the N.B.C. because both the Western and Eastern Broadcasting Services are snatching most of the trained members of the staff of the N.B.C. The Minister should take this point into consideration. It is very essential. The Eastern and Western Broadcasting Corporations draw all their trained staff from the N.B.C. and we are complaining that the members of the staff of the N.B.C. are not doing well. Something must be done in order to attract them to remain in their posts.

The employment of News Reporters must also be investigated because some of the News Reporters belong to some political parties and therefore they must protect the interest of their parties in the Corporation. This must

be stopped if we want the N.B.C. to carry out its useful purpose in this country. We must see to it that these political agents of certain political parties are no longer allowed to serve as members of the staff.

The attitude of the N.B.C. in distorting some of the news items should be investigated. It is also very bad when there is a distortion of news in the N.B.C. and one sends the correct version of the news item they would never make use of the correction unless when it is by major political parties in the country. Now that the Minister will be given the power to investigate and even to give directives to either the Director-General of the N.B.C. or the members of the Board, then he will be in a better position to investigate these allegations whenever they arise and see that effective steps are taken to remedy the position.

The Chairmen of various Regional Boards should now co-operate with the Central Board. I remember there was a time an enquiry was set up in the Eastern Region and the Report was sent to the Central Board but that Report was suppressed up to the moment. The Minister should now see to it that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is well manned.

With these few remarks I beg to support the Amendment.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) : I have to congratulate the Minister of Information because there are indications that he is an able Minister. But I would like to suggest to him that the Ministry should be up and doing for it is ridiculous to find that a very important personality like the Prime Minister or any Minister goes on tour without the N.B.C. knowing precisely his whereabouts.

It sometimes happens that in the mornings the N.B.C. carries the news of the departure of such a personality for another part of the country. They then continue to announce that the gentleman is on his way so often, in fact, that even when the person in question has arrived at his destination the N.B.C. still announces that he is in fact on his way !

I say this from my own personal experience. In my constituency which is Jos we had sometimes gone out to welcome a visitor only to find afterwards that the N.B.C. carried the

news that the visitor was still on his way whereas, in fact, he had arrived. Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister to ensure that the News Section of the N.B.C. is more alive to its responsibility.

I now come to my own personal criticism. The N.B.C. does not often relay news of what some Members of the House say in this House, particularly what I say myself. At times one may make a statement suggesting certain steps and find that such a statement is not taken notice of by the N.B.C., until somebody who is considered good enough says it. I should be grateful, therefore, if the Minister would make sure that these things do not continue.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I rise to give full marks to the Minister of Information for bringing this important and momentous Bill.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On point of order. I would like to ask if any Member wears a crown in this hon. House. There is a beaded crown on the head of the hon. Member for Ibadan South (Mr Akinjide).

Mr Speaker : I do not know whether the hon. Member is raising a Point of Order or asking a question. Apparently he has asked a question, and I am afraid questions cannot be entertained at the moment.

Mr Akinjide : I give full marks to the Minister of Information for bringing this momentous and important Bill, probably more important than many of us think of.

This Bill is the climax of the agitation, comments and protests of myself and many others for almost three years now. We have always argued that it was useless giving the Regional Governments powers to appoint members of the Regional Boards, leaving only the power of appointment to the Central Board to the Federal Government.

There is no doubt that the Western and Eastern Regions have their own Broadcasting Stations and they appoint the members to the Boards. I understand that the North too is going to establish its own Broadcasting system and it is almost certain that the North will not consult the Federal Government in appointing members of the Board. The power of appointing all the members to the Board should be vested in the Minister of Information.

[MR AKINJIDE]

Another point of importance is that people who are going to be appointed to these Boards should be men of calibre, and not just illiterates or semi-illiterates. They should be people who know what they are doing and not only people to rubber stamp. This applies not only to the Federal Board but also to the Regions.

Section 4 of the Bill gives the Minister power of direction to the Board or to the Corporation on matters of policy. This is a very important section. It is not only important but momentous, and I will honestly warn the Minister not to misuse this power. I am sure the members of the Board of the Corporation have nothing to fear if they have nothing to hide. Most of these Corporations are too independent of the Government—not only the N.B.C. but all the other Corporations. We have passed the colonial days and I say that in giving direction to the N.B.C., the Minister should have in mind the interests of this country as a whole.

Many people are perturbed by the News Section of the N.B.C. I must confess that for the past few months the News Section of the N.B.C. has been doing very well, so it will be unfair to attack it now.

We have a Federal system of government and the N.B.C. has to keep a balance between all these rival political parties and rival governments, so it is not easy for people in the Board to sort things out. If many of us were put there, we probably would have done worse. As far as the News Section is concerned, I am appealing to the Minister of Information to give direction to start recruiting graduates into the News Section. One of the maladies is that there are many incompetent people there.

I am not condemning everybody in the News Section. There are very fine reporters and editors and sub-editors there. But at the same time, there are those who are not competent. And we cannot get the best news unless we put the best men there.

In other Corporations all over the world there are Ph.D. people as reporters. Why should we not have people with B.Sc. and LL.B. in the N.B.C. News Section? I am saying that as a matter of policy, from now onwards, the Corporation should begin to recruit graduates to the News Section.

I think this is the proper time to touch on the question of the Director-General. Sometime ago an announcement was made that the Director-General of the N.B.C. would be going away and that another gentleman from New Zealand would be appointed. That is unfortunate. It is a defeatist attitude and it is a vote of no confidence on the ability of the Nigerians to manage their own affairs. I was shocked that the Minister of Information was party to such a proposal.

I cannot believe that inside the Broadcasting House or in the whole of this country we cannot get a single Nigerian, male or female, capable of heading that Corporation. In Gambia a Gambian is head of the Corporation; in Sierra Leone a Sierra Leonean is head; in Ghana a Ghanaian is head of the Broadcasting Corporation. Why can we not get a Nigerian? Why do we have to go all the way to New Zealand to bring an expatriate to head our Broadcasting system?

And what is more? When this man goes away (the new man has not come) this same Corporation appoints a Nigerian to act for the gentleman coming from New Zealand. I challenge the Minister of Information to tell this House whether the man who is acting there is not doing the job properly? What special reason has he got for bringing an expatriate? I cannot imagine a Nigerian or an American heading the British Broadcasting Corporation! Or a Russian going to China to head their news system!

I appeal to the Government and to the Minister of Information in particular to use his good offices to revoke at once the appointment of this expatriate and put a Nigerian on the job.

The time has come when we should stop the relay of B.B.C. overseas news in this country. I do not see any reasonable purpose it serves. It amounts to saying that the N.B.C. is incompetent to give us all these things. The common source of news for all newspapers is *Reuter* as well as other news agencies. These sources are open to the N.B.C. Why then can the News Section not get this news from this system, edit it and give it out? The B.B.C. is there to project the British culture. I want to hear Lagos projecting the Nigerian personality. And do not forget that in times of national emergency the

British people will make use of the B.B.C. to project British policy and, indirectly, that will influence the thinking of the Nigerian people. The time has come to maintain standards in the N.B.C. and abrogate the broadcast of news from the B.B.C.

Furthermore, I think the N.B.C. should conduct what they call listeners research. This will help them to come out of probably ninety *per cent* of their problems. If they do this, they will be able to know what we want and their broadcasts will reflect the Nigerian tradition, and so on.

I beg to support.

Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East): This Bill has been able to achieve three or four important things. One is that it has been able to give political control of the Broadcasting Corporation to the Minister in charge of Broadcasting because one could see that membership of this Board is completely going to be made up of all party supporters of both the N.P.C. and N.C.N.C. I think that broadcasting should be taken completely out of politics. We are running it now into politics and, it is now being controlled by politicians and it is really very dangerous. I hope, that the Minister concerned will take note.

In the old law, the Chairman of each Regional Board was automatically a member of the Federal Board but that will not be under this amendment. I will refer to the old law section 20—"The Regional Board shall consist of the following Members, a Chairman to be appointed by the Governor in Council of the Region". That is being amended now. You are amending that by deleting the word—"Governor in Council" in paragraphs (a) and (b) where they occur and substituting the words—"Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the Minister after consultation with the appropriate Regional Government". And, in subsection (2) by substituting after "application" the words—"The Minister shall exercise his power after considering the recommendation of the Governor in Council of the Region".

I think that is an indirect insult. In the old law the Region is entitled to make recommendation, now the Minister has taken that control out of the hands of the Governor of a Region not from a Minister but from the Governor. I think that is an insult. I do not

know what will be the reaction of the Regional Governments but, I am sure, any Regional Government worth its salt will not consider even sending any representation to this Board. It is an indirect insult on the Regional Governments.

Now that that Chairman of the Regional Board is going to be appointed by the Minister, it is definite that the Chairman of the Regional Board is not going to be a member or the nominee of the Regional Government. He is going to be a nominee of the Minister and he is sure to appoint somebody who all the Regional Governments will not reckon with. What is the position? You have a Board where all the members are from one political party. That is what is going to happen. We are not going to be deceived.

I do not believe in what you refer to as consultation. Consultation as in the case of Dr Ikejiani? You hold consultations and the Minister turns it down and you say we should consult. That is the type of consultation. The Minister may be well advised now to make the necessary amendment and leave the Regional Governors out of it. If for one reason or the other perhaps one thinks that this may be a spite on the Western Regional Government then you are making a mistake.

Secondly, this new set up or this new Bill is being brought here because the Minister or the Federal Government would like to inject into the membership of these Boards party supporters, men and women. We would like to take into consideration the fact that even though as late as it is, looking at the Gallery, one could see quite an array of women coming to witness the passing of the Broadcasting Bill under the able Minister of Information. As an hon. Member said, men and women of integrity should be appointed to these Boards not girl friends. If we are going to have women, nobody is against it, but for God's sake let us have women of integrity.

Dr Kalu Ezera: Point of Order, Mr Chairman. No insinuations should be allowed.

Chief Akerele: As I was saying, after jobs might have been found for both the party men and women then the next step is to raise the allowances. I would like to say this on behalf of the people of this country, that the Minister should please have his way if he

[CHIEF AKERELE]

wishes. He has already had his way of injecting into the Boards all the members of his party or the Government party; we have no quarrel. But please do not, at least until the economic condition of this country is improved, increase their allowances. I do hope, that the Minister will take this matter seriously.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time, committed to a Committee of the whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC., CAP. 133) ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(Section 5 of Ordinance replaced).

The Minister of Information : I beg to move, That in Clause 2, page C.427 lines 17 and 18 to leave out the words—"recommended by the Minister responsible for broadcasting."

Question put and agreed to.

The Minister of Information : I beg to move, That in Clause 2, page C.428 to leave out from word—office—in line 2 to the end of line 8 and to insert the words—"be appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the Minister".

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 2—(Section 5 of Ordinance replaced), as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 3-11 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

MINERALS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. M. Maitama Sule) : I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a simple and non-contentious Bill. I have only two Amendments to make. The first Amendment simplifies the procedure and saves time and money both to the Government and the Mining community. The existing section 37 of the Minerals Ordinance allows for

the renewal of mining leases provided that the lessee is carrying on the work in a normal and businesslike manner. There have been, however legal arguments as to whether the wording of the existing Clause empowers the Government to grant more than one renewal.

The other Amendment in section 64 is sufficiently explained in the explanatory memorandum to this Act, and as I have said earlier, it is a non-controversial Bill. It merely seeks to do what I have just explained and I do not think I should unnecessarily take the time of the House.

I, therefore, beg to move.

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

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : I support this Bill with some reservation.

We have many Oil Companies and Mining Companies in this country and it seems to me that after granting them these leases much time is not taken to follow up the activities of these companies. We have been told from time to time that millions of pounds have been spent by oil companies in the search for oil without corresponding publicity on the amount realised from the sale of this oil. It is not enough for these oil companies to tell the nation that they have spent millions and millions of pounds and that they are running at a deficit. The Government should device means of cross-checking the information from these oil companies.

The whole nation cannot just be swallowing any piece of information given to it, and rest content that everything is all right. These oil and mining companies often tell us that they are facing a sort of competition or that the whole industry itself is imperilled by bad weather in the world market. I think that the Government should co-operate with these companies to attract better market

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! This Bill merely deals with the renewal of leases and I am afraid the hon. Member is taking too wide a scope.

Mr Mbah : I am trying to show the effect of these leases on the employees of the companies, because in the country now it seems all the oil companies are declaring their workers redundant and we are being told that they are

operating at a loss. For instance, there is a company in which the Government has a 50 per cent interest. If the Government has 50 per cent interest in a company surely it ought to be interested in all aspects of the company's affairs. But what baffles me is that while these companies are complaining of this deficit day in and day out, other companies are declaring profits all over the world.

I want to quote a specific case for instance. My information is that the momentum that was generated by oil companies in the latter part of 1960 has carried through the year 1961 and many oil companies have reported sharp increases in their profits over the same period of 1960. I would like to say that while we are being told in this country that the oil industry is being adversely affected by bad weather, the story in other parts of the world is quite a different thing.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member is repeating the same mistake. I think that I should remind him that he should speak on the leases and not on profits of oil companies.

Mr Mbah : May I wind up by saying that while I thank the Minister for bringing this Bill, I think the Minister being a first class nationalist, will be doing a great service to the nation if he will help his fellow Nigerians in the oil industry to work with more security.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) : I support the Amendment Bill ably moved by the Minister but I have to make one observation. To my mind the Amendment does not go far enough. In fact, one would have expected that the whole of the Mineral Ordinance should have been brought up for review. As we all know this Mineral Ordinance was one of those obnoxious Bills against which the nationalists of this country gave a tough attack and one therefore wonders why it should still remain unreviewed almost a year after our independence.

There are many things not Nigerian in it and this aspect of it, the aspect of having all minerals vested in the Crown is against the Nigerian concept of ownership. I think the time has come when the Mineral Ordinance should be reviewed in its entirety so that the people from where oil or mineral is found will benefit directly.

Talking on the Amendment itself, I have seen that the Bill seeks to give discretionary

power to the Minister and that is very good. With the present Minister I know he will use this discretionary power to advantage. As we know Ministries change hands. My humble submission is that any Minister using this discretionary power should be very wise especially in the oil industry.

As we all know the oil industry all the world over has been something associated with fighting, so that if care is not taken and we renew licences for leases indiscriminately, time will come when these companies will hold this country to ransom.

It is evident that in the next decade or so the oil industry will become one of the main-springs of the economy of this country and if we are not careful now, what is happening in some other countries will happen in this country also; a time will come when these companies will dictate to us. As we know, he who pays the piper dictates the tune. For instance, if we happen to depend entirely on the proceeds from these oils the oil companies could delay information coming from this source of our income and thereby the country may not run the Government efficiently.

Of course, I know that our present Minister is aware of this and perhaps in renewing leases, he will always take this into account.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I think this is a good Bill but from experience we have learnt to look carefully into Bills being brought by a Minister, even though such a Minister may be a popular one.

When looking at this Bill, one sees that where a lessee has got a lease and is operating the lease in the proper manner and the Chief Inspector recommends that he is entitled to a renewal of his lease, this Bill clothes the Minister with the power either to grant the extension or renewal of the lease or to refuse renewal without giving any reason. I think the Minister should have given us the reason why this particular amendment is being brought to this House because it is a very natural desire for human being to have power and to use it too. We would not like our Ministers to be clothed with dictatorial powers, or with powers to grant or refuse to grant any right or privilege to them without giving any reason. I think this is a dangerous power.

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

Under section 2, where a lessee not less than six months before the expiry of the lease makes an application in writing to the Chief Inspector for any further renewal of his lease, if the Chief Inspector is satisfied that the lease is being done in a proper manner according to the nature of the lease, and the lease is not liable to forfeiture on any other ground, the Minister after considering the advice of the Chief Inspector may, in his discretion and upon such terms and conditions as he thinks fit authorise a further renewal. That is a dangerous amendment.

Without being called upon to assign a reason, the Minister may refuse a further renewal. Everything is being done perfectly. Now, the Chief Inspector who is in close contact with the lessee who is supposed to be prospecting for oil recommends that the Minister in assigning any reason in his sole discretion may still refuse to do so.

I think this is a dangerous power which should be considered carefully because it is dictatorial. It may work to the disadvantage of the mining companies whose look or looks the Minister does not like.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; committed to a Committee of the whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

MINERALS (AMENDMENT) BILL
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—(SECTION 64 OF THE ORDINANCE REPLACED).

Mr S. J. Umoren (Uyo North): Here is another provision which makes the Minister very generous. Clause 3 (2) reads: "The Minister may if he thinks fit waive the requirements of this section as to survey in the case of any exclusive prospecting licence." That is to say, even though Clause 64(1) makes it compulsory for a survey to be carried out the Minister may waive that aside and still grants a licence. If there are conditions which must be fulfilled by any company these conditions must be fulfilled before the licence is renewed.

We do not want the Minister to be looked upon by any company or by any person as favouring this company and not favouring the other one. We want the conditions to be fulfilled in every respect so that the Minister may not be suspected.

Clauses 3 and 4 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Mines and Power).

Dr K. Ezera (Bende East): One last point. This point concerns the issuance or the renewal of leases with respect to inventory of our mineral resources in this country. I am not very sure whether we have full scale inventories of the minerals we have. It is my information that most mining companies keep these facts secret properties of their companies and not as property of the Government.

Would it not be possible for the Minister to make sure that the prospective company should advance to the Government their findings in terms of their mineral resources so that we keep a catalogue of all such minerals that we have? I should be grateful if the Minister could give some consideration to this.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. M. Maitama Sule): While it is the policy of my Ministry as far as possible to find out what mineral resources we have in this country so that we may encourage other people and attract them to come and exploit them, we also try to see to the question raised. I would have to say that when a company is winding up and leaving the country, they hand over information they have collected while they were prospecting for any particular mineral.

I believe that this is a very important point that has been raised. I can assure you that we are doing our best to get what information we can possibly get from the mining companies. I think it may need to be looked into and that I will do so as soon as practicable.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

Mr Speaker: It is now after 12 midnight. The House stands adjourned.

Adjourned at 12.05 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 29th August, 1961
The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Foreign Aircraft

O.404. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Transport, what means are at his disposal for knowing the contents of the baggage in a Foreign aircraft temporarily using Nigerian aerodromes.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : Articles 30 of the Colonial Air Navigation Order, which remains effective in Nigeria pending enactment of new civil aviation legislation, requires a person in command of an aircraft engaged in an international flight to produce a manifest of the goods carried in an aircraft, as well as a list of the names of the passengers.

The Governor-General's powers under this Order were, with certain exceptions, delegated to the Director of Civil Aviation under Public Notice No. 2533 of 1955 and officers in charge of international airports exercise the necessary functions on behalf of the Director. In addition, I understand from my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, that under the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Ordinance, and regulations thereunder, officers of the Board of Customs and Excise also have power to board any aircraft engaged in international air services and to inspect it and any goods carried therein.

Dr K. Ezera : Can the Minister tell the House whether there has been any occasion when such measures had been taken and military materials found in the aerodromes.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : Fresh reports concerning a German aircraft on a charter flight through Kano on the 1st of July, to the effect that it was carrying amunitions of war to Angola resulted in an examination being made of the aircraft in question. No trace of any such implement or amunitions was found.

Similar reports current at the time of an incident to another German aircraft at Kano on the 17th of June, were thoroughly investigated and again no evidence was found on any implement or amunitions of war having been carried.

The carriage of ammunitions of war or implements of war is prohibited—Act 37 of the Colonial Air Navigation Order applicable in Nigeria. If an aircraft is suspected of carrying such prohibited article it could be examined and if proved to be correct could be prevented from taking off by a person authorised under Act 64 of the Order. Senior Control staff are so authorised.

Nigerian Air Hostesses

***O.405. M. Haliru** asked the Minister of Transport how many Nigerian air hostesses have been trained and how many are being trained, Region by Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : My hon. Friend is informed that 12 Nigerian stewardesses have been trained and that nine of these are from the Western Nigeria and three from the Eastern Nigeria. In addition, both the Chief Stewardess and the Training Stewardess come from the Western Nigeria.

It is understood that there are at present ten stewardesses under training: seven of these are from the Eastern Nigeria, two from the Northern Nigeria and one from the Western Nigeria.

Old Railway Coaches

***O.406. Mr C. A. Odigbo** asked the Minister of Transport how soon it is proposed to replace the old railway coaches which are used on the Eastern Line of the Railways.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : My hon. Friend understands that there are no old railway coaches in use on the limited trains. With regard to the local passenger trains which run between Port Harcourt and Jos, it is understood that none of the third-class coaches is more than ten years old although a few of the combined first and second-class coaches have been in service for a longer period.

All passenger coaches are given a regular overhaul with a view to keeping them in good

condition. My hon. Friend is informed that, bearing in mind its present financial position, the Nigerian Railway Corporation has no plans at present for replacing these coaches.

Baro Port

*O.407. **M. Haliru Gwandu** asked the Minister of Transport, what plans he has for the development of the port of Baro and when does he intend to carry them out.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport : I intend to develop the port of Baro to a standard sufficient to meet projected traffic flows during the next decade.

Transport Economists have been engaged on calculating these flows during the past year, and, based on their calculations, I have recently commissioned consultants to draw up designs for port improvements at Baro. Although I would not wish to be specific at this stage, I can say that the improvements are likely to be carried out in two stages.

I anticipate that the first stage will be to effect minor improvements to meet the comparatively modest increase in traffic that is expected to be generated during the next few years. Later, improvements on a larger scale are likely to be required to meet the greater flows of traffic which are expected to develop after the completion of the Escravos Bar project and if a multi-purpose dam at Kainji is commissioned.

LABOUR AND WELFARE

Labour Movement

O.408. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Labour, what further efforts he has since made in bringing about harmony between the two warring factions of the labour movement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : A full account of the efforts which have been made to settle the rift in the central labour movement was contained in my Answer to Written Question No. W.84 at page 65 in the Hansard of 17th April, 1961.

I have come to the conclusion that if there is to be a lasting settlement of this question, the necessary rapprochement must originate from within the labour movement itself. I

do not therefore consider that any useful purpose will be served by my taking a new initiative in the matter at the present time. The services of myself and my Ministry continue to remain, however, at the disposal of the disputants for any assistance they may need in reaching a settlement.

Mr E. C. Akwivu : Is the Minister saying that he and his Ministry have completely failed in bringing the Unions together ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : That is exactly what I said.

Dr P. U. Okeke : Is the Minister aware that certain foreign factors influence the factions in our labour movement ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : I am not aware of that.

Sports

O.410. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Labour what steps he is taking to encourage our future sportsmen to put up better performances at future Olympic and British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : The Federal Government is determined to raise the standard of sports in this country to international level. The Government has been giving regular financial assistance to the Nigerian Sports Association for the development of the various sports and in the current financial year the annual subvention to the Association has been increased from £2,400 to £5,000. The Government is also supporting financially the five-year coaching scheme of the Nigeria Olympic and British Empire and Commonwealth Games Association. In the last financial year a sum of £11,870 was granted for the coaching scheme and in the current estimates a sum of £9,870 has been appropriated for the scheme.

The Federal Government has approved a further sum of £80,000 for the planning of the remaining phases of the National Stadium, and this will be followed in due course by another huge sum of money required for the execution of the entire project.

The most significant development in our determination to encourage our sportsmen to put better performances at future international

meetings is the formation of the Nigerian National Sports Council which will shortly be formally constituted. All the Regional Governments and the Regional Sports Councils or Commissions are actively co-operating in this venture, and agreement has been reached in principle with the Regional Governments on the object and composition of the National Sports Council. The main object of the Council is "to encourage and promote the development of sports on the national level and to co-ordinate the activities of the various Regional Sports Councils with a view to raising the standard of sports generally in Nigeria".

A Sub-Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the hon. Chief Akin Deko, Western Regional Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources who is a famous sports enthusiast, to draw up a draft constitution for the proposed Nigerian National Sports Council. It is hoped that when the Council is duly constituted it will present its programme of sports development to the Federal Government with a request for funds to its implementation.

I am sure hon. Members will agree with me that the Federal Government is already taking steps to ensure better performances at future Olympic and British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

Dr P. U. Okeke : Is the Minister aware that our sports here in this country are in danger of being destructive because of the vindictiveness of the players especially in football ?

Mr A. F. Odulana : With the expressed views of the Minister of Labour to promote the standard of our sports in Nigeria generally, is he aware that one of the best noted games in the Commonwealth and in the British Empire and in almost all parts of the world is cricket and that it is rapidly dying down in this country ? Is this the way that we project Nigeria ? You hear of Australia everyday, you hear of India everyday and Canada everyday but Nigeria is never mentioned in cricket, is he aware of that ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : This is a new question, I suppose.

Trade Union Representation at I.L.O.

O.411 Mr O. C. Ememe : asked the Minister of Labour, why was the Nigerian Trade Union Congress denied representation in the meeting of I.L.O. ; and whether he is aware that this action has given the impression that the Government is opposed to centralisation of the Labour Movement or is biased against the Nigerian Trade Union Congress.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : In a statement which I made in this House on Tuesday, the 18th April, 1961, I explained fully the Government's position and decision regarding the selection of workers' representatives on the Nigerian delegation to the 45th Session of the International Labour Conference. I have nothing to add to that statement, to which I refer the hon. Member.

Dr Kalu Ezera : Will the Minister himself please tell the House in truth what the role of I.C.F.T.U. and W.F.T.U. has been in making this type of decision with regard to our labour movement ?

Fernando Po Labourers

***O.412. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Labour how many Nigerian labourers are at present in Fernando Po ; and what has he done to protect their interests, especially against inhuman treatment by their employers and poor wages.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour : According to available records, the total number of Nigerians in the Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea, including Fernando Po, is 40,000. Of this number approximately 23,000 are engaged in accordance with the terms of our Labour Agreement with the Spanish Authorities. Of the remaining 17,000 it is not possible to state how many are non-Agreement workers and how many are traders as the trading population is an itinerant one.

The rights and privileges of the workers recruited under the Agreement are safeguarded as far as possible by the provisions of that Agreement which has been published as Government Notice No. 1973 in the Federation of Nigeria *Official Gazette*, dated 31st November, 1957.

A Federal Government staff of senior Nigerian officers consisting of a Vice-Consul, one Labour Officer, and two Labour Inspectors are at present stationed in various parts of the island to ensure that the provisions of the Agreement are observed. To this end, they inspect farms where Nigerian workers are employed to interview the workers and deal with any complaint they may have. If necessary, representations are made to the Spanish Authorities for the correction of any irregularity discovered; and the Federal Government reserves the right to prohibit the engagement of workers for any employer in the Spanish Guinea who repeatedly and grossly infringes the provisions of the Labour Agreement.

The Nigerian workers not covered by this Agreement are entitled to protection under the Spanish labour legislation. It may be that these workers are less generously treated and do not enjoy the same degree of protection as is provided by the Labour Agreement, but this is a risk which they have taken of their own volition and this Government is not in a position to intervene except that in matters not involving their employment contract reference may be made to the Vice-Consul who can make representations on their behalf.

I have personally led a Parliamentary Delegation to the Spanish Guinea in 1957, and again this year. Having thus seen things on the spot for myself, I am satisfied that the conditions under which Nigerian workers live and work in the island are not as bad as critics have often represented them to be.

Under the new wage agreement negotiated with the Spanish Authorities during my last visit, an increase in deferred wages from £1 to £1-10s-0d per month and in the locally paid wages from 100 to 445 pesetas (£2-12s-4d sterling) was approved for the Nigerian workers recruited under the current Agreement with effect from 1st July, 1961. In addition, the workers are entitled to free housing, food rations, firewood, medical care, and wherever practicable, they are provided with suitable farming land free of charge as well, for the cultivation of food crops. In these circumstances, I would not describe the present wage rates as poor nor would I support any generalised statement about inhuman treatment of the Nigerian workers employed in the Island.

MINES AND POWER

Mineral Survey in the Western Region

O.413. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Mines and Power what proposals are being made to carry out mineral surveys in the Western Region and particularly in Ijebu Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : Geological mapping and investigation of mineral occurrences in Western Nigeria has been vigorously prosecuted by the Geological Survey Division of the Ministry for a number of years. The lignite and phosphate deposits have been prospected in detail and work has been done on the limestone resources of the Region. Numerous other mineral occurrences have been examined and this work is continuing. More than half of Ijebu Province has been mapped on a scale of 1 : 100,000 (1 inch = 1.6 miles). The Southern part of the Province has been prospected by oil mining companies and one company still has an interest in this area.

Lead-zinc in Abakaliki Division

O.414. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Minister of Mines and Power what proposals he has for exploiting the lead and zinc in Nyebe in Abakaliki Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The lead and zinc deposits at Nyebe are held under lease by a company who must either exploit the deposits or show good cause to Government why they cannot be exploited. With the present low prices for lead and zinc exploitation is not attractive.

Expatriates in Mining Industry

O.415. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he is aware that expatriate mining interests are trying to monopolise the mining industry in this country and if he will take steps to check the monopoly.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : My hon. Friend, the Minister is aware of the cry against expatriate mining interests trying to monopolise the mining industry. But his

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policy has always been to make mining land available to any mining concern which can show that economic quantities of mineral exist on the land and that it has the technical competence and capital to make good use of them.

Mr S. D. Lari : When will the Ministry nationalise the mining industry in this country ?

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is not the intention of the Federal Government now to nationalise any industry and I think that policy has been made quite clear several times in the past.

Export of Minerals

O.416. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Mines and Power if he will state what minerals have been mined and exported from this country within the past four years, indicating the quantity of each mineral exported within the period and the localities in which those minerals are found.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The answer to this question is rather lengthy and in tabular form, so I have arranged for it to be published in the printed report.

Gold Deposits in Minna

O.417. M. Garba Turakin Paiko asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether any mining company has applied for mining and prospecting licences at Minna and when does the Government propose to start exploiting the gold deposits discovered there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : There are four gold mining leases and six cassiterite and tantalite mining leases extant in the Minna area of Niger Province. There are no applications at present under consideration in this area. Our policy is not direct exploitation of such resources by Governmental action but the grant of licences and leases to applicants, Nigerian or expatriate, who have the necessary competence and finance to undertake prospecting and mining operations.

The minerals exported from Nigeria within the last four years and the quantity of each

mineral exported within the period are as follows :—

Minerals	1956-57 Tons	1957-58 Tons	1958-59 Tons	1959-60 Tons
Cassiterite	13,584	12,401	6,738	8,614
Columbite	2,250	1,018	1,103	2,107
Tantalite	12	22	19	16
Lead	329	870	920	1,166
Wolfram	2	1	—	—
Gold	—	18 ozs	—	—
Monazite	61	80	40	—
Thorite	811	635	190	—
Zircon	—	—	90	873
Coal	—	126,881	107,723	61,811
Mineral Oil	—	24,034	289,950	653,521

The localities in which these minerals occur are as follows :—

Cassiterite—found mainly in Plateau, Bauchi, Zaria, Kano and Benue Provinces.

Columbite—found mainly in Plateau, Bauchi, Benue, Kabba.

Tantalite—found mainly in Plateau, Kabba.

Lead—occurs in a belt of country from Abakaliki in the South to the Plateau Province in the North.

Wolfram—occurs in Zaria and Bauchi Provinces.

Gold—occurs in the Ilesha District, also in Niger and Sokoto Provinces.

Monazite—occurs largely with tin deposits.

Thorite—occurs largely with tin deposits.

Zircon—occurs largely with tin deposits.

Coal—occurs at Enugu from where the production is now obtained.

Mineral Oil—is produced from fields mainly at Oloibiri, Afam and Bomu.

An hon. Member : Will the Minister consider any individual who is preparing to undertake the exploitation of the gold there ?

The Minister of Mines and Power : Yes, of course, if such a person fulfils all the conditions and regulations laid down by Government.

Shiroro Gorge Scheme

O.418. M. Garba Turakin Paiko asked the Minister of Mines and Power why work on Shiroro Gorge in Niger Province has been stopped in spite of the profit which the Government will derive when everything is completed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The preliminary investigations at Shiroro Gorge have been completed by the Consultants who have issued their feasibility report on this project, which is integrated with the overall Niger Dams project, the latter is being pursued with the greatest urgency by the Federal Government. No work at the site is required at present, but there is no question of "stopping" the project.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

ACTS AUTHENTICATION BILL

Bill to make provision for the authentication and recording of Acts of Parliament, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Thursday, 31st August, 1961.

EXPORT PRODUCE (FEDERAL POWERS) BILL

Bill to confer sundry powers in relation to certain produce intended for export, presented by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Thursday, 31st August, 1961.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance (Chapter 166), presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time on Thursday, 31st August, 1961.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCE OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL LEGISLATURE

Mr Speaker : Before we go on to Motions, I would like to explain to the House that an Amendment to the first Motion had been submitted but unfortunately it was not recorded in the Order Paper for to-day. Sufficient notice had been given but due to the late sitting we had last night, it was not possible to get it printed on the Order Paper.

The Amendment, if Members would like to know, is to be moved by the Prime Minister. "In line 2 leave out from 'House' to the end of Question, and add 'Views with great concern the appointment by the Government of Western Nigeria of a Superintendent-General

of Local Government Police since such appointment interferes with the executive appointment of the Federation'".

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : I rise to move—

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : On a point of Order, I humbly submit that for three reasons this Motion should not be taken in this House. The Motion has two subject matters. The first is about the alleged opening in New York by the West Regional Government of an information office and industrial advisory office, and the second is about the alleged unconstitutionality of the appointment of a Superintendent-General of N.A. Police in the Western Region.

Mr Abii : On a point of Order—

Mr Speaker : I would like to hear the point of Order being raised by the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) first.

Chief Rosiji : I would like to bring to the notice of this House the fact that there is an action pending in the Court which makes the subject matter of the Superintendent-General's appointment *sub judice*. I refer to case No. 403/61 which is before the Customary Court of Western Region. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order! I am sure that Customary Courts are not meant by the expression *law court* in the Standing Orders.

Chief Rosiji : May I finish my point of Order?

Several hon. Members : No!

Mr Speaker : Order, order! And the second point is that the hon. Member for Egba East might have overlooked the fact that this Motion has been agreed to in this House when it was brought up by the Chairman of the Business Committee. I have, therefore no choice other than to continue with the business as agreed to by the House.

Chief Rosiji : Mr Speaker—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Hon. M. Amechi) : My point of order is that the Speaker's rulings cannot be questioned by any Member of Parliament.

Mr Speaker : Since I made that ruling nobody has yet challenged it.

Chief Rosiji : I would have liked you, Mr Speaker, to allow me to finish my speech on the point of Order. I said that I have three points and I have not yet made them. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Chief Rosiji : As I was saying, I hope that Mr Speaker will let me finish this point on the Court. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! I am afraid we are making no progress.

Chief Rosiji : My point is that all courts which are set up under the constitution of this country are courts which must be recognised by all the institutions of the country. My second point is this. (*Interruptions*).

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On point of Order, the hon. Member for Egba East is persistently challenging the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Order, the hon. Member for Egba East is not challenging the ruling of the Speaker.

Chief Rosiji : My second point is that it has been a consistent policy of this House that any Regional Government should be discussed or invited on the Floor of this House. Mr Speaker has several times ruled many hon. Members out of Order, and the hon. Prime Minister has also intervened to stop Members discussing Regional Governments on the Floor of this House.

This Motion is an indictment of the West Regional Government, which is not represented in this House. The West Regional Government is not obeying this House, and once we start I think the door is being left open and we shall be free to challenge or indict any other Regional Government, but we must accept the responsibility squarely on our shoulders. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I very much object to interruptions from the Government Bench. I expect a first class silence and observance of the debate from them, and then I shall be able to know better how to deal with other offenders.

Chief Rosiji : The first two Motions on the Order Paper are an indictment of the West Regional Government and the people of the Western Region.

The Minister of Finance : Point of Order. The Point of Order I wish to raise is on the issue of irrelevance. In the first place, my hon. Friend is making a speech before this House, and I am sure, Mr Speaker, you will be the last man to try to create an issue of precedence here. Secondly, this matter concerns the Executive Authority of the Federal Government and if it is infringed by anybody, I say that this House is competent to debate it. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. With respect to the Minister, I feel that I will have to hear more from Chief Rosiji.

Chief Rosiji : I was saying that I think that it will be striking at the root of the unity of this country if we persistently conspire in this House against the Region and the people of that Region. I think that this is a dangerous precedent that is being set, and it is up to us to express an opinion on it, and then the House can do as it likes.

The first point is that the issue in this Motion is one of constitutionality. In our Constitution the Judiciary is the authority to decide on the constitutionality of any matter. The debate in Parliament does not decide the constitutionality of any matter. All these people are talking here, and they can raise their hands any number of times—but that does not decide the matter. It is not a matter of democracy, it is not a matter of votes, it is a matter of law.

Furthermore, I have reliable information that the matter to which I referred earlier which was standing in the Customary Court has now been transferred to the High Court of the Western Region. The rule is that Mr Speaker will rule and the House abides by the Speaker's ruling.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : Point of explanation on the Point of Order.

Mr Speaker : I will have to give a ruling on Chief Rosiji's Point of Order. As far as I can see, this Motion refers to an exercise of authority outside the constitutional competence,

[MR SPEAKER]

that is constitutional matters are within the authority of this legislature, and as far as this Motion is concerned, I feel that, being the representatives of the whole of the Federation rather than individual constituencies, each and every one is responsible for each and every part of Nigeria, and it depends on the goodwill with which the Motion is debated. It can be constructive, as well as otherwise, and so I feel that it is within the competence of this Parliament to discuss any constitutional matters at all.

Mr D. N. Abii : I beg to move—

That this House views with grave concern that the Government of Western Nigeria has exercised its executive authority with respect to matters outside the constitutional competence of the Regional legislature, by appointing a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police and by the establishment of a Regional Information and Trade Office in New York, United States of America, the latter action being in addition calculated to impede or prejudice the exercise of the Executive Authority of the Federation.

I humbly beg to refer to the publication in a newspaper—

Chief Rosiji : Point of order. Standing Orders forbid the quoting of newspaper reports in this House.

Mr Speaker : I have already explained that we cannot base our arguments on newspaper reports, but so far it has not been clear to me whether he is basing his arguments on the newspaper reports or doing something else.

Mr Abii : I beg leave to refer to a newspaper publication. Why I beg to refer to that is that I am feeling that the hon. Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria might have submitted the amendment due to this letter that came from the hon. Minister, Premier of the Western Region, and for that reason, I want to show you humbly that that letter has not denied the establishment of a trade office in New York. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order. I think it has been made clear to me that the hon. Member is basing his arguments on the publication of newspaper reports, if he is not, then he would

not have quoted the extracts from the newspaper. He can raise his points without making reference to the newspaper if he is not basing his argument on such reports.

Mr Abii : Mr Speaker, I accept your ruling I wish to say to this House that from the letter or the news issued by radio yesterday, as a reply to the Premier of Western Region, I am of the opinion that he has attempted—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : The speaker is basing his argument on rumour.

Mr Speaker : I would not call an announcement by the N.B.C. a rumour. One may argue that it should not be a basis for argument here, but certainly it is reliable enough not to be called a rumour.

Mr D. N. Abii : I am speaking on the information which I have myself. I have it from a reliable source that a Trade Office was opened on the 9th of August in New York.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : (Hon. Jaja A. Wachuku) : I want to draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 25 (1) which says : "A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes." Therefore, the suggestion by the Opposition that one cannot rely on papers is wrong.

Mr Speaker : Order, he said 25 (1). Well, what the Standing Order says is that "A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes". Well, "paper" as far as I understand it in this order does not refer to a newspaper.

Mr Abii : I am not in any way disturbed. I can speak without referring to any paper. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, the volume of interruptions in this House is really shocking ; it should really come to a stop otherwise we will make little progress.

Mr Abii : I wish to state on the Floor of this House that from my information the Western Nigeria Premier had admitted that his Govern-

ment has opened a Trade Office in New York. Let me prove it. Firstly, in his letter to the Prime Minister the Premier said that his Government had an American Associate.

(Chief Ayo Rosiji rose in his place to move a point of order.)

Mr Speaker : Order, there is no breach of order in his speech so far.

(Chief Ayo Rosiji rose again.)

Mr Speaker : Chief Rosiji, would you like to make a point of order ?

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Yes, Sir. I would like to say that this is a very serious allegation and the hon. Member should indicate the source of his proclamation. He is basing his argument on rumours and newspaper reports.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Mr Abii : I have said that the Premier of the Western Region of Nigeria has admitted that his Government opened a Trade Office in New York. In his letter to the Prime Minister of this Federation the Premier admitted that they have an American Associate in London. This American Associate has to arrange the reception of the Minister of Information of Western Nigeria in New York. But I would like to know whether this Associate is living in London or in New York.

My second point by which I have said that he admitted the opening of a trade office in New York is this. Chief Fadairo, the Minister of Information of Western Nigeria, is a full grown man. When this Office was opened in New York this Minister made a statement in which he said that from the opening of the Trade Office in New York—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, I will turn now to the Front Bench of the Action Group, I beg your pardon, I mean the Opposition. Will these hon. Members maintain silence ?

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to be rising up so many times on this matter. I think that a very grave miscarriage of justice has been done here. If these statements which are not true are allowed I think we shall be discussing things which are not just in this House.

Mr Speaker : Order, unnecessary raising of points of order merely spoils the tone of the debate.

Chief Rosiji has raised a point that some statements made by the hon. Member are not true. But that is the essence of the debate. If one is not satisfied with the statement of any Member one has the opportunity to rise and disprove his statement rather than unnecessarily raising a point of order. You can raise a point of explanation where you feel that his statement is not correct in a particular respect of which you are sure. But I would appeal to Members not to raise points of order unnecessarily.

Mr Abii : Sir, I thank you very much. I was on my second point by which I say that the Premier of Western Nigeria has admitted the opening of a trade office in New York. I would like to emphasise the fact that in his letter to the Prime Minister of this Federation the Premier admitted that the Minister of Information, Chief Fadairo, was in New York for the function. He said that the American Associate arranged this function in honour of this Minister. And it was during this time that this Minister of Information said that by the opening of this Office in New York campaign for trade has been boosted up.

If a grown up man like Chief Fadairo can make this statement at a function, is it not reasonable to accept that they were opening an office for trade communications with Western Nigeria ?

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, I earlier raised the point that the Member is basing his debate on mere rumour. He has to give us some specific sources of information. He has mentioned Mr Fadairo, he has mentioned so many people without giving any facts at all,

Mr Abii : May I humbly remind the last speaker that I do not tell lies. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think people must learn really how to control themselves.

Mr Abii : I want to make this point quite clear that the hon. Prime Minister did not permit people who are—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : I would not like to embarrass Members by mentioning their names, but it seems to me that to get things going, some names must have to be mentioned.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : I feel I should raise a point of order. This country is being ruled under a Written Constitution and that Constitution specifies the powers of Parliament, the powers of the Executive and specifies the powers of the Judiciary.

Well, under section 32 of the Constitution Order in Council it is provided—this deals with interpretations—that a court means any court of law in Nigeria other than a court martial and includes Her Majesty in Council. On this point, if Mr Speaker is satisfied that the matter being referred to here or being discussed here is pending before any court of law in this country—(Interruptions).

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order—(Interruptions.)

Mr Speaker : Order, order! When a Member raises a point of order, he should normally be heard, but if he goes to the extent of breaching the order of the House in raising his point of order, then another Member can raise a point of order on his breach of order. The hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Olugbade*) has just started raising a point of order, has made some statements on raising the point of order and the hon. Minister of Finance raises a point of order, maybe on his speech.

Well, the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) also raised a point of order when the Minister had said nothing at all. Unless the hon. Member for Degema is going to raise a point of order on a speech which the Minister of Finance has not made at all, then he is not entitled to raise that point of order.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order. (Interruptions).

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker : Is Chief Enahoro raising a point of order on what I have just explained?

Chief Enahoro : I would like to raise a point of order to the effect that the Minister

is not entitled to be heard at this stage, even on a point of order. I would refer you, Sir, to Standing Order 26 (2) which reads: "When the question of order has been stated, the Member who raises it shall resume his seat, and no other Member, except with the leave of Mr Speaker or the Chairman, shall rise until Mr Speaker or the Chairman has decided the question." "When the question of order has been stated. . . .". Well, the Member has not finished raising his point of order. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*), has misunderstood the interpretation of the Standing Order. What the Order says is: "When the question of order has been stated, the Member who raises it shall resume his seat, and no other Member, except with the leave of Mr Speaker. . . .". Well, the Minister of Finance has the leave of the Speaker.

The Minister of Finance : With the leave of the Speaker—(Interruptions.)

Mr Speaker : Order, order, order. Will Mr Ezonbodor please maintain silence?

The Minister of Finance : The point of order I wanted to raise is that the question which is *sub judice* has been raised earlier in this debate—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, order! I think I had better suspend the sitting for ten minutes.

Sitting suspended : 11.10 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.25 a.m.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I would like to refer Members to Standing Order 25 (3) in which it is stated that reference must not be made to any matter in which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as might, in Mr Speaker's opinion, prejudice the interests of the parties thereto.

Well, it is my opinion that this particular Motion refers to a constitutional matter which is within the competence of the Parliament of the Federation. I base my opinion on the decision made by this House and unanimously agreed to that the Motion be debated to-day in spite of what might be pending. Therefore will Members please allow progress to be made instead of making persistent interruptions by raising points of order. Mr Abii.

Mr D. N. Abii rose—

Chief A. Enahoro : Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Just before we rose for the break, I tried to raise the point of order 25 (5) which says : "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language". The hon. Minister of Finance in the course of his statement got enraged by a Member and said to that Member "shut up". I suggest, Sir, that that is intemperate and unparliamentary language, insulting and offensive, and that the Minister should not use such language.

Mr Speaker : I do not think there is any cause for raising alarm. These things are often said by people, and it really depends on the spirit in which the Minister said it. Although I cannot read the spirit of people's behaviour yet I think the hon. Minister said it in good faith.

Mr D. N. Abii : My Motion can safely be grouped into two. One group deals with the Western Regional Government flouting the powers of the Federal Government by the appointment of what they call Superintendent-General of Native Authority Police in the whole of the Region.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : I want to raise this point of Order because of the words used by the hon. Member for Owerri West (*Mr D. N. Abii*), that the West Regional Government is flouting the powers of the Federal Government.

May I refer the House to section 31 of our Constitution which reads "Any person who alleges that any of the provisions of this Charter, that is the Charter on human right, has been contravened in any territory in relation to him, may apply to the High Court of that territory for redress".

Minister of State (Hon. M. T. Mbu) : May I point out the provisions of Order 26 (i) : "A Member raising a point of Order simply directs the attention of the Speaker to that particular point he wishes to raise".

Mr Speaker : The Order says, a Member raising a point of Order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker for decision. I rely on the House's Standing Orders on the

very point the hon. Member is raising a point of Order, and that is the reference the Member for Owerri West (*Mr Abii*) has made to the activity of the West Regional Government.

I will take it that any hon. Member who raises a point of Order unnecessarily is merely interrupting the debate and such a Member may be dealt with by the Speaker.

Mr D. N. Abii : May I proceed to deal with the Motion which I said can safely be divided into two. One deals with the unconstitutional appointment of the Superintendent-General of Native Authority Police throughout the Western Nigeria. And the second section of the Motion deals with the establishment of a Trade Office in New York. I shall leave the matter of establishment of Trade Office in New York by the Premier of Western Nigeria till the hon. Prime Minister moves his Amendment.

I wish to call upon this hon. House to be very serious with this matter. It is not a simple matter at all. I believe that the Western Government made it a point to side-track the Federal Government in all matters in this constitution. For that reason I hope you, Mr Speaker, will allow me to refer to extracts I have made from the Constitution.

The constitutional provisions authorising the establishment of a Police Force for Nigeria are contained in Chapter 7 (pages B271-273), of the Constitution Order in Council 1960.

The only Police Force with constitutional validity throughout the entire Federation of Nigeria is the Nigeria Police Force established under section 98 (1) of the Constitution Order-in-Council.

Section 98 (4) of the Constitution Order-in-Council expressly provides that no Police Forces other than the Nigeria Police Force shall be established for Nigeria or any part thereof, subject to the section's other provisions.

The only other saving section is 98 (7) which authorises the legislature of a Region to make provision for the maintenance of local government police force or Authority for a Province only or any part of a province and for use only within such province. "Province" is defined by section 98 (8) as any area that was a province on 13th September, 1954.

[MR ABII]

There is no constitutional provision whatsoever for Regional native authority or local government police force or authority. Therefore any purported establishment of a region-wide native authority police or local government police is unconstitutional.

The maintenance of law and order is vested in the authority of the Commissioner of the Region. The West Regional Government has appointed Chief E. A. Oluwole as the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police with authority covering the whole of the Western Region. Is Superintendent-General not another word for Inspector-General of Police? In other words if the Constitution of this country does not authorise a Regional legislature to appoint a Police Force for the whole Region, a question can then be asked, why has the Western Region done this?

I want to tell hon. Members that it has been a set plan of the West Regional Government to side-track the Federal Government. May I remind the House also that during the Constitutional Conference in London the representatives of the West Regional Government opposed the idea of a police force for the whole country. They wanted the Police to be regionalised. Since that time the Government of the Western Nigeria has not ceased from its intention to create their own Police Force.

If the Federal Government is to be respected, and if the unity of this country is to be maintained, it is necessary to ask the West Regional Government to abandon this act of aggression.

Secondly, the Western Region Government does not want to respect the Constitution as far as external affairs are concerned.

By item 15 of the Exclusive Legislative List of the Schedule to the Constitution all external affairs are vested in the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government, subject to other provisions of the Constitution. It follows therefore, Mr Speaker, that Regional Legislators are not competent to provide for any matter dealing with external affairs except the Constitution expressly authorises it.

By section 80 of the Constitution Order-in-Council the executive authority of a Region is limited to the matters in respect of which the legislature of the Region has power to make laws.

On the 9th of August, as everybody knows—
(Interruptions.)

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : Point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member has intimated that he would not deal with that aspect of his speech concerning the opening of the New York Trade Office, and it is out of order for him to mention it.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Mr Abii : I was saying that on the 9th August, 1961 the Western Regional Government very trickishly arranged for the opening of a Trade Office in New York. It was said that it was not the Government, but it is my contention that they put it up. They are saying that it was their Marketing Board who opened it, but when the matter comes to public notice one hears them say that they did not open an office. However, the Minister of Information of Western Nigeria opened an office and made a statement, and one of the most important points he raised was that by the opening of this office the Trade Campaign of Western Nigeria has been launched and spotlighted. If the Minister of Information of a Regional Government will open an office like that, how can his Premier deny it?

That is why I urge that this House listen to this Motion and advise the Government on what to do. If it is the intention of the Western Government to side-track the Federal Government, how long will the Government allow the Western Government to go on doing this? Is it not necessary to take steps to put an end to this?

I refer again to the Constitution when I declare that the establishment of an Information and/or Trade Office by the Western Nigeria Government in New York, United States of America, is therefore illegal, unconstitutional and *ultra vires*.

I am urging this House to ask the Government to take a firm stand and stop the Western Government from continuing to wield power where the Constitution does not give them authority. I feel that if this is allowed, the unity of this country will be dissolved. It is necessary that the Government should take a firm stand. They cannot continue to deceive

the Federal Government—telling lies will not save them, being afraid to say what one has a mind to say will not save them.

I do sincerely hope that the Federal Government will examine these allegations. The Federal Government will know what to do. I think the Constitution allows that where the Western Government does not want to take the advice of the Prime Minister of the Federal Government, the Western Government can be taken to Court, so as to stop this sort of thing. There—the question of Court has come at last. I submit that as the appointment of Chief Oluwole is a fact, and the establishment of the Trade Office in New York on the 9th August this year is true, this country will order the Prime Minister to take the necessary steps to stop the Western Government from the exercise of constitutional powers which rightly belong to the Federal Government. I beg to move.

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to second this Motion which has been so excellently moved by my hon. Friend, Mr D. N. Abii.

Hon. Members will already know that this Motion is divided into two separate subjects, the first concerns the appointment by Action Group Government of the Western Region of a Superintendent-General of Police, Western Region, and the second aspect of the Motion deals with the establishment by the same Government of an Information and Trade Office in New York City, United States. I intend to deal with them myself separately.

Here, Mr Speaker, is a copy of the Nigerian Constitution Order-in-Council 1960, and with your permission I intend during the course of my speech to refer to it in order to prove that the action taken by the Government of the Western Region is not only unconstitutional, *ultra vires* and illegal as claimed by the hon. Mover, but that it is also most devious because this sort of action will only portray Nigeria as a divided country.

On the appointment of this Superintendent-General of Local Government Police by the Western Nigeria Government, I think the Mover has covered almost every point except that I want to emphasise on a very important point. This fact is that the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order within the Region is constitutionally vested in

the authority known as the Commissioner of Police for the Region, as provided by section 99 (4) of our Constitution.

Section 99 (4) of our Constitution reads as follows: "Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the Commissioner of Police of a Region shall comply with the directions of the Premier of the Region or such other Minister of the Government of the Region as may be authorized in that behalf by the Premier with respect to the maintaining and securing of public safety and public order within the Region or cause them to be complied with".

It therefore follows that the purported appointment of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police having jurisdiction in Western Nigeria over all the Region's Local Government Police extending across the boundaries of more than one province of the Region is illegal. This purported appointment by the Western Nigeria Government is illegal, unconstitutional and *ultra vires*.

It is, therefore, my humble submission that any money paid from the Western public fund for the maintenance or in connection with the maintenance of that Office is illegal and should be recovered by a court action in the court of law. From the Floor of this House I call on the Western Nigeria Opposition and all the right thinking people of Western Nigeria to sue the Premier and his Ministers for spending their money illegally and extravagantly.

I would appeal to the Federal Government and all the Police authorities in this country not to recognise this gentleman as the Superintendent-General of Police in Western Nigeria because he is not truly an official of the Local Government Police in Western Nigeria. I regard him as an impostor meddling unnecessarily with matters which he ought to know are outside the competence of the Western Regional Government.

Some hon. Members may speak on the N.A. Police in the Northern Region. In anticipation of what the Members of that little group may say, let me make it quite clear that the Northern Regional Government has no, repeat no, Police of its own. The only Police in the Northern Region, besides the Nigeria Police, is the Native Authority Police and each N.A. has its own Police and its own officers. The N.A. Police has no control or jurisdiction whatsoever over any other emirates

[M. MUHTARI]

Therefore, any criticism of the Northern Regional Government by that little group is malicious, uncalled for and dangerously irresponsible.

Turning to the second aspect of this Motion which is the establishment in New York of this Information and Trade Office, I must strongly say that this kind of action is even more dangerous in that it tends to inculcate into the minds of the American people some sort of doubt about Nigerian unity. This action may even block the inflow of foreign investments into this country. We can clearly see that the Action Group Government of the Western Region is not only out to destroy its political opponents but also has determined to block and to mar our industrial progress.

This sort of action is not surprising because this is one of the several attempts by the Action Group Government to secede from the Federation. But I would say that try as they may in their secessionist policy they will never succeed and whether they like it or not this Federation has come to stay.

The Federal Government should not treat this matter with levity because the Action Group is challenging its sovereignty not only at the political level but also at the governmental level. Therefore, the Federal Government may, if it wants to, make a law under an Act of Parliament prohibiting or not allowing the Western Nigeria Government to open this Information and Trade Office.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, may I refer the House to sections 66 and 80 of our Constitution. Section 66 (1) reads as follows :

“During any period in which there is in force a resolution of each House of Parliament supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the Members of that House declaring that the executive authority of a Region is being exercised in contravention of section 80 of this Constitution, Parliament may make laws for that Region with respect to matters not included in the Legislative Lists to such extent as may appear to Parliament to be necessary for securing compliance with the provisions of that section”.

Section 80 reads as follows :

“The executive authority of a Region shall extend to the execution and maintenance of the constitution of the Region and to all matters with respect to which the legislature of the Region has for the time being power to make laws but shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive authority of the Federation or to endanger the continuance of Federal Government in Nigeria”.

I hereby strongly appeal to the Federal Government to investigate this matter thoroughly and to use all the constitutional powers at its command to see that this Information and Trade Office is not opened. For our part we in Parliament assembled condemn the Western Nigeria Government for this unconstitutional and illegal action it has taken so far.

I beg to second.

The Prime Minister : I must say that I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker, for informing the House of the Amendment which did not appear on the *Order Paper*, and I beg to move—

After “House” in line 2 to delete all the words occurring and to insert, “views with grave concern the appointment by the Government of Western Nigeria of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police since such appointment interferes with the executive authority of the Federation”.

In that case the Motion should now read : “That this House views with grave concern the appointment by the Government of Western Nigeria of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police since such appointment interferes with the executive authority of the Federation”.

I move this Amendment because of the correspondence which has passed between me and the Premier of the Western Region. My attention was drawn sometime to a publication in some newspapers alleging that the Western Nigeria Government had opened an office in a foreign country and I thought that was a matter entirely for the Regional Government and so I wrote the Premier a letter.

I am surprised this morning to see that my letter and his reply also appear in some of the newspapers. We could, of course, explain

to the newspapers and to other people that we had written to each other, but I think the full letter should not have been published in that way. However, that is what has happened and I think that the two letters were correctly reported—my letter to the Premier and his letter to me—and I am quite satisfied that the Western Regional Government did not open an office in New York.

Now on this particular matter about relations between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments and our external relations, it seems to me that we ought to realise in this country that we are just under a year old as a sovereign country and that we have a very complicated system of Government to operate. The federal system of Government is a very difficult system even for people who have been practising its operation for over a hundred years.

We started in 1954, not very long ago, and our independence came in about less than a year's time; therefore, from now until many years to come, we shall be faced with many constitutional problems of federal nature. Sometimes the Governments in the Federation, which are autonomous in themselves according to the Constitution, may tend to go out of their way, but it is our business in the Federal Government to draw their attention to the fact that they have gone beyond their own limits.

I think we have to accept that these mistakes will continue though of course I do not mean that to be an encouragement to any Regional Government to interfere with a Federal responsibility and to come back and call it a mistake. I would also like to tell the House that in my opinion Parliament should make some allowance for the state of affairs in the country, and for our inexperience in operating this system. Also we ought to agree that for many, many years to come, we shall continue to make mistakes. Our system is a difficult system and when I wrote the Premier of the West he replied to say that he would take steps to see that this misrepresentation was corrected in the Press; and they have now corrected it. The West Regional Government has now come out to tell us that they did not open an Information Office in the United States.

Now, Sir, the second point in the Motion is in respect of the appointment of the Superintendent-General of Police in the Western Region. On that point too, I wrote to the Premier and I regarded it as more serious than the opening of the Information Office in New York because the Constitution was very clear on that point and after very lengthy discussions in our many Constitutional Conferences, we came to agree among ourselves that it is most important that the Nigeria Police should remain a Federal affair and in no condition should a Regional Government be allowed to establish a Police Force of its own.

However, a Local Government Police Force could be established, but they should not be established in a way that they should operate on an inter-provincial basis. I heard about this appointment of a Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police Force in the Western Region. This sounds in every sense to be a Regional Police Force, and I thought I should write to the Premier and point that out to him. I wrote him and the Premier has not replied to my letter. I am expecting a reply from him and I should have thought that it should have been much better for me first to get a reply to the letter which I wrote to the Premier before I could decide whether they did it intentionally or not.

Now, we have this Motion on our hands and I have to speak on the Motion and what I would like to say is that according to my legal advice, the appointment of the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police in the Western Region is unconstitutional.

An hon. Member : Sack him !

The Prime Minister : There is no question of sacking involved. I think it is a question of discussing these matters with the Premier and trying to make him see my point of view. I think the Premier no doubt believes in what he tells me, namely that he is interested in seeing that the Constitution is maintained and is kept and in seeing that the provisions of the Constitution are observed by everybody. I am still in discussion with the Premier about these matters and I expect that he will be very anxious to see that the Constitution is given every chance to work.

When we come to the next Motion I shall speak at great length. I would however say that Nigeria expects nothing from the Prime

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

both written before this House met and before there was any Motion in this House. The Prime Minister's letter was dated the 14th of August and the reply from the Western Region Premier was dated the 17th of August, in each case long before this House sat and long before there was any Motion. It would, therefore, be entirely wrong to suggest that the letters were exchanged because of anything likely to happen on the Floor of this House.

Now, in regard to the Local Government Police half of this Motion, I think that there must be very few people better qualified than myself to assure the House that the advice which the Prime Minister has got is wrong. I say it in all earnestness because I had a lot to do with the establishment of these Forces in the Western Region six years ago. The letter which the Prime Minister has sent to the Premier of the Western Region suggests that this is a new establishment or that something new has been done. That is not the case. When I was in office in the Western Region, four different persons served under me as Superintendent-General of Local Government Police Forces. The law itself which set up the Local Government Police Forces in the Western Region came into being on the 1st of September, 1955. I presented it in the Western House.

In the case of the Superintendent-General—this is a diversion—the first Superintendent-General of the Police Forces Mr Pallet, happened to be the same officer who arrested me for sedition some years ago, and I was most delighted to welcome him into the Ministry as my adviser! After Mr Pallet, who was a very excellent officer, there was Mr Swain and then Mr Marlesden, and this is the fourth appointment to that office. They were all Senior Superintendent of the Nigeria Police Force who took office as Superintendent-General in the Local Government Police Forces.

I do assure the Prime Minister, therefore, that there is nothing new at all that has been done. I am not dealing now with the question of whether it is constitutional or not because I think it would be a sad state of affairs if the authority to decide what is constitutional in this country is not the Federal Supreme Court or our judges but the Member for Dambatta, Mallam Muktari Sarkin Bai.

I think that what this House should ask itself is: "What does the law say?" It is all very well for us to take one attitude or another. What does the law say? You will find in section 3 of the Local Government Police Law that only Local Government authorities can establish Forces. That is the first point. You then find in sections 5 and 6 that only Local Government Authorities within the same Province can establish a joint Force. That is the second point. You then find in section 8 that Police Forces can only be employed or deployed within their own Province. That is the third point.

A Member has quoted the Constitution in respect of the powers which the Regions have. Furthermore, the title of this officer is quite clear—"Superintendent-General of Local Government Police Forces", not "Superintendent-General of Local Government Police Force". We will come to his functions in a few moments.

In regard to the area of authority of this Local Government Police Force, it will be found in subsection 20 that every Police Force has authority in respect of the area in which it is established. Furthermore, it will be found that there are various references to the areas in which Forces are established. There is no pretence anywhere that there is a Region-wide Police Force.

In regard to the operational control of these Forces, because I think that is a vital matter, we have to turn partly to Rule 3 and there one can find "The Force shall be under the general supervision and command of the Chief Officer" (not anybody else, but the Chief Officer) in that province. The Chief Officer shall be responsible for all matters relating to the administrative supervision of the Force, for the proper expenditure of money. Rule 33—the Chief Officer, not the Superintendent, shall be responsible for the maintenance of discipline, shall personally adjudicate in all disciplinary matters. Rules 41 and 44 give the Chief Officer power in respect of these men.

Who appoints this Chief Officer? That is another important matter. It will be found under section 23 of this law that the Chief

Officer is appointed by the Local Government authority or by the Joint Committee established by various Local Authorities. It will be found furthermore in Rule 2 that the Chief Officer means the Officer appointed by the Council or Joint Committee. We thus have these Forces in various Provinces with the Chief Officer appointed by these people.

I recall that when this Bill was tabled in the Western House the chief complaint of the N.C.N.C. was that the Council should not appoint the Chief Officer. They wanted an experienced person if the Force could be independent of the Government. They said they did not want politicians to have anything to do with the control of the Police Force.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): The hon. Prime Minister has assured this House that if it is true that the Government of the Western Region appoints a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police, it is unconstitutional. He has made that statement. As the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief A. Enahoro*) in the course of his speech has admitted that such appointment exists, will it not be proper for us to have a ruling now?

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Member is entitled to deny the statement.

Chief Enahoro: As a matter of principle I want to make this clear to the other Side. It does not matter how much respect we have for the Prime Minister. Whatever he says can be contested on the Floor of this House. Much of the attitude of the House is purely a matter of respect; indeed much depends on how much prudence is attached to what the Prime Minister says. He is entitled to his own opinion. I will not be in any Parliament in which I cannot criticise the Prime Minister if I have cause to do so.

In regard to the Superintendent-General, I want to add that there is such an officer and that that officer is the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police Forces, not of any Regional Force. The case for the appointment of that officer was that the Western Region Government contributes 50 per cent towards the recurrent cost of maintaining Local Government Forces in the Region, and 100 per cent in respect of training schools. It was necessary that an agent should be appointed who would ensure that

this money was properly expended. That was the first point.

The second point was that there was a need to place expert advice at the disposal of these various authorities so as to promote efficiency and to achieve some degree of uniformity in all these forces. There had to be some sort of a clearing house. This adviser or clearing house is the Superintendent-General. This Superintendent-General, under section 13, is appointed by the Governor. He is subject to the Governor, and in the Governor's absence he can use his discretion.

What are the functions and powers of this Superintendent-General? If one turns to section 14 (1) one will find that the Superintendent-General can give directions of a general character in regard to training. Somebody has to advise the Forces. He is entitled to attend meetings of all sorts to discuss Police business, but he is not entitled to vote.

Mr D. N. Abii: I feel that the hon. Member for Ishan East telling this House the duties of the Superintendent-General is irrelevant. We are talking of the appointment, whether it is constitutional or not. He is wasting our time.

Mr Speaker: It may seem that the hon. Member for Ishan East is irrelevant, but it seems to me that he is collecting a number of facts to substantiate his argument.

Chief Enahoro: It is my opinion that in order to assist in reaching a decision we have to hear not only what the Prime Minister has said but also what are the functions of this officer under the law. How can one decide what he does if one does not know what his functions are?

His other functions are to receive returns, to undertake inspection, to advise the Executive Council in respect of the administration of the Local Government Police. I think that the situation which has existed in the last six years cannot be regarded as new. I have my own views as to why they were brought up by the N.C.N.C. at this time. May I offer the N.C.N.C. this advice, that they are on a good wicket in this matter. As long as they speak in the debate about Superintendent-General, they are on a good wicket indeed, because there are complaints in respect of the exercise of authority by N.A. Police in other parts of the Federation.

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

The complaint has always been that those in 'charge' are politicians. I do suggest very strongly that the alternative to an officer who can advise and make sure that these forces develop is the joint authority which should take complete administrative control of their own party. And then they complain that the politicians are not suitable!

An hon. Member : On point of Order—

(Chief Enahoro continues standing and talking amidst interruptions)

Mr Speaker : I feel that we should cultivate a spirit of co-operation.

Chief Enahoro : I have cultivated that spirit.

Mr Speaker : It is my duty to know who has cultivated that spirit.

An hon. Member : The hon. Member for Ishan East has been talking all the time about the powers and functions of the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police, but the point at issue is whether the appointment of such an officer is constitutional or not.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. There is so much noise that it is impossible for me to hear what the hon. Member is explaining. If this waste of time is going to continue then I think I will ask Chief Enahoro to continue his speech.

Mr A. U. D. Mba : Point of Order, Sir. The issue before this House is whether the appointment of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police in the Western Region is constitutional or unconstitutional. As I said earlier, we have been assured by no other person than the Prime Minister that this is unconstitutional. I agree that my hon. Friend, the Member for Ishan East is authorised to criticise the Prime Minister—that is his right—and I have no quarrel with his right to criticise him.

Chief Enahoro : Now with respect to the Superintendent-General of Police—*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker : Order, order!

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Point of Order, Sir. We have listened to the hon. Member for Ishan East (Chief Enahoro)

and what he had to tell us. Now we want him to tell us about the constitutionality of the Superintendent-General.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order. There is no breach of order, and will hon. Members please leave it to me to be the judge of whether there is a breach of order?

Chief Enahoro : If hon. Members are not in a hurry I will soon come to the point of unconstitutionality. I am humble enough to admit that what advice we have got is one legal opinion—the hon. Prime Minister may have another. The place to decide it is in the Courts. It cannot be suggested that a parliamentary majority—

Dr Okeke stood up.

Mr Speaker : Will Dr Okeke please resume his seat?

Chief Enahoro : I was about to say, Sir, that a parliamentary majority acting largely in ignorance and partly out of spite, cannot be substituted for the law courts!

If I may answer three specific points made by the Prime Minister both in his letter and on the Floor of this House. First of all, this Force is not a new Force; there is not a new command, a new office, nothing new has happened, except that there is now a new holder of the post, and a new holder of the post claims the same rank in the Police Force as all the previous holders claimed.

In regard to the second point, that the post has been regionalised, may I just make one or two points here.

Mallam Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of Order. It would seem that the hon. Member for Ishan East has exhausted his time.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree that he has exhausted his time, but considering that the House has also wasted some of his time, he is entitled to a few more minutes.

Chief Enahoro : I now come, Sir, finally, to a very important point, and that is the charge in regard to the processes of the House being mis-used by the Minister of Finance in respect of this Motion. I say it in all seriousness and in all earnestness. Our Standing Orders provide that Motions of this nature do not mature until after five days.

These Motions, both this one and the next one, were presented at the Office of the Clerk on the 25th of this month. We did not wish to raise the point at the initial stages, because you might think that we wanted to stop the debate. As I say, these Motions were filed on the 25th of this month. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! This Motion has been agreed by the House to be brought up to-day, and I cannot see any reason why the hon. Member for Ishan East should accuse the Leader of the House. It is not the responsibility of the Leader of the House to bring this Motion here, but rather the responsibility of the Business Committee and the House, I should say.

Chief Enahoro : I accept that, Sir. Now the House would like to know that the new Superintendent-General of Local Government Police was recommended by the Regional Commissioner of Police, and the Inspector-General. It is necessary to make this point because the hon. Prime Minister claims that since this gentleman was appointed, co-operation has been made impossible, and I say that we have records to prove and to show that this gentleman was recommended by the Regional Commissioner of Police. How can the same people turn round and say that they cannot work with the man they recommended ?

Mr Speaker : Order ! Will the hon. Member for Owerri South East (*Mr B. N. Ukaegbu*) please resume his seat ?

Chief Enahoro : We regret that, much as we would have liked to accept the Prime Minister's Amendment and the advice which he has offered, in our view and on the face of the advice that we have been offered, we are unable to accept the Prime Minister's Amendment.

I beg to oppose both the original Motion and the Amendment.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Hon. M. Amechi) : The Prime Minister in moving his Amendment said that there were no reports yet available to confirm that the office in America was opened. I would not refer to that except in so far as it

necessary to refute one or two points made by the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*). The points contained not only untruths but, in one or two cases, truth mixed with a certain amount of falsehood.

First of all, I want to say that the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) was misleading this House when he quoted the telephone number of an office which he alleged to be the Eastern Nigerian Information Office in the United States of America. I want to say that the place and the telephone quoted by him are those of the Nigeria Office in the United States of America and not the Eastern Nigerian Office. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is here and I am sure he will support me on this point.

When I was arming myself to speak on the original Motion I decided to make reference to a cablegram which I received from the United States of America. Now, with your permission Sir, I would like to read it. The cablegram was received here in Lagos on the 25th of August and it reads :

"Western Nigeria Office. Opened 9th August at 383 Madison Avenue with Richard Detwiler in charge".

Definitely the Eastern Regional Government has no Information Office in the United States of America. As a matter of fact, from the composition of the offices of the representatives of the various Governments of Nigeria in the United Kingdom it is quite clear which Government does not want to co-operate with the Federal Government. It is a well known fact that in the United Kingdom the North Regional Government, the East Regional Government and the Federal Government have their offices under one building.

Mr Speaker : Order ! The Parliamentary Secretary should speak on the Amendment which concerns the appointment of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police.

The Parliamentary Secretary : I now come to the next point which is the Prime Minister's Amendment. The hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) made reference to the Local Government Police Law which, according to him, came into force in 1955. But the truth is that that Law is now obsolete.

[MR M. AMECHI]

The Constitutional Order-in-Council we are referring to is the one that came into operation on October 1st, 1960. Therefore, if a law was made in 1955 and in 1960 a law of the Federation came into conflict with the Regional law of 1955, naturally the law of the Federation takes precedence.

I would like to say that there is one important point made by the Prime Minister and to which I would like to draw the attention of this House. The Prime Minister, as the Opposition admitted and as all of us know, is not a man who would make a statement without being sure of his facts. He said that one striking feature of the appointment of this Superintendent-General of Local Government Police in the West is that since the appointment was made it has not been possible for the Local Government Police in the West to co-operate with the Nigeria Police. He did not say that the Nigeria Police refused to co-operate with the Local Government Police.

We all know that one of the reasons for this appointment is to make it impossible for the Nigeria Police to work in the Western Region. If the liberty of the individual will no longer be assured in the Western Region, if the individual will no longer be entitled to the protection of the Law, merely because the Nigeria Police are no longer allowed to work in that Region, it is a serious matter which concerns the Federal Government of the nation. And that is why we are very anxious to see that the Federal Government does something very positive about this state of affairs in the Western Region.

Again, the hon. Member for Ishan East said that the Police Officers under his new Police Organisation are not liable to be transferred from one province to the other. But there are on record certain Police Inspectors of the Local Government Police who have gone on transfer from Ibadan to Ondo and from Ondo to Ibadan. This is in contravention of the constitution of the land.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information : Our quarrel is not that there is a Local Government Police set up in the Western or the Northern Region. In the Northern Region, the authorities confine

their activities to the letters of the Constitution of the country. There is no inter-provincial organisation or inter-provincial transfer of Local Government Police personnel in Northern Region.

In the Eastern Region, however, there is no Local Government Police set up at all. The hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) in the morning tried to make us believe that in the Western Region they are keeping to the letters of the Constitution in that the Local Government Police personnel are not liable to be transferred from one province to another and are, in fact, not transferred from one province to another.

As I said in the morning there are facts about certain members of the Local Government Police Force who were transferred from one province to another in contravention of the Constitution of the country. For instance at Benin, there is one Inspector Iguodala, a native of Benin, recruited into the Force in Benin but later on transferred to Akure where he is now. There is also Inspector Olaye who was recruited at Benin, a native of Benin and now transferred to Ilesha. There are not only Inspectors, there is one Sergeant Obaseki who is now at Ilaro. He was recruited in Benin, a native of Benin, but was transferred to Ilaro. There is also the case of Sergeant Ilesanmi who was recruited at Ibadan, a native of Ilesha, but he is now transferred to Ondo where he is serving at present. There is also Inspector Olawure, recruited at Benin, a native of Benin, and he is now serving at Ife.

I have long catalogue of these names and if the Opposition challenge that, I will give a full list to the Speaker for record purposes. We feel that there is great danger in this action not only that there is this contravention but that there is also a total abuse of the duties and powers of the Police Force by this Local Government Police in the Western Region and that is where the Federal Government of Nigeria cannot abandon its responsibility in giving protection to the citizens of this country.

In the Western Region for instance, members of the Nigeria Police Force are hardly given a chance to perform their duties. Local Government Police handle not only Customary Court cases, they handle traffic offences, criminal offences and all sorts of things. I personally have an experience at Owo when I was going home—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Mr Akomolafe, will you please refrain from persistent interruptions?

The Parliamentary Secretary : Earlier this year, when I was travelling from Lagos to the East, I stopped at a petrol station at Owo to refuel. A shabbily dressed Local Government Policeman walked up to me at the petrol station there and said "My friend, where are your particulars?" I told him to get out; I did not know who he was. He has no right to challenge me but that shows, Mr Speaker, to what extent members of the Local Government Police in the Western Region are now abusing their office. This issue is in fact more serious than perhaps Members may think it is.

There is the danger of this gradual process developing into the creation of a local Katanga in this country and it is the duty of the Federal Government in this country to keep the country together. I want to assure you that the Federal Government will keep the country together within the Constitution, but if any party or any Government think that they can go beyond the Constitution, then it will become necessary for the Federal Government to use force on such bodies.

I support the Amendment.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the statement made by the Prime Minister on the Floor of this House this morning and in view of the fact, I still maintain, that from the correspondence which had passed between the Prime Minister and the Premier of the Western Region, the opening of this office in New York has been admitted as also the appointment of this man in charge of all Local Government Police in the Region. I beg to accept the Amendment.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House views with grave concern the appointment by the Government of Western Nigeria of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police since such appointment interferes with the executive authority of the Federation.

LAW AND ORDER IN WESTERN NIGERIA

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : I beg to move, That this House views with concern the repeated allegations about the

grave state of law and order in Western Nigeria and desires the Federal Government to look into them and to report to the House in due course.

Before I make any statement, I should have to correct the impression created by the hon. Member for Egba East, (*Chief Rosiji*), this morning. This Motion is not an indictment of the Western Nigeria. It is not a Motion filed out of spite. As somebody from the Western Nigeria myself, I know what we suffer in the Region and it is my duty to bring it to the notice of this House so that this Federal Parliament can take action and save the situation from further deterioration.

The first and the most important duty in Nigeria is the preservation of law and order within our territorial boundary. Peace and public safety rest on the Government's attitude to this Motion. My primary concern in moving this Motion is the welfare of every citizen, irrespective of party affiliation in the Western Nigeria in particular and in the Federation as a whole. In this House we talk quite often of projecting Nigerian personality and we talk very largely too of the leadership of the free States of Africa.

I am convinced that unless there is peace and unity at home, we cannot lead ourselves, not to talk of leading others, and I firmly believe that with the type of leadership that we have in this country at the moment, we can resolve our differences without calling for external agencies to help us as what happens in other parts of the world. It is the duty of the Federal Government to see that there is law and order in every part of the Federation.

I do not want to anticipate what some Members of Opposition might say, but I do not believe in the argument of correspondence, that is, because there is such a thing in the Western Region, there must be a corresponding action in the Eastern Region. It is a very weak way of arguing. We are calling on the Federal Government to help us save the situation. As far as we are concerned, I do not think the Federal Government can fold its arms and sing peace, perfect peace, while a section of the Federation, that is, the Western Region, with which this Motion is concerned and the Members of the Opposition in that particular Region, are under the hammer of a heartless Regional Government. The aim of this

[MR AYENI].

Motion therefore is to alert this House to the grave situation in the Action Group controlled Western Region and to act immediately and to report to this House in due course.

We have implicit confidence in the Government of the Federation. There has been a gradual controversy in the *Press* and elsewhere as to whether there is a breakdown of law and order in the Western Nigeria. To the casual visitor, all seems quiet in the West but those who are not members of the Action Group like ourselves, who live in that Region live in state of perpetual fear.

I would like to illustrate with the experience of my hon. Friend, the Member for Ife-Ila (Mr I. O. Oloyede) who used to sit behind me here. He had to leave his kit and kin in Ife, to seek refuge in Lagos and because he wants peace in his mind, he was forced to cross over to the Action Group. We know the ordeal through which the N.C.N.C. passes in Western Nigeria. We are calling on this Government to save the situation from deteriorating.

In Western Nigeria the Government is using the various arms of the administration to succeed in setting up a fascist regime. The first arm is the judiciary. This is the strongest arm of administration used by the Action Group to suppress the N.C.N.C. There are over 600 customary courts in Western Nigeria. In many of these courts legal representation is not allowed. These courts can handle criminal cases where the accused is not allowed the right of election, that is to say he may not be allowed to refuse to be tried by a particular judge who might be prejudiced against his case before he got there.

The process of appeal from these customary courts is rather very cumbersome and it is very expensive for the ordinary man. Even if the man has enough money to appeal, he finds it very difficult to make his appeal. The result is that people are thrown into prison in large numbers. In my own Division, 223 people were sent to prison in one week at Agenebode—

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): On point of order, I would like the hon. Member to mention the names of those people.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr Ayeni: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the Western Region customary court presidents and judges are active members of the Action Group. There is no doubt about that. They are used by the Action Group to crush the N.C.N.C. I have four photostat copies of criminal summonses issued by a customary court president in Benin Division on behalf of the Action Group. With your permission, Sir, I will read them and pass them on to your Table:

“FORM A (ii)

Order IV, Rule I

CRIMINAL SUMMONS

No. 17134

CUSTOMARY COURTS

WESTERN REGION OF NIGERIA

Customary Court of Isi-Egbede-Ohuan
Grade ‘C’

Cause/Matter No. 52/61

Action Group per Aikoriogie Obazee complainant and Akedolon Ologa (m) of Izekhiri defendant.

You are hereby commanded to appear before this court at Egaoholon on the 14th day of March, 1961 at 9 o'clock a.m. to answer a complaint that you Akedolon and five others on 13/10/60 acted in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Date: 6/3/61

(Sgd.) D. EDIONSERI,
President or Member

The argument I am putting forward is that summonses should not be issued in the name of a political party. If someone else had put these people to court, that would have been understandable. But for the Action Group as a political party to do it, is a deliberate attempt to crush the Opposition in that Region.

In many customary courts in Western Nigeria cases are determined in the local Action Group executive meetings where the customary court judge is invited and is given directions as to what to do. This is a case of gross abuse of power. What they do is that if someone has a case, the party caucus meets and the person is advised to cross the carpet to the Action Group. If he refuses he is told the verdict he is to expect and the following morning that verdict is what he is going to hear against himself!

I do not think that it is proper for politicians to influence the judiciary, but in Western Nigeria it is the common practice. I remember that a particular customary court judge in Agbede in Afenmai Division was summarily dismissed by an Action Group leader because he refused to sentence a particular N.C.N.C. candidate for an alleged offence during local elections.

All over Western Nigeria local government workers such as Sanitary Inspectors, Forest Guards, the local government Police especially are all weapons employed by the Action Group to intimidate and crush political opponents. During elections, the Secretary/Treasurers of the local councils have one specific duty to perform, and that is to make sure that Action Group candidates are returned unopposed or to ensure that the Action Group controls the council. These Secretaries, under the direction of the local party boss, will refuse to receive nomination papers from N.C.N.C. candidates particularly during local council elections—(Interruptions) I can hear the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) whispering that it is a lie—

Mr Speaker : Order order ! Will Chief Enahoro please maintain silence ?

The tension in the rural area, in Ishan Division which is the constituency of my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, is due to the fact that the Secretary-Treasurer did not want to accept—(Interruptions).

Chief Enahoro : It is a lie ; it is not in my constituency.

Mr Speaker : I am not sure he is lying.

Mr Ayeni : The tension there is due to the fact that the Secretary-Treasurer refused to receive the nomination papers from the N.C.N.C. candidates and there was confusion to that part of the country. I think my hon. Friend, the Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) knows quite well that all is not well there.

In Afenmai Division, two days before nomination closed, one of the N.C.N.C. candidates was murdered in cold blood by the Action Group supporters. This is the type of thing that party does all over the country, particularly in the rural areas. If the Opposition, which we

form in the Western Region, reacts there is going to be a complete breakdown of law and order. Cases of arbitrary tax assessment are well-known all over the Region. They are motivated by political consideration.

In some places, some very rich people who are members of the Action Group may be exempted from schedule "B" while those who are members of the N.C.N.C. pay very high rates. The aim is to make the N.C.N.C. supporters who cannot pay the heavy taxes to cross over to the Action Group. In Abeokuta Division many people who paid £2-5s-10d for tax last year have been assessed to pay £11-5s-0d. This amount is the highest that the local council is entitled to impose on people under its jurisdiction.

The Action Group makes no secret of their intention to carry out their plans without any regard to liberal democracy. In Aboh, in Asaba Division as well as in Akure district, where the N.C.N.C. won a clear majority in the last local council elections, the Action Group has resorted to acts of treachery which ridicules liberal democracy. The Western Government was defending the indefensible when it tried to explain away the issues involved in the injecting of traditional members into the Akure District Council whereby the balance of power was transferred from the N.C.N.C. which won 27 of the 43 seats, to the Action Group which won only 16 seats.

The Akure Council was dissolved in April 1960 and was replaced by a Government nominated Caretaker Committee. The Caretaker Committee controlled the District Council from April 1960 to the date of election, that is July 17, 1961. Therefore, between April 6th, 1960 and July 15, 1961, when the Government decided to amend the instrument establishing that Council, we cannot say that there was a democratically elected Council in that district. It is, therefore, a ridicule of democracy for the Western Government to say that the changes embodied were made in response to the expressed wishes of the democratically elected representatives of the community served by the Akure Council. If the view of a hand-picked Caretaker Council could be officially described as the wishes of *democratically elected representatives of the people*, then liberal democracy has lost its meaning in Western Nigeria.

[MR AYENI]

The dissolution of the Warri Urban District Council and the Sapele Urban District Council is most uncalled for. The aim is to reorganise the Council to suit the Action Group. Politically, it tends to reallocate the Warri and Sapele market stalls to Action Groupers. Original owners of the market stalls inherited these stalls from their great-grandmothers. The Government does this to deprive them of the right to own their property. This is a direct infringement of fundamental human rights which have been embodied in our Constitution. No reasonable person will allow his property to be taken away from him and given to those who are not entitled to them. He will fight back if such a thing takes place. This state must lead to a complete breakdown of law and order.

By way of comparison, if the Lagos Town Council starts to reallocate the market stalls in Lagos to N.C.N.C. supporters I think my hon. Friend, the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) will not like it. That is exactly what we do not like in Western Nigeria.

Finally, I must make it clear that the Opposition in the West has lost faith completely in the Customary Courts, Assessment Committees and the Local Government Police, and all other agencies of the Western Government. The situation in Western Nigeria is something of concern to all. It is dragging the name of this country in the mud and I hope that the Federal Government will use its good offices to help us restore good neighbourliness in the Western Nigeria. Unless the Federal Government acts in time we are likely to fight back. After all, self-preservation is the first law of nature.

I beg to move.

Alhaji Mohamed-Munir (Rano): I support the Motion. In this regard I want to emphasise the repeated allegation concerning the state of law and order deteriorating in the Western Region. This is indeed very deplorable to this nation. Although it might be easy for someone to think in a different way in order to side-track the issue, yet the dreadful allegations of suppression, discrimination and victimisation have taken such a firm footing that they cannot now be dispelled from the minds of the people without action.

Since this House is the highest legislature of the country, and since the Members of this House uphold the constitutional issues for which this House stands supreme these deplorable allegations could be given the treatment they deserve in order to prevent serious consequences from developing if they were to be neglected.

Generally speaking, I should like to sound the following warning. If Nigeria is to retain its solidarity as an integral whole, with her good name and prestige untarnished both within and without, the susceptibilities of the Federation must be felt by her components and any inclination to flout constitutional issues avoided.

As a nation we should be fully cohesive as it is in this way that Nigeria can stand as a rock of stability, admirably enviable by all who are looking at us. It is in this way we can show the rest of the world that we are really a great nation, and it is on this that the security of this country, its welfare and prosperity will largely depend.

I think I need not go beyond this point. In short, the best thing to remember always is that we should not cut our nose to spite our face.

Before I take my seat I should like to say once more that the alleged vices and maltreatments in the Western Region are too notorious. They have assumed outrageous proportions and anything may happen at any time, for confidence begets confidence and scorn begets scorn. Behold this is the gloomy picture of the movement of the Action Group Government to the non-Action Group.

Finally, with all the powers at my disposal I entirely hate these allegations concerning the breakdown of law and order in the Western Region and suggest to the Federal Government to look into the matter in the interests of public safety without undue delay and to report their findings to this House.

I beg to second.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North): This is a very very important Motion; the stability of the Federal Government rests clearly on our attitude towards this Motion to-day.

After listening to the two speakers on this Motion, one can pardon them for their ignorance because it appears they ought to be

taught the elementary principles of constitutional law. Incidentally, I happen to belong to that honourable profession—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order.

Mr Ogedengbe : We have adopted parliamentary democracy in this country, and we have three organs of government: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. Foreigners coming to this country, and to this House and listening to the two speakers who have spoken this afternoon, would have a very poor impression of the standard of civic responsibility of the citizens of this country.

We are parliamentarians. Liberty has got to be preserved if it is going to be enjoyed. We are elected not to come here and speak rubbish—we know that in Parliament a man can say whatever he likes, he can call a woman a man, he can call a boy a girl—but the outside world will be judging us by our performances in the Chief Legislature of this Federation.

Now, people have been groaning and saying that we have customary courts in the Western Region. In the United Kingdom, 82 per cent of criminal cases are dealt with in their customary courts. In having customary courts in this country we are not creating a precedent.

There are no lawyers—I stand to be corrected—in this session of their Courts. The judges are laymen. In our Constitution we have plenty of courts in this country—we have Customary Courts, various grades, we have Magistrates' Courts, Chief Magistrates' Courts, High Courts, and on top we have the Federal Supreme Court. If at any time you feel wronged by the decision of a Customary Court, there are procedures of appeal. It may be argued that if one appeals from a Customary Court in the West to a High Court in the Western Nigeria, a High Court of the Western Region would look after one—(Interruption).

Mr Speaker : Will hon. Members over there please maintain silence?

An hon. Member : The hon. Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*), is misleading the House, and he is not addressing the Chair.

Mr Speaker : He sometimes does and sometimes he turns to some other place, but in regard to his position, I think it would be very difficult for him to fix his eyes all the time on the Chair.

Mr Ogedengbe : In England it is criminal to allow arbitrary power to be exercised upon one. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, Order! I cannot allow these interruptions.

Mr Ogedengbe : What I want to say is that if a man puts his hands where he wants, without going to Court, without appealing, then he is wrong, he is at fault. I would like to quote an instance: On the Eve of the Federal Elections in 1959 there was a gentleman in Sokoto—

An hon. Member : Point of Information, please. I beg to inform the hon. Member that there is no such town in Nigeria as *Shokhoto*.

Mr Ogedengbe : There was a young man in Sokoto who was found drunk and who saw an Organising Secretary of the Action Group, and the man did not fold his hands. Without any justification the other man reported it to the Police, but understandably the Police would not do anything. However, he went further, he instituted a private prosecution against that man, and what was the verdict of the Court? He was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

This man had the audacity to appeal to the Northern High Court. What has been written has been written. His appeal was dismissed. He also came to the Federal Supreme Court but his appeal was dismissed. We believe in the rule of law and order and we do not believe in the law of Moses which says an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. We are not prepared to take the law into our hands.

Now, the situation in this country to-day between the Action Group and the N.C.N.C. makes me remember what happened in Rome in the days of Pompey and Julius Caesar. Julius Caesar was rising and there was envy there was jealousy. Cassius and Brutus were planning how to destroy Julius Caesar not knowing that they were going to destroy themselves. I would like to read some extracts, with your permission—

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, Sir, a certain Chief behind there is wearing a personal charm. A personal charm is dangerous in this House because it is dangerous in one Region!

Mr Speaker : Order ! You must have been charmed by the charm !

Mr Ogedengbe : Cassius and Brutus were planning what they would do to Julius Caesar. And with the permission of the Speaker I quote :

“Ye gods, it doth amaze me
A man of such a feeble temper should
So get the start of the majestic world
And bear the palm alone.
Why, man, he doth stride the narrow
world
Like a Colossus, and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their
fates :
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.”

I put it to the N.C.N.C. members in this country that the Action Group is now gaining more and more power in the country. On the eve of every election the N.C.N.C. members make promises that they can never fulfil and the electorates have come to discover that they cannot continue to be fooled any longer. I predict to-day that what is going to happen in this country in the near future is this—

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East) : On point of order, I would like to say that the hon. Member is being irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think he has been relevant.

Mr Ogedengbe : We won the local elections in Ibadan. We won the local elections in almost every district in the Western Region. Now the grapes are sour. I do not know why the N.C.N.C. members cannot take their defeat in good faith. After all on December 12, 1959, it appeared that fortune smiled upon the N.C.N.C. We were defeated but we took our defeat in good faith. I would appeal to the Leader of the N.C.N.C., Dr Okpara, and his immediate lieutenants to read—

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think the hon. Member should make his appeal to Dr Okpara and not to this House.

Mr Ogedengbe : I would now like to appeal to members of the N.C.N.C. to please read the political writings on the wall. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Really the volume of interruptions is getting intolerable. Will hon. Members please co-operate and maintain silence ?

Mr Ogedengbe : What would eventually happen is this. There are two groups of people in the N.C.N.C. They are the radicals and the conservatives. The radicals will desert that Party and join the Action Group and the conservatives will join the N.P.C. So that in due course we are going to have two main parties in this country. They will be the Action Group and the N.P.C.

The Motion reads thus : “That this House views with concern the repeated allegations about the grave state of law and order in Western Nigeria and desires the Federal Government to look into them and to report to the House in due course.”

I do not think that my hon. Friend the Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*), in moving this Motion, has established any ingredients required to prove his case and my hon. Friend on the N.P.C. side merely got up and said certain things. As a matter of fact, many hon. Members in this House could not even understand what he was saying. But I do not blame him because I know he is a responsible man ; he was mis-informed by the N.C.N.C. We saw that clearly. This Motion is sponsored by the N.C.N.C.

Mr Speaker : Members should avoid party quarrels in Parliament.

Mr Ogedengbe : It has been said that there was a deterioration of law and order in the Western Region. But now our great man and the father of this House in person of our great Prime Minister has told the country and the world at large that, at least from the evidence before him, there was no evidence that law and order had broken down in the Western Region.

We have been talking of one Nigeria. Is it good to pay lip service to one Nigeria ? Are we really practising as members of one country ? If the Prime Minister of the Federation, who is in a better position than anybody else in the country because he is well informed and is in the best position to know the situation of law and order, not only in the Western Region but also in the Northern Region, Eastern

Region and in the Federal Territory of Lagos, has said that law and order had not broken down how could somebody who was globe trotting for the last two months—went to Geneva, Russia and India—come back to this country and without trying to find out the truth condescended so low as to say that he believed that law and order had broken down in the Western Region ?

S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : According to Standing Order 31 the hon. Member has taken up more than his time. He has been speaking for more than 29 minutes and even we cannot get any sense from what he has been talking. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe : I want to inform the House that law and order has not broken down in the Western Region and the situation is not so grave. Ideological differences have been mentioned by one hon. Member. He said that in Akure the Divisional Council has been dissolved. In Calabar the Calabar County Council in the Eastern Region has also been dissolved. We have not created a precedent. As a matter of fact, these things merely repeat themselves in the Western Region.

According to the Constitution the Regional Governments delegate certain functions to the local councils and I think these councils are to discharge those functions faithfully, honestly and fairly. If they have failed in their duty it is the business of the Regional Governments to ensure that those duties are performed.

In Remo Division which is the constituency of the Action Group, when the West Regional Government discovered that the Remo Divisional Council was corrupt, this council was dissolved. And Remo Division is the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition in this House.

If you say that the West Regional Government injected traditional members into the Akure Divisional Council, you go to the law and challenge it. I would like to remind this hon. House that no Government in the Federation, whether the Regional Governments or the Federal Government, none of these Governments are blameless. I would refer to a recent case regarding the National Bank Inquiry.

Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : On a point of order. The hon. Member is really irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : The Inquiry into the National Bank should not come within the discussion of this Motion.

Mr Ogedengbe : If you accuse the Action Group of the Western Region of being dictatorial what is the N.C.N.C. in the East doing ? You appoint Provincial Commissioners who are qualified Organising Secretaries of the N.C.N.C.

Mr A. A. Odurinde (Oshogbo North) : On point of order. I would like to refer the hon. Member for Owo North to Standing Order No. 25 page 26, section 2—"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto". (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! The hon. Member did introduce an irrelevant matter, that is the Bank Inquiry. I ruled that it was out of order and he has departed from the point. I think he is so far going in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Mr Ogedengbe : Now, we have Customary Courts in the Eastern Region and Alkali Courts in the Northern Region and we can expose them.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I think the hon. Member is mis-informing the House. The Provincial Commissioners of the Eastern Region were duly appointed according to the law of the Region. I think it is mischievous for anybody to come here and tell lies.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member for Aba South knows fully well that that is not a point of order.

Mr Ogedengbe : It appears that the N.C.N.C. members in the Western Region are trying to create trouble in that Region in order to justify and confirm their false allegation that law and order has broken down in that Region. I should like to give this warning, that if the N.C.N.C. deliberately drags this country into civil war, they will be responsible for it.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) : On a point of order. The hon. Member for Owo North has spoken for more than 30 minutes.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member for Okigwi South West (*Mr Ahamefula*) please speak louder so that I may be able to hear him ?

Mr Ahamefula : I was saying that the hon. Member has spoken for more than 30 minutes.

Mr Speaker : Mr Ogedengbe started speaking at 4.41 and he has now three minutes more.

Mr Ogedengbe : Thank you, Sir, I was saying that if Members of the N.C.N.C. continue to create trouble in this country in order to justify their false allegation that law and order has broken down, they will stand to lose. As a matter of fact, everybody will lose. The people will know that it is the N.C.N.C. in their act of selfishness, recklessness and unreasonableness that have plunged this country into civil war.

I will read what Henry V said on the eve of the battle of Agincourt to his soldiers :

“In peace there’s nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility :
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger.”

If the N.C.N.C. plunges this country into chaos like the Congo, then everybody stands to lose something and then the N.C.N.C. will be to blame for their atrocities. Even the leader, Dr Opara, gives order to his subordinates to go and fight. He tells them that if an Action Group man chases them they should chase him. “If the Government harasses you, harass them.” The N.P.C. is doing all it can to cement the various parts of this country into one, but the N.C.N.C. is trying to create trouble. The N.P.C. should eject them from the Federal Government leaving only one party in the Government. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! The hon. Member has exhausted his time.

Mr A. O. Ogunsonya (Ikeja) : During the colonial days the Government of this country then enacted ordinances for the order and good Government of this great country. Now to-day, I might say, first and foremost, that what we are concerned with is a Motion. If anybody feels somewhere else in this country that there are certain things which are out of

order or in other in one part of the country, if anybody feels there is a breakdown of law and order anywhere as there is in the Western Region, let him bring it up and initiate action for discussing it.

In supporting this Motion this afternoon, I am not saying that if something is done anywhere in the country it is right, but if done in the Western Region, it is all wrong. What we are concerned with is to be able to bring out facts and at least instances. I will do my best to give instances and names because Members of the Opposition kept on asking for names. Whatever it is I will give at least one name which can be proved either by the Head of the Western Regional Government or in the Court. The ultimate aim of this point is to prove that law and order has broken down in the Western Region, and the duty of the Federal Government is to see that there is law and order all over the Federation of Nigeria. These two ideals underline the conception of the Rule of Law.

Without regard to the content of law, all powers in the State should be derived from and exercised in accordance with the law. We must see that the law itself is based on respect for the supreme value of human personality. If we can take this as our hypothesis we may then draw authority from the very Constitution of our country. Our Constitution is imperfect, but certain fundamental human rights must be preserved and I will sort out one aspect of our Constitution on each occasion and show to this House how that particular aspect has been broken in the Western Region of Nigeria.

First, with the establishment of the Rule of Law in Nigeria our Constitution provides *inter-alia* that there shall be the right to life, freedom for humane treatment, freedom from slavery or forced labour, rights concerning civil and criminal law, rights of people whether religious or otherwise, freedom of movement and residence, freedom from discriminating legislation and federalisation of the Police. I will show this hon. House that taking these one by one, I will not lie against anybody in this Federation ; I will bring out the facts.

Now let us take the first which I mentioned—the right of every individual in the Nigeria Federation to his life or as my learned Friend,

the Member for Degema (*Mr W. O. Briggs*) said, the right for everyone to live in Nigeria. It is significant that this is enshrined in our Constitution and it is designed to guarantee the life of everybody. We have in view the case of the poor N.C.N.C. man in Afenmai Division and I think one really has to take up this fact. If it happens anywhere else, I will be quite willing to condemn it. You have read of it in the papers, you have heard it and as a matter of fact, this man died and no doubt the case is in the hands of the Police. There is another case in Ekiti Division. I am not saying that the Western Regional Government is in conspiracy to victimise anybody, I am saying quite clearly that in almost all places in the Western Region, one fundamental human right or the other is being infringed and people badly treated.

Now, take a case which should be a source of disgrace to Members of the Opposition and that is the case of one of Western Regional Minister, Chief Oshuntokun. I will be prepared after this debate to produce the photograph of where Chief Oshuntokun held a gun which he pointed at somebody.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): I think considering the respect one would give to the person of the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*), this case of which I know very well is a wrong instance. I suggest that the weight to his speech be not marred or reduced by that instance.

Mr Speaker: Well, that is not a point of order.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Under the Standing Orders it is not proper to attack somebody who is not a member of this House and who cannot defend himself.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order either.

Mr Ogunsanya: I have said that I have the photograph and I know the case very well and I realise that even under section 5 of the Public Order Law of the Western Region, this itself was referred to. The report was made to the Police and up to this day, Chief Oshuntokun to my knowledge has still not been called for questioning.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): The Member for Ikeja is being very irrelevant and he is referring to statements that he cannot prove.

Mr Speaker: He has not gone against the Standing Orders yet. I have to observe three Opposition Members on the Front Bench have got up on a point of order none of which was in fact a point of order. Will they please observe what is a point of order and what is not?

Mr Ogunsanya: One Action Group man named Jegede entered the house of one Mr Osoba at Ikorodu and Action Group men beat this man up without any provocation whatsoever. In Agege, while the Chairman of the N.C.N.C. by name Mr V. A. Osinjinrin was sitting in his house, Action Group masqueraders entered his house together with large crowd beating up everybody in the house. This can be proved at Ikeja.

The Head of the Ilorin Community in Ikorodu, who happened to be a member of the N.P.C., was beaten so badly by the Action Group *thug-cum-charge-and-bail*, by name, Bandle, and when it was taken up the Action Group leaders went there and pushed it on to the Local Government Police and used their influence on the Local Government Police. Several members of the Nigerian community from Igbirra Division living in Odojina area in Ikorodu District who are supporters of the N.C.N.C. were fined on a wrong allegation by Action Group sponsored Sanitary Inspectors, and I have all the receipts here—this happened only the day before yesterday. One of the offences was that a frog was found near the house of one of them. The landlord of a certain pro-N.C.N.C. member from Igbirra Division who is resident in the area beat up the N.C.N.C. member for voting against the son of the landlord.

Now, I go to the second point, *Freedom from inhuman treatment*. There is in the Western Region sponsored—may not be the Action Group hierarchy in Ibadan, I cannot prove that—but sponsored by local Action Group members—Tax Assessment Committees, Local Government Police, Sanitary Inspectors and Forest Guards who are used to torturing those who do not belong to the Action Group, and I have a long list of this.

Now, in the case of tax evasion, I will not support tax evasion. I am not supporting that at all. All I am saying is that a lot of these people are arbitrarily charged. If an N.C.N.C. member

[MR OGUNSANYA]
and an Action Grouper are on the same job the N.C.N.C. man will be charged more while the Action Grouper pays less. And then there is a case in point which the Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) cannot deny. In his home in Akure, it was necessary (*Interruption*).

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe : On a point of information, Sir. My constituency is Owo North. I am a native of Oke Agbe and I have nothing to do with Akure.

Mr Ogunsanya : It was necessary, out of the protest by members of the N.C.N.C., for even Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro to go there to admit that N.C.N.Cers were being arbitrarily taxed.

Freedom from Slavery and Forced Labour.—The N.C.N.C. Chairman in Igbondo in Ikeja, one Kosoko, and 14 other N.C.N.C. members were recently bundled into the Customary Court in Alimosho for failure to take part in forced labour of which they had no notice. They were all fined between £10 and £20. The appeal has been lodged. The point is that under our Constitution there is freedom from slavery or forced labour, and people are being taken to court and fined for not taking part in forced labour.

Rights concerning Civil and Criminal Law ; Right to Speedy Trial. Whenever there is any case—I have several in my chambers which I can supply when investigations come in—and then the Presidents of the Courts are used, and when I say that Presidents are used for political reasons I am saying this with a sense of responsibility. I will read out a letter from the Local Government Service Board of the Western Region to me.

There has been an allegation—I think even members of the Opposition will agree with me that justice must not only be done but it must always appear to have been done. The Opposition will agree with me that a man who is still actively engaged in politics should not be engaged as a Judge—Customary Court Judge or any other form of Judge. There is a chief in Ikorodu, Chief Olisa—he is the Action Group spokesman in the Council, a member of Local Council and one who normally takes part in opening Action Group campaign meetings, and he is a judge. A lot

of people protested against this, and a petition was written because this man was an accuser of a Member of this House, he was himself the judge who tried this particular Member of this House and when the case came up the alleged complainant said that he was not at all taking part because he could not see what this Judge wanted him to do. Chief Okotie-Eboh was there.

Now, as a result of this protest, this was what the Local Government Service Board of the West had to write back :

“I am directed to refer to your letter of the 4th January, 1961 and to say that the allegations made therein are being investigated and that a further communication will be addressed to you in due course”.

The allegations were what I said before. Then another letter followed :

“I am directed to refer to my letter of the 7th of February and to say that after carefully investigating the allegations contained in your letter the Board is satisfied that Chief Olisa's connection with the Council is limited to his duties as a traditional member of the Council. I am to add that traditional members of Councils are not debarred from sitting in Customary Courts nor are they required to resign their seats in the Council before being appointed as members of Customary Courts”.

Now, this is significant as to the question of bias, but in the specific cases complained of this letter was silent. I therefore re-emphasised this point and another letter came :

“I am directed to refer to your letter of 8th March, 1961 and to say that you had every opportunity to seek redress in a competent court on the alleged attempt of Chief Olisa to send you to prison, and on the specific cases mentioned in your letter under reference”.

“In the circumstances, I am to say that I do not know for what reason you wish to publish your letters. Publication of such letters could be regarded as tending to bring the administration of justice in the Customary Courts in the Region into disrepute and I would like to make it clear that you will be taking such a step at your own risk”.

In other words, here was a man, a politician and a man who was a Judge in the Court

Then they say that one cannot question whatever he does. This is another right specifically entrenched in our Constitution. It cannot be said in this House by Western Region Members that there is a right of conscience in the Western Region.

Here is my learned Friend, the Member for Ife-Ila (*Mr T. O. Oloyede*). He is a youngman, well grouped and he has conscience. His house was broken down last month; his wife was beaten up by Action Group thugs—

Chief A. Enahoro : The hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is not entitled to impute any motive to the hon. Member for Ife-Ila who has exercised his freedom of choice in joining the part of the House where he knows that reason and sanity exist.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member for Ikeja has not imputed improper motives to the Member for Ife-Ila.

Mr Ogunsanya : The hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) may not like the truth which I am trying to disclose. The hon. Member for Ife-Ila is here and he can make a statement on what I have said. In Ife there was an atmosphere of terror. The N.C.N.C. people migrated to Lagos in hundreds because they were being beaten up, being massacred, and infact, almost murdered.

As I was saying the wife of the Member for Ife-Ila was beaten up; his house was entered forcibly. We have the facts. Let him deny it. Freedom of movement and of residence in the Western Region is far from the law.

We have another case which is in point. The *Serkin Hausawa* in Ikorodu, not long ago, was invited by the Action Group leaders and he was given an ultimatum either to join the Action Group or leave Ikorodu. As a result I had to intervene. I had to write to the *Ayangburin* of Ikorodu and also to the Action Group leaders telling them that Ikorodu belongs to everybody and anybody who likes to live there can do so. Despite this, however, very many people have been victimised.

I am happy that the Minister of Defence knows about a case where someone was in trouble only because he was an *Hausa*. He had to go there and save this man from the hands of the Action Group. The point is that every Nigerian in Nigeria has the right to live

anywhere he chooses. Fundamental human rights, freedom of movement and of residence, are enshrined in our Constitution and they cannot be denied anyone in any part of the Federation. Our friends on the other side cannot even deny this.

We can remember the first amendment to the Western Region Local Government Law of 1958. This was done in order to be able to take away the Ikorodu Council and Aboh Council. Also this year there was discriminating legislation to enable the Action Group to take over the Akure Council. Elections had been held and the Action Group had been defeated. Even that party's newspaper edited by "*Aiyekoto*" admitted it.

Hon. Members will agree with me that in the Nigerian Constitution the federalisation of the Police was designed to safeguard people in this country. Now, take the case of the Local Government Police in Western Nigeria. This is being used in the Western Nigeria as a weapon. The Nigerian Police Force is being put aside because the Action Group finds it a little more difficult to woo the Nigerian Police to toe their own line. Almost every case in every Division is taken out of the hands of the Nigerian Police to the Local Government Police. This has caused a lot of trouble in the Western Region.

The result is that a person is arrested one night, the following morning he is taken to the Customary Court; the next minute he finds himself in the jail! That is why one has quite a lot of anti-Action Groupers in jail all over the Western Nigeria even when allegations against them cannot be proved. I realise that they have the right to appeal, but quite often excessive fees for bail are being demanded. A man who has to pay a fine of £10 has to pay £25 for record, enters into bond to pay £100, and so on. These things are excessive.

A boy like the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who has been in Lagos all his life cannot understand what I am saying. My friend from Ibibio has a little conscience in him. He keeps saying that these things are happening in the West and in the East but cannot prove them. If these provocative things continue to happen, in due course, unless care is taken, much damage will be done in our community. This is precisely what we are trying to avoid.

I beg to support the Motion.

The Prime Minister : The part of the Motion in which I am mainly interested is the part where the Government is asked to look into the matter and to report to the House in due course.

There have been many serious allegations on the question of law and order in the Western Region. I am glad at the way that the debate is going on so far, because I think it is wrong for us to try to create an impression in this House that here we live in a place where law and order is said to be broken down in one area, and the Opposition Party in another area say: "Oh, it is also broken down in our area". I think that if we reach such a situation we should be creating unnecessary alarm.

I remember my hon. Friend, Mr Ekanem, rising to say he could prove that law and order had broken down in the Eastern Region. I think that this is a very wrong attitude to take, and I would very much like to tell the House that those of us who are responsible for the security of the Federation and who also have the responsibility of making friends for Nigeria internationally, and who are also responsible for encouraging people to come and assist us in our development, find it very difficult if Members of Parliament or members of the public unnecessarily scare people away by all these allegations which one hears about so often.

As I said there have been these allegations about law and order in the Western Region. There had been cases of victimisation of political opponents; I heard many times that the party in power, which is the Action Group, was out to destroy all opposition, people being beaten up, people being heavily assessed in taxes, customary courts being used, Local Government forces being used against political opponents. I was also given a lot of documents and many photographs concerning those atrocities in the Western Region. Before I went on my visit to the United States, I asked to see the Commissioner of Police, Western Region. I had a long discussion with him. He told me his views and the difficulties which the Nigeria Police are having in the Western Region.

The Nigeria Police find it difficult, because they cannot have anything to do, in the sense of a policeman's duty, with the customary

courts, and short of fighting Local Government Police Forces in the Western Region, they can hardly be very effective. But it is unfortunate, that always the blame is on the Nigeria Police Force, while people forget the question of law and order is on the concurrent list—the Federal Government is responsible, the Regional Government is also responsible and so even are local government bodies.

Even before I went on my tour, Sir, we tried to look into those things, and on my return from the United States I asked the Inspector-General of Police to make a report about the situation in the Western Region. He reported to me and from that report I think I found three important points.

The first is the difficulty which the Nigeria Police are having in bringing about a happy relationship between them and the Local Government Police Force. I said this morning that my view is that the appointment of the Superintendent-General of Local Government Police in the Western Region has got a lot to do with this. My hon. Friend, the Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*), who had a lot to do with these police matters in the past, tried to explain the issue by saying that for six years they more or less had people occupying the position of Superintendent-General. I am afraid I have to disagree with him.

For six years the Local Government Police Force in the Western Region was under the control of the Nigeria Police; but that surely has been taken away from the Nigeria Police. I do not quarrel with that; but I quarrel with the appointment of a Police Officer who appears to be employed by the Regional Government working on a regional basis on top of the other local Police Forces, and the names of people I think that the Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) mentioned this morning, were names of Nigeria Police Officers who were actually giving assistance to the Western Nigeria Local Government Police Force.

The gentleman who is now appointed Superintendent-General is quite a different person. That, Sir, is what I want to point out, and that is the first point.

Now the second point is this: I have found out that we must put our heads together—I mean the Federal and the Regional Governments—to know exactly what to do in the

case of a Government going out of its way, if it should happen, and stirring up trouble as a result of its action, and the Local Government Police Force there being unable to handle the situation. To what extent would such a Government expect the Federal Government to come to its assistance?

This is very important, because really I do not like the Nigeria Police Force always to be under fire. Whenever a situation arises somewhere, people are ready to blame the Nigeria Police, while in most cases it cannot be said to be the fault of the Nigeria Police. Hon. Members of this House are also not always willing to co-operate with the Nigeria Police.

For example, I, as the Prime Minister, will receive a telephone call from the Western Region—"Prime Minister, I am so and so telephoning you, law and order have broken down in my village. I am telling you, this is a true story. Law and order have broken down; so many people have been beaten up, so many of them sent to jail just now by the customary court". I do not know the man. I am the Prime Minister, and on the spot at that place there is a Nigeria Police Officer, and that hon. Member refuses to go and tell that Nigeria Police Officer on the spot, but instead he will ring the Prime Minister or he will ring another Minister in Lagos!

Now, these things happen every time, and most of us have received these kinds of messages. It really happens. The Inspector-General of Police may receive a direct call from an individual saying that there is some case going on, either that somebody is murdered or that somebody is beaten up or else is sent to jail. I think that it is now time, Mr Speaker, that we, the Federal and the Regional Governments, put our heads together. I am thinking of calling an Emergency Meeting of the Police Council, because this situation and these allegations which we always hear of are enough really to make us sit together and talk among ourselves.

My greatest concern is the impression that we will give to the outside world. When people far away hear what we say and write here they really become frightened, more especially because of the happenings in other parts of Africa. They might say that such and such a country is turning into another Congo.

And I think that whatever we say and however serious things are here we can still look after ourselves and I think we can still trust ourselves to be able to maintain law and order in this country.

Of course, if Parliament says I should report, although I do not see the necessity of my reporting back to Parliament, I am quite ready to make a statement to the House. I have got a report from the Inspector-General of Police. In fact, I know the position of the Federation almost everyday, and if it is the wish of Parliament that I report and give them some views about the situation in the Western Region, I shall do so.

The Motion specifically speaks of the position in the Western Region and that is why I mentioned the Western Region. Really, I do not think there is any need for me to report again. But, as I have said, if that is the wish of the House I can report to the House either on Wednesday or on Thursday.

Alhaji K. O. S. Are (Ibadan North West): I have to express my thanks to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this debate.

As the leader of my own Party, the Mabolaje Grand Alliance, I think I have got something to say about this law and order in the Western Region. I would like to say that it is not supposed to be a licence for the Action Groupers. When the Prime Minister returned from his overseas tour the other day and was asked to make a statement on what was happening in the Western Region, the Prime Minister said that to the best of his own knowledge there was no breakdown of law and order in that Region. As everyone knows that is exactly what the Prime Minister is expected to say. One would not expect even Chief Awolowo or Chief Akintola to say that law and order has broken down in the Western Region.

But definitely everybody, even the lunatics in the streets, knows very well that law and order has broken down completely. The only thing that Chief Akintola has been saying everyday of the year in the papers is that law and order has not broken down at all in his Region. Therefore, you will never expect our Prime Minister to say that law and order has broken down in any part of this Federation.

[ALHAJI ARE]

I would like to enumerate some of the facts, although my hon. Friend the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Adeniran Ogunsanya*) has covered a lot of these facts. First of all I would like us to bear in mind that law and order has certainly broken down in the West.

Mr Speaker : Order, the House is getting noisier. Will hon. Members please observe the debate in silence ?

Alhaji Are : Everybody will testify that we the people of Ibadan have got a say in this matter because the seat of the Western Regional Government is in Ibadan and from there we know the inside stuff of the Action Group. Everybody will remember that when our late hero, Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu, was alive there was no room for the Action Groupers either in the local council elections or in the Regional or Federal Elections. It is a well known fact to them too.

I would like to remind this House of a broad daylight murder committed by the Action Group thugs in Afenmai Division. I would also like to remind this House of the cutting of one man's hand by the Action Group thugs at Ibadan. I would like to remind this House of the oppression of the Mabolaje Grand Alliance in Ibadan. The Action Groupers said that we should not be allowed to offer our prayers to God.

I am sorry that one of the chief Action Groupers in Ibadan, Chief M. A. Akinloye, is not here to-day. He was the one who talked to my father about our mosque. We have only one mosque in Ibadan and it is the one I am referring to now. The members of the Mabolaje chose to worship on Fridays in this particular mosque, but when the Action Groupers realised that this mosque was big enough to accommodate their supporters they decided to drive us out of it. They talked to my father, who was one of the important Chiefs in Ibadan, and asked him to drive us out ; but he said that he could not mix religion with politics so we were allowed. One day however the Action Group organised some hooligans to drive us out of this mosque. A report was made to the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Defence to look into this matter ; and from then we have been given police protection.

Chief M. A. Akinloye and Chief Agbaje, the carpet crosser, went to the Council and arranged a bye-law. This is the minute of the Council on that day. I quote :

"The Chairman told the Council that the Customary Court deserves some dignity and therefore the Court should be protected against any kind of assembly which might disturb its proceedings. He considered it necessary for the Council to pass the necessary bye-law to discipline any assembly within twenty yards of the Customary Court between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. except on Sundays and public holidays."

This is the bye-law which the then Ibadan District Council wanted to pass against us. With the tension at that material time, if we had reacted it would have been with violence because this is the sort of provocation which can result in violence. We had the interest of this great country at heart ; that was why we did not resort to violence. Afterall, the Action Groupers in Ibadan are in the minority even though to-day they go from house to house saying that they are the masters in Ibadan. They are no where.

I will enumerate more facts about these things. For instance, the case of the demolition of Oja Oba market stalls. These market stalls in Oja Oba have been there for years and for the mere fact that these market are mainly occupied by the Mabolaje supporters, the Action Group felt that the best thing to do, to deprive the people of these market stalls, was to demolish them, and that they did.

The Action Group use the Local Government Police, the Customary Courts and the Prison Department in the Western Region for the oppression of their political opponents.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : This Motion is about law and order alleged to have broken down in the Western Region and if I may say so, speakers have been speaking the way the Western Region is carrying out its constitutional functions and not in relation to the breakdown of law and order in the Region. If the Police cannot maintain order as the people cannot take orders, that is a different thing, and all these points are completely irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : As far as the present speaker is concerned, I think he is arguing and collecting facts to support his argument.

Alhaji Are : The whole of the Local Government Police are members of the Action Group like this Superintendent-General who is a die-hard Action Group. Everybody knows him very well, Mr Oluwole. The Customary Court judges in Ibadan attend Action Group meetings, they also attend Action Group rallies. They educate people and they tell them that there is no chance for the Action Group in the North, neither in the East, and that if they want to introduce N.P.C. or N.C.N.C. in the Western Region they will be punished. The Customary Court Judge often says that openly in the Court. When N.P.C. or N.C.N.C. supporters are taken before a Customary Court Judge the next thing the Judge asks the culprit is whether he is a member of the N.C.N.C. or the N.P.C. If the culprit belongs to any of these Parties, even if the offence committed is a minor one, say, two people fighting one another, the Judge sends the culprit to about six month's imprisonment.

I will give an example. A gentleman came all the way to Ibadan from Offa on business. As soon as the Action Groupers from Offa knew that he was on the way to Ibadan, they organised gangs of the Action Group thugs to way-lay him. This man was eventually caught and he was beaten up. There was a Local Government policeman nearby. The next thing this policeman did was to arrest this man who had been beaten up and take him to the Police Station. He was refused bail despite all efforts made by a Federal Minister of State who sent his Private Secretary to look into this matter. The man was later taken to a Customary Court and there he was sentenced to jail for three months. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I am afraid the volume of interruptions is so much that I cannot hear what the hon. Member for Ibadan North-West (*Alhaji Are*) is saying.

Alhaji Are : An appeal was lodged for this man but the Customary Court Judge refused to grant this man bail. He had spent 14 nights in the jail before the bail was granted. On the long run, this man was set free.

I have another instance. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, The volume of interruptions is getting ridiculous now.

Alhaji Are : In my home, my father who is one of the Chiefs in Ibadan died about four months ago. He was to be succeeded by somebody. Unfortunately, the Action Group took it upon themselves to instal a strange man despite the fact that my family had a more suitable candidate. The man put up by the Action Group has no relation whatsoever to my family. The case is still in the Supreme Court pending decision.

I will give yet another example. There is an elderly man in Ibadan who is next to the Chief Imam. This man cannot work or do anything and when Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu was living, this man was exempted from paying tax. Now, the Action Group, for the mere fact that this man is a member of Mabolaje, arrested him for not paying tax, and took him to the Customary Court. There a man who was unable to pay a tax of £3-10s-0d was asked to pay a fine of £95. He could not afford this heavy amount and the next thing was for him to be imprisoned. These are just some of the many examples of victimisation suffered by the non-supporters of the Action Group in the Western Region. There have been many such fines ranging from £25, to £50 and even £100.

There is another example. At Ile Ife some people from Ilorin and other Hausa communities have been driven away from their homes because they have refused to team up with the Action Group. Again, in Ibadan, there is a man who is the head of the Butchers, an Hausa man. This man, for the fact that he refused the request made by the Action Group thugs to join the party, was arrested by the Local Government Police, taken to the Customary Court and fined £35. This man paid the fine, but as he has still refused to be a member of the party, he has been kept in the prison.

When these members of the N.C.N.C. or the N.P.C. are taken to the prison, the Chief Warden who is a member of the Action Group orders people to beat them up, and they continue to be beaten up until they decided to join the Action Group.

If a non-supporter of the Action Group is taken to the Customary Court in the Western Region and he wants to be released on bail, the Judge imposes conditions which are very difficult to fulfil. Even when the people fulfil these conditions, they will continue to be kept in prison until they serve the term of the imprisonment.

[ALHAJI ARE]

I am appealing to the Federal Government to stop these Action Group atrocities in the Western Region. On the whole I have to explain to this hon. House that already, law and order has broken down in the Western Region.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East): Thank you for calling me to speak on this Motion. I think I am best qualified to stand in opposition to the Motion because the honourable Mover happens to come from Afenmai Division.

Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion most vehemently.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): This hon. Gentleman's constituency is about 1,000 miles from the Western Region.

Mr Obi: The N.C.N.C. have long been dreaming that they would one day rule the Western Region and now that the party has lost all hopes of seeing the realisation of its dreams it has resorted to evil plans calculated to sustain its supporters in the Western Region lest the party becomes something of the past.

In order to prevent itself from running into its sudden end and consequent upon certain other recent events, the party has planned to rule the Western Region through the agency of the Federal Government. Among the events which led to this conclusion are: the recent results of the North Regional elections where the N.C.N.C. failed to get one seat and also of the overwhelming support of the Action Group in the recent Local Government elections. These are the things that have motivated the N.C.N.C. to take this nasty decision. They have planned to riot.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): The hon. Member said that the N.C.N.C. got only one seat in the North. That is quite untrue. The N.C.N.C. got half a seat and the N.E.P.U. got half.

Mr Obi: Sir, I want to say that even in all the strongholds of the N.C.N.C. in the West, places like Ibadan, Ife and the Mid-West for that matter, they were completely beaten. These are some of the reasons why they want to resort to violence and rioting and we are not prepared to take that. It would be an unfortunate event in this country if Nigeria becomes another Congo. We the members of the Action Group are not prepared to accept that.

I will now at this stage Mr Speaker pay tribute to the able, cool, calm and calculated Prime Minister who has denied that law and order has broken down in Western Nigeria.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West): The hon. Gentleman speaking has his finger in every pie of Action Group's atrocities in the West.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr Obi: I will now like to cite specific cases in Afenmai Division. The hon. Member who has raised a point of order is one of the N.C.N.C. lawyer legislators in the Mid-West who have the gut of coming publicly to incite their supporters to fight and riot. They have instructed their supporters that they should not pay rates; that they should resist arrests and that they should attack Customary Court members while in session.

Sir, the Mover of this Motion is a person who bailed an N.C.N.C. accused at Ikpessi and when The Police came to intervene the accused stabbed one Police Officer.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West): I have never bailed anybody; the hon. Member is telling a lie.

Mr Obi: Sir, sometime this month, N.C.N.C. supporters attacked Customary Court members at Okpilla, wounding a Police Sergeant who was later admitted to the hospital. He was not discharged before I left home.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa: The topic which the hon. Gentleman is discussing.

Mr Speaker: If Members will just keep silent, I will be able to hear the speakers. Mr Aghahowa is raising a point of order and I have not been able to hear him. Will you speak out Mr Aghahowa.

Mr Aghahowa: What I was saying is that the subject the hon. Gentleman is discussing is presently in court. It is *sub judice* and should not be raised in this Parliament.

Mr Obi: Sir, the N.C.N.C. also have advised their supporters in our area not to pay rates and there are over 1,000 appellants against rates assessment in Afenmai Division.

They do these things simply to justify Mr Fani-Kayode's statement that law and order has broken down in the Western Region, and this is what I want to emphasise. It is most unfortunate that Mr Ayeni has been used as a tool to move this Motion. I think he is aware of the atrocities of the N.C.N.C. in Afenmai Division. I want to say that in Afenmai Division we have the N.C.N.C. supporters also way-laying supporters of the Action Group, asking them not to pass. We just want to say that our patience has been taxed to a limit and the N.C.N.C.ers in Afenmai Division should note—I am appealing through the House and through the N.C.N.C. leaders to warn their people in Afenmai Division that there is a limit to human endurance; and we of the Action Group may not be able to exercise patience any longer.

I want to say that it is the planners of these evils, among whom you find leaders of the N.C.N.C., who run to the N.B.C. to declare to the outside world that law and order has broken down simply to make the Federation of Nigeria stink in the eyes of the outside world. I think that this is most uncalled for.

Now, we of the Action Group highly cherish our hard-won independence and we do not like power-seeking politicians to drag our name in the mud. I would like the N.C.N.C. members to be warned to this effect.

If you cannot take the other persons word that law and order has not broken down in the Western Region (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr Obi : Thank you, Mr Speaker. If the majority of the makers of these allegations cannot take every other person on his word that law and order has not broken down in the Western Region, why can they not take the Prime Minister on his own word? He has said that there is no breakdown of law and order; public opinion says so, and leaders of the N.C.N.C. have the courage of saying in public that they have come to the conclusion that there is a breakdown, that they have come to fight, "if you are pushed, push the person who pushes you". I think these people are not fit to be leaders of any party.

If law and order has broken down in the Western Region it has also broken down in the Northern Region. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr Obi : I am saying that if law and order has broken down in the Western Region, I have every reason to believe that it has also broken down in the Northern Region. Take the Eastern Region, for example. There are also Customary Courts in the Eastern Region. You are aware, too, that the C.O.R. area is discriminated against in the provision of amenities in the Eastern Region. What does it mean to remove a Member of Parliament simply because he spoke his mind? The matter of Chike Obi is a case in point.

In the North, you have the Alkali Courts, you have the Dandoka in the place of Local Government Police in the West, who oppress the supporters of rival political parties. What of Mr Olawoyin's case and the imprisonment of many Action Group supporters and leaders? The Western Region is much more liberal than any other Region in Nigeria about these things.

I know that members of the N.C.N.C. have realised that their party is slowly dying away and we of the Action Group are peace-loving and would not like to be driven to the wall by those who raise false alarm. The N.C.N.C. know that what they are doing in the Mid West and I warn them not to try that again.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) : Point of order, Sir. Mr Tarka's statements in the North show clearly that law and order has not broken down in the Northern Region.

Mr Speaker : Order ! In any case, this Motion concerns law and order in the Western Region.

Mr Obi : The aim of the N.C.N.C. is to force the Federal Government into taking a decision of dissolving the Western House because that is the only way the supporters of that party can ever hope of becoming members of the Government in the West—they are hoping for a Caretaker Government, which can never happen.

Now, I want to appeal to the Prime Minister, or through the Prime Minister to the Police to be on the alert to ensure that all rioters who are being encouraged by the N.C.N.C. are brought to book as soon as they are caught rioting. Also, we would not like the Police not to allow themselves to be used by power-seeking politicians in order to gain their selfish ends.

[MR OBI]

Mention was made by a previous speaker of imprisonment in Afenmai Division. I want to say here, that the hon. Mover of this Motion lied to this House. The prison there cannot accommodate more than 50 persons at a time and yet he has alleged that over 200 people (*Interruptions*).

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Point of order, Sir. The hon. Member should speak in a parliamentary language, rather than saying that the speaker lied; he has to say that the speaker is not speaking the truth.

Mr Speaker: I quite agree with the hon. Member that it is very unparliamentary to say that an hon. Member is lying.

Mr Obi: What I wanted to say was that the hon. Mover of this Motion said something untrue. He misled the House. He also referred to the fact that a certain President of Grade B Court in Agbed was displaced simply because he was unwilling to toe the Action Group party line. I want to say that apart from every other thing, there is no Grade B Court in existence in Agbede.

Also, he referred to the fact that a certain N.C.N.C. candidate who was to contest the last Local Government Election in Afenmai Division was murdered. I would like this to be investigated very seriously and it would be seen that there was nothing of that nature in Afenmai Division. I am saying that the hon. Member said something that is not true.

Reference has been made to the fact that the Local Government Police is being used to oppress political opponents in the Western Region. I would like to say that in Afenmai Division, at least in my own constituency, we have no knowledge of any Local Government Police at all. All we have there is the the Nigeria Police. We have one at Auchi and one at Agenogbode. When these policemen do their duty of preserving law and order it is the N.C.N.C. supporters who attack and wound them. There is evidence to prove this. I would like this situation to be investigated and it can be proved that there are many Police Officers lying in the hospitals now.

Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi (Ilesha Urban): May I refer the hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr M. O. K. Obi*) to the Standing Order

page 10, No. 31, section 1, paragraph 2 of this Order and to the provision of paragraph 2 of Standing Order 63. "No Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the Whole House for more than 30 minutes on any subject". The hon. Member has been speaking for quite a long time. He seems to be blind to the fact that there are so many other hon. Members who would wish to speak on this Motion.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Afenmai East has not exhausted his time.

Mr Obi: I have earlier mentioned that things that happen in the Western Region happen in a worse degree in other Regions of the Federation. An hon. Member made reference to a West Regional Minister having a gun to fire at people. That very person has failed to mention also that one Mr Bosun attempted matcheting Mr Shogbein, the Minister of Works in the Western Region. It is obvious that Mr Bosun was sent by the leaders of the N.C.N.C. to harm the West Regional Minister. He has, of course, been sent to serve a six-month jail sentence now

Some of our members from the North have been arrested even for discussing a point with their wives. They were charged for unlawful assembly. I hold very strongly that if law and order has broken down in the Western Region it has also broken down in both the Northern and Eastern Regions.

I am, however, happy that our Prime Minister is a sensible, cool and collected man.

I beg to oppose the Motion.

Mr Speaker: I want to remind the House that we have gone through only one Motion so far and we have about twelve minutes to go for the remaining eight Motions scheduled for to-day. In view of this, I hope that the House will allow me to put the Question.

Whereupon the Minister of Finance rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put and the House divided.

Ayes 162; Noes 45.

Federal Parliament Debates

2507

[Law and Order

29 AUGUST 1961

in Western Nigeria]

2508

AYES

Seat
No.

Name of Member

1	E. O. Ifezue	118	R. O. A. Akinjide
2	Muhammadu Nalade	119	E. C. Akwiwu
4	B. A. Adeyemo	120	A. Opia
6	I. S. Onwuchekwa	122	Dr K. Ezera
7	S. Nnaji	123	A. O. O. Ogunsanya
8	J. C. Chukwu	124	Aminu Kano
14	U. U. Eko	131	Sarki Dalhatu Yola
15	V. A. Nwaleji	132	Usman Gwarzo
16	J. A. Akor	133	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
19	Muhammed Nangi	135	Ibrahim Gusau
21	M. Barko, Maaji Kachalla	136	Alhaji Muktar Sarkin Bai
22	Shettima Ali Monguno	137	Alhaji K. O. S. Are
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa	155	Isa Haruna
25	A. Isandu	156	E. A. Odo
29	Ladan Isa	157	J. O. Ede
31	Yakubu Allana	159	Muhammadu Sagir Umar
32	Saidu Zango	160	Sanni Gezawa
34	P. I. Ejukwa	161	Muhammadu Gwarzo
35	S. A. Yerokun	162	Alhaji Ahmadu A. Baba
36	F. U. Ihe	163	Inusa Tudun Wada
37	D. N. Oronsaye	166	Salihu O. Abdul
39	Muhammadu Alangade	167	S. A. Oyewole
42	J. U. Udenyi	168	S. A. Abasi
43	N. Nwangbo	171	Kaita Damale
44	N. E. Elenwa	186	Aminu Yelwa
45	F. C. Ogbalu	189	Musa Hindi
48	J. B. Eboigbodi	190	P. O. Tokula
50	D. D. U. Okay	191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar	192	Abdu Bauchi
54	A. A. Ramalan	193	Isa Iko
56	Sule Abba Bui	194	Hamidu A. Bayero
57	Alhaji Kabiru Bayero	195	Muhammadu Bayero
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero	196	Abdusalami Olomoda
64	Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman	197	S. A. Babatunde
66	U. O. Ekenekot	199	D. O. Enefolo
67	J. K. De Omomadia	200	J. A. Yacim
69	J. N. Nwofokoda	201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
71	D. E. Y. Agbahowa	202	Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki
72	L. N. Ezeani	203	Umaru Dan Waziri
73	N. D. Ukah	218	Abdullahi Mahuta
75	E. A. Mordi	220	Usman Borkono
77	N. N. Onugu	221	Muhammadu Kaoje
78	C. A. Odigbo	222	Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona
80	U. O. Ayeni	223	Balang U. Barami
81	K. Giadom	224	Muhammadu Zaiyana
83	Abdullahi Maikano Sarkin Rafi	230	Wada Nas
85	Maina Waziri	232	Ibrahim Nadabo
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi	233	L. Alhaji Daura
87	Umaru Gumel	250	Bello Farar Julia Bichi
89	Ibrahim Namaitama	251	Mohammadu Korom Madakin Pategi
90	Saidu Daura	253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
94	C. Chiedozie	256	Ahmadu Ribadu
96	J. U. Odey	258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici	259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange Sokote
101	A. A. Odurinde	261	Abba Yola
103	J. O. Ogunbiyi	262	Atto Bungudu
104	P. O. Eleke	263	Garba Gada
107	Dr P. U. Okeke	264	Alhaji Mohammed Gwate
108	D. Senu-Oke	265	Ali Gwarzo
109	A. U. D. Mbah	266	Garba Turakin Paiko
112	Chief S. J. Mariere	282	Aminu Salaiman Dutse
113	H. O. Chuku	284	Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim
115	B. N. Ukaegbu	287	Datti Kudu
117	Albatam Yerima Balla	288	Shenu Na Ita Sokoto
		289	Mohammadu Jajuna
		290	Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau
		291	Garba Kangiwa

Seat No.	Name of Member
	Alhaji Haruna
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Minister of Communications
	Minister of Defence
	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Minister of Economic Development
	Minister of Education
	Minister of Establishments
	Minister of Internal Affairs
	Minister of Labour
	Minister of Lagos Affairs
	Minister of Mines and Power
	Minister of Works and Surveys
	Minister of State, Hon. M. T. Mbu
	Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande
	Minister of State, Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju
	Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie
	H. M. Adaji
	Alhaji U. A. Ahmed
	M. Amechi
	Ahmadu Fatika
	T. A. Lamuye
	S. Lana
	Usumanu Maitambari
	S. F. Nwika
	F. E. Offor
	R. B. K. Okafor
	Ibrahim Tako
	D. C. Ugwu
	Aliyu Zungu
	<i>Tellers for Ayes</i>
	Alhaji Bello Dandago
	Mr D. N. Abii

NOES

Seat No.	Name of Member
141	W. Briggs
142	Chief A. Enahoro
145	J. S. Tarka
146	P. E. Ekanem
150	A. Akomolafe
151	S. D. Lar
152	M. D. Iyorkar
153	D. D. Dimka
172	Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade
173	S. A. Ogedengbe
175	S. J. Umoren
176	P. E. Olatunde
177	A. F. Odulana
178	B. U. Ukpong
179	S. T. Daka
180	M. A. Ajasin
183	E. D. Akinbowale
184	Chief R. A. Orok
185	Auta Anzah
206	Chief A. Akerele
207	I. A. Brown
210	O. J. Eminue
211	J. M. Damla
216	S. O. Kolade
236	A. A. Ajibola
238	V. T. Shisha
239	Chief P. Dame-Oboh
240	D. S. Udo-Inyang
242	M. C. K. Obi

Seat No.	Name of Member
244	J. A. Akinyemi
245	B. A. Ajayi
246	Chief D. A. Ogunleye
247	Oba S. A. Olakiran
248	Yushai A. Mohamed
249	J. O. Taiwo
271	D. Bulus Biliyong
272	D. M. Gbolagunte
273	T. O. Oloyede
274	S. O. Fajinmi
275	G. Yilgwen
276	D. K. Aihonsu
278	S. O. Ogundipe
279	G. K. Dada
	Odebumni
	<i>Tellers for Noes</i>
	Mr Olaore
	Mr Afanide

FEDERAL PRODUCE INSPECTION REGULATIONS

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to move, That the Federal Produce Inspection Regulations, 1961, a copy of which was laid before the House on the 23rd August, 1961, be approved.

These Regulations have been made by virtue of the powers vested in me under section 7 of the Produce (Inspection and Export) Ordinance, 1959. They are designed to cater for the changed conditions arising from the fact that the Produce Inspection Service has ceased to be a unified service throughout the Federation.

In accordance with the Constitutional agreements, the Western Region Produce Inspection service has assumed the responsibility for the grading of produce in Lagos and the final re-inspection of produce and the time of shipment have been made the responsibilities of the Federal Produce Inspection Service. To meet these changes, the Federal Produce Inspection Regulations, 1961 have been enacted in order to replace the inappropriate Produce Inspection Regulations made in 1951. The whole thing is completely non-controversial. I beg to move.

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

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): We on this side of the House have no objection to this motion, so we beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, the Federal Produce Inspection Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice 63 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House on 23rd August, 1961, be approved.

FEDERAL PRODUCE INSPECTION (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to move. That the Federal Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1961, a copy of which was laid before this House on the 23rd August, 1961, be approved.

These Regulations provide for a 44-hour week as against a 42½-hour week which is prescribed in Regulation 43 of the principal Regulations. This Amendment, therefore, brings these Regulations into line with the Government policy which makes overtime payment necessary in cases where more than 44 hours are worked in a week.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Education : I beg to second.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I wish the Minister to bring more of such Regulations to this House. We on this side of the House support these Regulations.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Federal Produce Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1961 (Legal Notice 87 of 1961), a copy of which was laid before this House on 23rd August, 1961 be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

WAGES

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu) : It was published that the Federal Government was likely to increase the salaries and wages of workers in the Public Service and, as a result, landlords have started to increase their rents and the prices of goods and commodities have now risen. The result is that the workers are now suffering more and more. I would, therefore, like the hon. Minister of Establishments and Service Matters to make a categorical statement on what proposals the Government is making as regards the increase of salaries and wages of workers in order to allay the anxiety of these workers.

The Minister of Establishments (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : It is one of the Standing Orders of this House that Members should not base their arguments on reports from newspapers. I would strongly suggest that this golden rule should also apply to our workers.

There was no time when the Federal Government made any statement whatsoever about increasing salaries or wages and the report which appeared in the papers is only a forecast based on appointment of a Committee which has been set up by the Government to study the cost of living. That Committee has met and submitted its report to the Government and the Government is considering this report. As I have said however, the Government has not made any statement whatsoever on the increase of salaries and wages.

Question put and agree to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 30th August, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Kano Quarantine Station

O.435. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Economic Development, what are the achievements of the Agricultural Quarantine Station at Kano.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development: The Plant Quarantine Station at Kano has been primarily concerned with the safe introduction into the country of valuable varieties of plants which are subject to many diseases and pests not present in Nigeria. In particular, the most important achievement has been the assistance rendered to the Northern Regional Ministry of Agriculture in introducing improved varieties of wheat free from diseases into the Region.

Concerted Action

O.436. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Economic Development, what effort he is making to co-ordinate the activities of all Governments of the Federation in regard to the many Economic Missions sponsored by them in order to remove the impression of division and disunity in the country.

The Minister of Economic Development: At the moment we have not got any method of co-ordinating the economic activities of all the Regions and so far, the only Economic Mission which was sponsored by the Federal Government in which Regional Governments have been included was the last one which took place last month.

Now, the proposals which will be undertaken as a result of the last Economic Mission will be co-ordinated and the Regional and the Federal Governments will deal with all the proposals together. Otherwise, all Regional

Governments are directly responsible for all other Economic aspects in their individual Regions when they undertake Economic Missions abroad. It is solely their own affair and where the Federal Ministry comes in is when the result of any Economic Mission leads to the establishment of an industry in the country, in which case, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry comes in, the Ministry of Finance comes in and then my own Ministry comes in only to offer advice, if the Regional Governments so require.

The answer to the Question is therefore just as I have said, namely that there is no co-ordinating unit at the moment, but that in respect of this last Economic Mission, which was Federal in scope, any proposals which are made as a result of that Mission will be dealt with in concert.

Dr Okeke: Does the Minister not think that it would be better to plan an overall Economic Mission with all the Regions teaming up together? Does he not agree that it would be much better in that case for the Regions to pursue their own objectives in that context while giving the impression abroad that although there are various Regions in Nigeria wishing to attract investments, yet the Federation is united under one Federal Government?

The Minister of Economic Development: I do not think that because the Regional Governments go abroad on their own economic missions any impression of disunity in the country will be given. I do not believe that. In any case, economic development is within the scope of the powers of each Regional Government and there is nothing unconstitutional about it, neither do I expect that that implies disunity.

We have a National Economic Council which meets periodically. There will be one meeting early in September when all the Governments of the Federation will come together and exchange views on important economic projects, such as the Niger Dam for example, the development of gas and iron ore and the iron and steel industry project of the Eastern Region. Now, we all discuss these things, but then we leave the Regions which initiated the project to go ahead with it, and I think that this system is very good. For one thing it makes each Region compete with the other in an atmosphere of healthy rivalry. {

I do not therefore think that the present system is faulty nor that it gives any indication of disunity in the country.

Chief A. Enahoro : Will the Minister not agree that on economic matters what is required is not competition but co-ordination and that competition in this particular field is in fact undesirable ?

The Minister of Economic Development : I think that competition is necessary. As I said before, it is a healthy competition in that if the Eastern Region goes ahead and brings about industrial projects which contribute much to the revenue of that Region, then it will serve as an incentive for the Northern and the Western Governments also to go in for such projects. In other words, what one of the Regions has not been able to think of may be thought of when another Region goes into it. I am not quite sure if the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) is satisfied, but the type of competition I am speaking about is quite healthy. For example, we have got the West Regional Government operating in co-operation with foreign investors. They have now set up a cement factory, but bear it in mind that we had had one at Nkalagu, and these industrial projects have proved profitable. No doubt the Northern Government must be thinking of building up a similar industry. That is the sort of thing I mean by healthy rivalry.

HEALTH SERVICES

Quack Doctors

O.437. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of health whether he is aware of the increase in the number of quack doctors in Lagos ; and what measures he has taken to protect the public from such impostors.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : I am not aware. Certificates are carefully scrutinised before an applicant is registered as a medical practitioner. Certificates which appear suspicious are promptly reported to the Police for investigation. Recent prosecutions which resulted in convictions are the result of the reports made by officers of my Ministry.

Dr P. U. Okeke : It seems to me that my Question ought to be answered much more cogently because the Minister is in this country

and has read reports about so many impostors in the medical service of this country. Some of these impostors have practised for many years before they were apprehended recently. How did they get into the medical service ? And the Minister said he was not aware.

Mr Speaker : That is not a question.

Nutrition

O.438. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Health, what plans he has to help Nigerians to improve their diet so that they will have more proteins than starch in their diet.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : The Federal Ministry of Health maintains a nutrition unit which is engaged in nutritional surveys throughout the whole Federation. It compiles information on what people eat, local variations in food habits, the availability of certain food products and their seasonal variations. The Unit conducts researches into the methods of increasing protein production and making it available to the masses of the people.

The Federal Nutrition Unit, in addition to its research and scientific programme, has also produced useful publications for the guidance of people who are responsible for the feeding of children and young persons.

On the initiative of my Ministry a Nutritional Advisory Committee has been set up in each Region to disseminate the knowledge available for the promotion of a balanced and nutritive diet amongst all sections of the community. The Nutritional Advisory Committees are doing much useful work in promoting health education on food matters through the publication pamphlets, public lectures, films, and other means of mass education.

Mr R. N. Muojeke : In view of the poor value of our stockfish, will the Minister tell us the steps he is taking to check the excessive consumption of stockfish.

Neglect of Patients

O.440. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Health, if he will request the Medical Council to classify wilful and deliberate neglect of a patient by a Medical Officer as unprofessional conduct for which a doctor's name may be removed from the register.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : Wilful and deliberate neglect of a patient by a Medical Practitioner has always been regarded by the Medical Disciplinary Committee as unprofessional conduct, the penalty for which includes the removal of the offender's name from the Medical Register.

Dr Bruno Gans

O.441. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of health what reductions in staff have taken place in his department since the dismissal of Dr Bruno Gans.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : None, Sir.

Mr R. O. Akinjide : Is the Minister aware that the dismissal of Dr Bruno Gans is most unpopular with the people of this country ?

Yaba Mental Hospital

O.442. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Health, what plans are being made to expand the Yaba Mental Hospital in order to provide enough facilities there for the treatment of the increasing mental cases in the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : A proposal to replace the present Asylum with a 360-bed hospital for mental cases has been submitted for inclusion in the 1962-1967 Development Programme.

Mental Patients

O.443. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Health, how many male and female patients respectively are at present admitted into the Yaba Mental Hospital.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health :

Male	283
Female	133
Total	416

O.444. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Health, how many patients were successfully treated at the Mental Hospital at Yaba during the period April, 1958 to March, 1960 ; and how much did Government spend in drugs, dressings, equipment and feeding in that hospital during the same period.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : 412 patients were successfully treated at the Yaba Mental Hospital during the period April, 1958, to March, 1960. During this period, the sum of £28,659 was expended on diets and £6,652 on equipments, drugs and dressings.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

African Staff Housing

O.446. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Establishments, how many buildings have been put up from 1955 to date by the L.E.D.B. and by private contract, respectively, for civil servants under the African Staff Housing Scheme ; how many of these buildings have been paid for by Government and occupied by their owners.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments : Since 1955, funds from the African Staff Housing Scheme have been expended on 165 houses built by the Lagos Executive Development Board, and 107 erected by private contracts. The object of the scheme is to encourage civil servants to live in their own houses.

Funds for the Housing Scheme

O.447. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Establishments, why financial provision was not made for the African Staff Housing Scheme in the current Estimates as has been the practice for years.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments : No financial provision was made for the African Staff Housing Scheme in the current Estimates. as the Scheme was funded early in 1961, The effect of this decision was that all repayments of capital and interest would accrue to the Board in future and could then be re-allocated to other Government staff.

However, it was found that the Board's income from this source was insufficient and a further sum of £400,000 for payment to the African Staff Housing Scheme Fund has been included in the Supplementary Estimates now before the House.

O.448. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Establishments why so many buildings completed by the L.E.D.B. under the African Staff Housing Scheme have for many months since their completion not been paid for by Government and if he has any plan to pay for all outstanding buildings within the next three months.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments : A number of buildings completed by L.E.D.B. and allocated to Government Employees have not been paid for owing to the lack of funds made available for the African Staff Housing Scheme. However, if Parliament approve the sum which appears in the Supplementary Estimates submitted to it at this current Session, then there will be sufficient money available for all such buildings to be paid for within the next three months.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kano Telephone Service

O.449. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider installing public telephone booths in Kano, Tudun-Wada, Unguwau Shanu, Makera and Kakuri areas of the Kaduna Capital Territory in view of the distances between these places and the post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Public Call Office facilities already exist at seven places in Kano. As regards Tudun-Wada, Unguwau Shanu, Makera and Kakuri, no funds are available under the current telecommunications development programme to provide telephone call offices at these places. However, investigations will be made into the practicability of extending telephone communication to these areas, and, consideration will then be given to including them in the 1962/67 programme.

Telephone Operators

O.451. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware of the loss of time and money arising from the inattentiveness of telephone operators; and whether he will take such steps as will ensure that operators are more responsible in the discharge of their duties.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Whilst it is acknowledged that there have been many cases of inattention at exchange switchboards, some of which are overloaded, it is not considered that telephone operators are generally inattentive. It is however recognised that the standard of service given by operators needs to be improved and this is a problem which is receiving continual attention in my Ministry. Training methods and operating techniques are constantly under review though work on these matters has been somewhat retarded because of the shortage of trained Telecommunications Controlling staff. This situation is now being rectified and it is hoped that a general improvement in the standard of operating will result.

Should there be any specific occasion about which members have cause to complain, then investigations will be made if the details are forwarded to my Ministry.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah : Is the Minister aware that employment of male telephone operators in large numbers is a waste of man-power, and will he not make arrangements to transfer them to other sections and so make room for female operator?

The Minister of Communications : Speaking personally, I agree with the hon. Member that the job of telephone operating is a job for women. We are now making efforts at all stages of our activities, on the contacts and on the switchboard, to make more use of the services of women.

Mr A. Opia : Is the Minister aware that it takes a subscriber 30 minutes to get the exchange here in Lagos, and what efforts is he making to improve this situation?

Dr P. U. Okeke : Is the Minister aware that he is always telling us that efforts are being made to rectify these complaints and that we have now been complaining for almost two years?

The other day I phoned Onitsha, and it took me five hours to get the call through from Lagos to Onitsha. Is he aware that we of the Government are anxious that greater efforts should be made?

Mr Speaker : That is not a question.

Nkalagu Postal Agency

O.452. Mr Nwangbo asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that Nkalagu Postal Agency has been excluded from the postal district of Abakaliki; and if he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Although the establishment of a Postal Agency at Nkalagu has been approved, it has not yet been opened since the Ishielu County Council has not yet provided a suitable safe. When the Postal Agency is opened, it will be placed under the control of the Postmaster, Abakaliki.

Umuahia-Ibeku Post Office

O.453. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the Post Office at Umuahia-Ibeku has become inadequate; and how soon a new Post Office will be built to relieve congestion there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : It is the intention to build a new Post Office of special design at Umuahia during the Ministry's current development programme, and £35,000 has been earmarked for this purpose. Negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of a suitable site, and as soon as these have been concluded, planning work on the Post Office will commence.

Umuahia-Ibeku Telephone Service

O.454. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangements have been made to improve telephone services in Umuahia-Ibeku; and if none has been initiated yet, whether he will consider taking immediate action.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There is at present a 2 position exchange in service at Umuahia with 113 working lines. The exchange has a capacity for 120 subscribers. It also has trunk circuits to Enugu, Aba, Mbawsi, Uzuakoli and Bende.

Consideration will be given to the question of extending Umuahia exchange and improving its facilities during the 1962-67 development programme.

Independence Stamps

O.455. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications if he will consider issuing Nigerian Independence Day Stamps to contain the portraits of some Nigerian leaders.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Designs for the stamps to be issued to commemorate the first anniversary of Independence have already been selected, and the stamps are now being printed. I will however bear in mind the Hon. Member's suggestion when the design of future Independence commemorative stamp issues are being considered.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : Will the Minister consider having generally the image of the Governor-General on our stamps?

Postal Agencies

***O.456. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Communications what is the volume of work carried out in the following postal agencies in one year: Akabuka, Erema, Okarki, Akinima and Joinkrama.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The latest annual business statistics of the Postal Agencies are:—

				Units
Akabuka	..	..	..	6,995
Erema	..	..	..	4,237
Okarki	..	..	..	6,375
Akinima	..	..	..	3,318
Joinkrama	..	..	..	5,055

Mr N. E. Elenwa : Is the Minister aware that these Postal Agencies have no adequate supply of staff?

Kano-Gwarzo Telephone Link

***O.457. M. Ali Gwarzo** asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider the possibility of establishing a telephone system to link Gwarzo District headquarters with Kano.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No provision has been made in the current telecommunications development programme, as detailed in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, for the establishment of telephone facilities at Gwarzo

and it is not possible to include any additional projects in the programme at this stage as all available funds are fully committed.

Consideration will however be given to the question of providing telephone communication to Gwarzo under the 1962-67 Development Programme.

Postal Services

*O.458. **M. J. M. Damla** asked the Minister of Communications whether there are any plans for providing at least one post office in each constituency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There are no plans for establishing a Post Office in each constituency. The Government's policy for the establishment of Post Offices is contained in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1961-62) BILL

(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman : The Clauses of this Bill stand postponed until after consideration of Schedules.

First Schedule : HEAD 22—(CABINET OFFICE)

Question proposed, That £44,650, for Head 22—Cabinet Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : I beg to move, That the amount asked to be voted under this Head be reduced by the sum of £100.

In the first place, there is no security in the Cabinet Office having regard to the great number of expatriates in this Office who are responsible for the issuing of policies which our Members of the Cabinet are supposed to carry out.

It was not until recently that the expatriate Secretary to the Prime Minister was relieved of his post after a long and sustained outcry by the members of the public and the Press. Even though this man has been removed, much is still required to be done in order to ensure that there is security in the Cabinet Office and

to justify the struggles which Nigerian nationalists made in order to make Nigeria independent.

There is a proposal to buy a helicopter for the use of the Cabinet and in view of the fact that Nigeria is still a very poor country—though we are politically independent, we are still economically dependent—I think the economy of this country at this stage does not warrant the buying of the helicopter for use of the big men.

In view of the independent status of this country, I feel that our Army and Navy should be manned by Nigerians.

The Chairman : Is the hon. Member for Awka Central moving the Amendment or not ?

Mr Muojeke : I move Sir. In view of what I have said, and as this House will agree with me, the amount voted for the Cabinet Office should be reduced by a sum of £100.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : It is amazing how Government secret information get into the newspapers ever before they are made known to the public officially. These things are embarrassing not only to the Government but also to the Government's supporters and the people of this country as a whole. Government proposals are secret unless and until they are officially released. How is it possible for these newspapers to know who is to be appointed a Minister, who is to be appointed a Chairman of a Corporation or the members of public Boards ? I think these are matters of great concern to everybody.

These things did not happen two, three, four or five years ago. Why should they happen now ? Is it because our people are there ? Is it because certain things which need to be tightened up are not tightened up ? I think these are matters of great importance. Suppose Nigeria is engaged in war with another country, it means it is possible for certain agencies in the Cabinet Office to be spies for foreign embassies in this country and put the safety and the security of this country in jeopardy. I hope that the people in charge will look into these things.

Chief A. Akerele (Oyo East) : In support of what the hon. Member for Ibadan South East has just said, it is a matter of regret that Cabinet decisions are becoming public property. It

[CHIEF AKERELE]

appears that there are certain Members of the Cabinet who are not prepared to abide by the decisions of the Cabinet, even though these are joint decisions and, in order to ridicule or embarrass the Government, they go out to talk to the Press and try to impress upon them their own points of view. I think this is a dangerous practice. I hope that the Prime Minister will have a private talk with the Members of the Cabinet on this type of practice.

Again, it is noticed that an aircraft is being placed at the disposal of the Cabinet. One hopes that the Prime Minister will see to it that Ministers are not allowed to take advantage of this as they do in respect of other Government transport, to use it for electioneering campaigns, for taking about their wives or carrying their girl friends all over the country.

One finds that the N.C.N.C. as a party has no regard whatsoever for honesty, integrity and fair play. They are always prepared to take advantage of anything that is Government property for their own personal use. We have seen such things happening in respect of Government cars, and we know that the Prime Minister—we all have implicit confidence in him—will take charge of this aircraft himself and not allow it to get into the hands of some unscrupulous people.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): On a point of Order. Mr Chairman. It appears that the fears of the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Chief Akerele*) stem from the fact that an aircraft is faster than a helicopter.

Chief Akerele: As I was saying, we have implicit confidence in the Prime Minister, but there are some Ministers who have no respect whatsoever for public opinion, and we would not like to see public property being misused. We know that there are some responsible Members of the Cabinet, but this is directed to the N.C.N.C. Members. We know that they are responsible for giving away Cabinet secrets.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): Point of Order, Mr Chairman. This is a very serious allegation against N.C.N.C. Members of the Cabinet, and I do not think it would be fair, to allow it to continue.

The Chairman: Will the hon. Member for Oyo East (*Chief Akerele*) please depart from his attacks on the N.C.N.C. Party and speak on the Head?

Chief Akerele: We know that there are some Members of the Cabinet who would like to have their way in every thing, and who are prepared to force their decisions on the Cabinet at the expense of the safety of the country. These things have happened, and people do them for personal reasons. Somebody may feel that his pride has been wounded in that he has been brought before a law court and as such he will try everything to move the Cabinet to see that something is done even at the expense of law and order in this country.

I do hope that the Prime Minister will not allow this type of thing to continue. Cabinet decisions are secret and should remain secret. The Member for Ibadan South East, (*Mr Akinjide*), said that before this present Government we had had other Cabinets and that we had never been privileged to know the decisions taken in the Cabinet. This laxity has been going on for a long time and, I hope that the Prime Minister will see to it that Members of his Cabinet are asked at least in the interest of the country to keep their peace.

The Prime Minister: I do not know whether we are dealing with the Amendment to Item 39 or dealing with the Head as a whole.

The hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*), I think, asked about security. I think, the security vote is usually not discussed by Parliament at great length.

If we were to debate security in that manner, it would no longer be security, as I have always told the House. Parliament should not be too anxious to know, who are the people engaged in security work or what work they do, as long as we are assure Parliament that things are safe and that we are trying as much as we can to see that there is security in the Federation.

I want to assure the House that we are yet trying to build up the security side of the Cabinet Office. I would not say that it is a perfect organisation; we are trying to build it up and it is also a complicated business. Whenever we have a vote on security I would not like Members of Parliament to be questioning us. I think it is a vote which is not subject to debate by Parliament.

My hon. Friend the Member for Oyo East (*Chief Akerele*) has made a very serious allegation. The Cabinet is a Cabinet and it is one. There is no question of saying—these are N.C.N.C. Ministers, these are N.P.C. Ministers. The Cabinet is one Cabinet. The decisions of the Cabinet are all taken collectively and every Minister is bound by the decisions arrived at by the Cabinet, and if the hon. Member has got information of a Cabinet Minister giving out information to the Press or to anybody, I shall only be too glad if he will come and tell me because he seems to have a lot of knowledge about these things. How he acquires it I do not know!

I now come to the Government Aircraft. I think that the House will agree that the Governor-General, the Regional Governors, V.I.P.s visiting this country, the Prime Minister and for that matter the Premiers of the Regions need something to move about the Federation and in Africa. We therefore decided to purchase a bigger aircraft with a longer range so that we shall be able to move about in reasonable comfort. The aircraft which we bought is fairly comfortable. It has the same range as a *Britania*, although it is much smaller and it can also fly over rough weather. I want to assure the Member for Oyo East, (*Chief Akerele*) that it is going to be used by V.I.P.s and V.I.P.s do not carry what he says they carry.

I think these are the points that have been made so far and, I see that the Head is only to be reduced by £100. I think it is a bit generous of the hon. Member who moved the Amendment.

Whereupon Alhaji Bello Dandago rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question put and negatived, That the Head be reduced by £100.

£144,650 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—agreed to.

HEAD 23.—POLICE

Question proposed, That £199,030 for Head 23—Police—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I beg to move, That Head 23—Police—be reduced by £100.

Before I speak on corruption in the Police force, I have to congratulate the Government for allocating the sum of £199,030 for the expansion of the Police Force. I would also like to register the appreciation of the people of my constituency to the Minister of State responsible for Police for the newly completed office block in Aba, and also in creating Aba another Provincial Headquarters. The Minister should note that the Senior Superintendent of Police in charge of the newly created Provincial Headquarters at Aba is not properly quartered and I hope he would take steps to put up a suitable building for him.

Secondly, the Minister should see to it that the strength of the Police Force in Aba Division is increased, for it is impossible for the Police to cope with the number of crimes committed daily in that area. Almost all the Police vans in Aba are worn out and much money is being wasted in repairing them. We cannot talk of maintaining law and order in this country when the policemen have not got all the necessary equipment to carry out their duties. Therefore, I am now appealing to the Minister in charge to see that the policemen in Aba are provided with sufficient equipment to carry out their duties.

Before I condemn the corruption in the Force I would first of all suggest to the Minister to put up a recommendation to the Police Council to revise the salaries of the low income group in the Police Force. Let us speak the truth. Corruption is very rampant in Nigeria to-day, and unless policemen in this country will clear their hands of this social evil which has eaten deep into the fabric of our national foundation this country will definitely one day find herself in a terrible state of affairs. There is corruption in many departments to-day, especially in high places. It is the duty of the policeman to stop corruption. But the policemen whose duty it is to stop corruption even receive two shillings bribe.

The Minister should see if it would be possible to minimise or stop corruption. I would suggest that the Government of the Federation, with the co-operation of the Regional Governments, should appoint a high-powered commission of enquiry to go into the accumulation of ill-gotten wealth by certain individuals in the public service of this

[MR OKORONKWO]
country, or in the high places or among people holding important positions in the community in which they live. It must be noted that in Nigeria to-day a man who earns about £300 or £400 *per annum*, before the year is out, will complete a business of £2,000 or £3,000. And also a man who earns £2,000 or £3,000 *per annum* carries on a business or puts up a building worth £50,000. Do we not ask ourselves this question—Where does this money come from?

We must try to investigate these anomalies if we really want to move forward. The Police Force has often failed to investigate some of these matters because the policemen themselves are also interested. Can a thief catch a thief? It is a well known fact that if the policemen in Nigeria make up their minds to stop corruption it will be possible for Nigeria to wipe out this evil. It is only with the co-operation of the Police Force that we can stop corruption. And unless steps are taken, there must be a revolt in this country one day because some of our school leavers in Nigeria have failed to secure employment.

While looking for employment a man on about £100 per month would demand from them £30 to £40 before they are considered at all. These boys and girls are deprived of the opportunity of taking part in running the affairs of the country.

I repeat that the Minister in charge of the Police should take all these suggestions into consideration and take effective measures to wipe out corruption in Nigeria.

I beg to move.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East): Under this Head I am referring to the Traffic Section of the Police Force. I am surprised to find that instead of being helpful and protective the traffic police are a terror to the people. They tend to frighten people, and in this regard I would like to mention an example in Igala Division, in the Northern Region, from where I come. Our people suffer much as a result of the activities of the police. There is a certain Inspector of Police who goes by the name of *Mr Sanni* and is in charge of the Traffic Division of the Police Force in Kabba Province. As soon as this gentleman reaches Igala Division he feels that he is in a no-man's land of uncivilised natives. He therefore does what he likes.

He stops lorries, collects all the particulars from the drivers and then orders the drivers to drive for about a hundred miles or even more sometimes.

The Chairman : Order ; it is out of order to mention an official's name.

Mr Tokula : Mr Chairman, with your permission I would like to mention this specific example. On the 23rd of March, at half past two in the afternoon, this Inspector of Police arrested the driver of lorry No. IH 118, collected all his particular and then ordered him to drive for a distance of thirty-six miles without any of his particulars. Then he ordered this driver to report in Ankpa Court at nine o'clock the following morning which was the 24th of March, 1961. This lorry actually was not involved in any offence apart from carrying some luggage to Lagos. According to the policeman, he explained that the load was too high.

This is nothing but just to explain to the House the activities being carried out by the Traffic Section of the Nigeria Police Force in Kabba Province and especially in Igala Division. I am appealing to the Government to do something at least to protect the drivers and lorry owners in Igala Division. The appearance alone of this particular policeman in any market means the end of the market. All the people desert the market for the fear of the policeman. He gives unnecessary charges. He may decide that cloths are dirty and so he charges the cloth sellers and takes them to court.

I must emphasise on this point that he takes a police van to hotels and bars. At times, he would be there up to twelve o'clock in the night. Well, anything can happen during this time ; there are many drivers coming to meet him at the hotel because he has already collected their licences and particulars during the day time.

Recently, we learned of the robbery which took place at Bidda, the stealing of money from the Barclays Bank. You will be surprised, Sir, that many of these robbers were dressed in police uniform. Some questions have arisen. How did they get the police uniform? Is the police uniform being sold in the market? What of police medals and the other things which make up the police

uniform? Are they being sold in the market? I do not believe that. These *policemen* were caught. They were all dressed in police uniform and even some of them were dressed in form of Sergeants and Inspectors. Many of them, I am sure, come from the southern provinces, especially from the Western Region.

As far as I know, if these activities of the Traffic Section of the Nigeria Police Force continue, we in Igala Division are not going to make any good out of our market. So far as I know many lorry owners are already selling all their lorries and putting themselves in a very difficult condition. Many lorry owners bought their lorries on hire-purchase but as soon as they sell them, perhaps after they had been in use for only three months or so, you can then imagine the plight of these people and the money they have to lose in connection with the activities of the Traffic Section of the Nigeria Police Force.

With these few remarks and with the hope that the Government will do something to improve the condition of Traffic Section of Police Force in Kabba Province and especially in Igala Division, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am speaking about the pace of Nigerianisation in the Police Force. To-day, the Inspector-General of Police is an expatriate; the Commissioners of Police in the Regional Headquarters are all expatriates. Our independence is nearly a year old and the Police Force is a very important arm of the Government. Throughout my three and a half years' stay in London, I did not see a single African police officer. Nigeria was not yet at that time a sovereign State, but to-day we have attained independence. The Government should think of complete Nigerianisation of the Police Force. The Inspector-General of Police the Commissioners should all be Nigerianised.

It is a pity that the Government to-day still recruits contract officers from the United Kingdom as Assistant Superintendents of Police. We have very many young men in this country with Higher School Certificate, General Degree holders; people with G.C.E. Advanced Level Certificates in two or three or four subjects, who will be very good police officers.

I remember in my final year in the University in London. I had a contemporary who was

in Hull. He applied to be an A.S.P. with an LL.B. degree. He was told in the Colonial Office "Oh, your qualification is too high for a police officer, you had better go away; we do not need you." The man who spoke to him then in the Colonial Office was an Englishman. He told me that he was very surprised because he got the academic qualification. He later replied by saying "I have met some barristers who are police officers and why do you not want to employ Nigerian graduates into the Force?" He was afterwards informed "Do not forget it is a Colonial Police Force and as such in the colonial territories, we do not require graduates."

Happily this friend of mine has not lost anything, as a matter of fact, he is holding an office to-day where he earns over £2,400 per annum but Nigeria has lost something. We need responsible and well educated people in the Police Force. If you go about in the country to-day, you will find that the policemen are doing a lot of good work. Ten years ago, we had bullies, people who would bully if one went to any police station. There is a change to-day.

I have the greatest respect for the police officers in this country, both indigenous and expatriate officers. They are doing very well in view of their standard of education. I am saying that more educated people should be recruited into the Police Force.

We have been attacking the Traffic Section of the Police Force; we have been talking about corruption in the Force. It would be wrong for us to attack the Police only. Somebody spoke about fifteen years ago when he was preaching in Lagos that Nigerians were rotten at heart. As a schoolboy, I opposed what he said, but as a grown-up person to-day, while agreeing with that man, I think the man should say that some Nigerians are rotten at heart. Among these Nigerians who are rotten at heart are even some politicians, professional people, the N.C.N.C. not the Action Group.

The Traffic Division of the Nigeria Police is very corrupt. I would advise that each Member of this hon. Parliament perform a little experiment before going back to his constituency. Just take a ride to Ikorodu Road and observe what these police officers in the Traffic Division do. I normally live

[MR OGEDENGBE]
 along Ikorodu Road whenever I come to Lagos. Each day these traffic policemen will halt the *bolekajas* and taxis from the Western Region particularly—I am not saying they discriminate against the Western Region, they do not—and ask them for what they call “particulars”. You will see these policemen following the driver and saying to them “Why do you behave like this?” The driver will beckon them to a corner; the Police stretches out his hand, collects only two shillings and goes away. This is an open secret, common knowledge to everybody; policemen in the Traffic Division are really very corrupt.

It is a pity that the Minister of Internal Affairs is not here, but I would like to appeal to the Minister charged with the responsibility for defence—he too is not there—so I would appeal to the Prime Minister to do something about the Passport Office. I know that passport has nothing to do with Head 23—Police—but you see police officers still control the Passport Office. We always have very many Nigerian students and wives of students who are going to join their husbands in England going to that Office. These days they have very great difficulty in obtaining passports because the police are handling the issue of passports.

If you go to the Passport Office you will be ashamed to see how poorly treated are our boys and girls who are going to be leaders of tomorrow, for, after all, we will not be in Parliament for ever—

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): Some of them will not be here next time, let alone for ever!

Mr Ogedengbe : I thank my hon. Friend. These boys and girls going overseas to study have a lot of difficulty in obtaining their passports. I appeal to the Prime Minister to staff the Passport Office with civilian officers. In England and in many other countries, passport offices are staffed with civilian officers. I am not saying that everybody in the Passport Office is corrupt but I am saying that the policeman is not the proper person to issue passports to citizens of this country to-day. It was all right, perhaps, in colonial days for policemen, mostly expatriate, to control the movement of Nigerians both within and outside the country, but now that we have attained independent status civilian officers should issue our passports. This will ease the congestion in that Office.

Finally, a visit to the Passport Office will convince everybody here that many of the officers there are even ignorant of contemporary events in this country. Recently a young man from my constituency applied for a passport. He had been awarded a Commonwealth scholarship. Some of these half-baked policemen in the Passport Office did not understand what was meant by a Commonwealth scholarship, and they asked him to go and produce a guarantor who would certify that he was financially fit to support him in the United Kingdom.

This young man was embarrassed. He ran to my house and I took him to the Passport Office. We went to the police officer who repeated that they wanted to know something about his guarantor and asked me whether I was guarantor. I said to him “How dare you? Bring the file”. He brought the file and I said to him: “Now, can you not see from this letter that this man has been awarded a Commonwealth scholarship?” The hon. Odulana is my witness, he was in the Office on that day. The police officer said to me “No, I still want a guarantor for the young man”. I asked him: “What other guarantor do you want?” I had to go to the superior officer who is an African, and were it not for that superior officer this young man from my constituency, who had travelled almost three hundred miles to come here, would have gone back without a passport simply because of the ignorance of some of the half-baked Police officers in that Office.

M. Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North) : I find it necessary to speak on this Head. The duties of a police officer are simply to maintain law and order in the country and to work for Nigeria as a whole. But in some places in this country the Nigerian policemen are not at all performing their duties according to the Police Ordinance.

I do not know why. It may be that they are afraid that some superior officers in the Region will sack them. I would like to advise the Government to really look into this matter and see that the duties of the police in Nigeria are uniformly performed throughout the country.

I can remember one day in the Western Region, somewhere just near to Ibadan. Something happened there, but as soon as the police officer arrived at the scene and saw that the gentleman involved appeared to be from the

Northern Region he rushed up the matter and said "This man will have to be under custody unless he declares to be an Action Groupers". Is it good for a police officer to do that ?

An Opposition Member : The hon. Member for Gaya North is joking. What of the North ?

M. Inusa : The Opposition can say anything. People like Chief Enahoro are the people encouraging dishonesty to continue in this country. And if this continues, I will recommend to the Federal Government to appoint a Commission of Inquiry that will look into the performances of the Police.

It is worth mentioning that despite the fact that many of us have been preaching the gospel of unity of Nigeria, and trying actually to live in peace in this country, the Action Groupers have been doing all they can to make confusion come to stay because their party is not in power in the Federal Parliament. I am sure it will never be.

During the recent Local Government Elections in the West, the Premier of the West came to Ibadan to give a lecture. The Police was invited to maintain peace in the place where the lecture was to take place. Because they saw an N.P.C. flag there, on a house, they asked the owner to remove it. When he refused he was arrested and kept in custody for a number of days. Later he was tried and fined the sum of £75 !

This type of thing is very bad. I hope the Federal Government will take immediate steps to check the Action Groupers so as to maintain law and order in this country.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I wish to point out the fact that many hon. Members have been speaking against the Police. I am on the opposite camp in this regard. I will not like to say that our policemen are the only ones corrupt since corruption started right from the politicians. If we examine the whole economy of this country we can see that a lot of money is wasted by the politicians and the paltry sum which some policemen receive from people is a striking contrast to the large sum of money which the politicians waste. I pray, therefore, that my hon. Friends will withdraw all they have said against the Police.

The entire economy is corrupt. Since this is so the best thing to do is to change the system of economy in this country. We should not label a section of the economy as the only one corrupt.

I wish to recommend the right system of economy to the Government ; the system that will not encourage bribery and corruption. This system that I have in mind is Socialism. This system of economy will discourage private business, private ownership of money and property and will definitely improve the entire economy of this country.

The Chairman : Order ! The hon. Member for Aba South is apparently not speaking on Head 23 which is Police.

Mr Ememe : I was only defending the Police, that as far as corruption is concerned the Police Force should not be the only one to be labelled as corrupt because the entire economy is corrupt. I can only point out to hon. Members that it is unfair for them to come to this House and accuse policemen that they are corrupt when definitely corruption started from politicians. That is all I have said.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I do not think that the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is right in castigating the politicians. Many of us in this country are politicians. I wish to add that the remark made by the hon. Gentleman is unparliamentary.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : On point of order, the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) and the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) who interrupted are both correct.

The Chairman : That is no point of order.

Mr Ememe : The Police office at Aba deserves remarks. The Aba Police Station is supposed to be the headquarters of Umuahia Province in Eastern Nigeria. But the S.S.P. lives at Umuahia instead of Aba. This should be corrected at once.

(*Mr F. A. M. Amadi stood*) (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order ! I call on the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*).

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : As usual, I want to say a word of thanks to the entire Police Force—

An hon. Member : The hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) has not completed his speech.

The Chairman : I am afraid the hon. Member for Aba South has lost his chance because he did not stand up when I called him.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Since, according to you, Mr Chairman, the hon. Member for Aba South has lost his chance, I think the best thing to do now is to walk him out of the House, and he should cease to be a Member of Parliament forthwith !

The Chairman : I meant that the hon. Member had lost his chance of speaking at this particular time.

Shettima Ali Monguno : I wish to thank the entire Police Force for the excellent work they have been doing. However, I have just a point to mention, not against the entire Force, but against one or two individuals in the Force.

It sounded odd when an allegation was made in this House yesterday that a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police was appointed in the Western Region. Further, it was alleged that the appointment was made on the recommendation of the Inspector-General of the Nigerian Police Force, coupled with recommendation or agreement of the Commissioner of the Nigeria Police Force in the Western Region.

If this is true, one cannot help feeling a little bit disappointed at the way the two high-ranking officers of the Nigeria Police Force have acted. One may expect that the Inspector-General of Police should be, not only above board but should also be discerning. He should be honest, faithful, and above all, he should know whether or not it is constitutional for a Regional Government to appoint a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police. However, it is only an allegation which, in my own opinion, should be looked into and, if found true, remedied immediately.

To conclude, I would definitely like to see the Government improve the lot of the Police Force in this country. If we want justice pursued in law courts, we will obviously have to pay for what the Judges are worth. If we

expect honesty and efficiency in the Police Force, then, I think we are being miserly not to improve their lot, which is no economy.

May I also appeal to hon. Members that it is not enough to bring into this House allegations or facts in certain cases, in respect of Policemen taking bribes. I am appealing to any Member of this House who witnessed such a thing to report, as the Prime Minister had very rightly pointed out, to the Police in his area. The trouble is that people run away from the responsibility. People are hesitant to appear to give evidence in law courts and this is why they are scared to report any such incident to the Police.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Taiwo (Oyo North West) : In contributing to the debate on this Head, I do not intend to attack any personality in the Force because of the opportunity I have to serve my country in this great Parliament. I want to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of the Police Force to some of the heartless behaviours and greed of some people in the Force especially, in some sections of it. I think it is time to set up a Committee to deal with these bad behaviours so that we may have some effective way of discouraging the undesirable practice. This may lead us to the consideration of improving the requisite qualifications for enrolment into the Force.

Attractive conditions should be laid down for people who wish to come into the Force and it will be advantageous for either the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner of Police, or even the Inspector-General himself to have some knowledge of law. I think the people in these top posts should be lawyers before they are engaged. I think so because when one watches some proceedings in court when some Police Officers prosecute, one finds that it is easy for the defence lawyers to pick holes in their submissions and ultimately they lose all their cases. Some prosecutors even do as much as to arrange with the lawyers to make submissions which would be easy to pick holes in. If the prosecutors have some knowledge of law, court proceedings will be much improved.

There is some difficulty in admitting some people into the Police Force. One example has been cited by the hon. Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) when a graduate in law was refused admission into the Force.

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Many people must think now that the conditions of service of the Police Force must be improved. There must be a future for the prospective officers in the Force. I do not see anything wrong in a graduate in law joining the Police Force or the Army if he wants.

Many people have talked at length on the corrupt practices of the Traffic Police. I do not want to talk on it because I am badly affected. I had to sell some of my lorries because everyday the drivers came back with the story that they had been caught by the Police and we have had to pay heavily for it. A lorry plying between Shaki and Ibadan has to meet a great number of Policemen on the way and each time, the drivers had to give five shillings, ten shillings or even three pounds. There was a day they came back with nothing at all.

We know there must be an offence committed but it might be very negligible like having a faulty speedometer. Some of the drivers think that if their speedometer is not functioning, they would go faster, but how many drivers look at their speedometers when driving. The proportion of bribes to the offence is too heavy. These drivers do not like to go to court because of the time wasted and the heavy fines they pay for a small offence. I have seen a driver fined £50 for not carrying an extra tyre.

Minister of Labour : The hon. Gentleman was advocating decrease in the cost of bribery ; this is outside the scope of the Estimates. The hon. Member is not pleading for eradication but that it should be decreased.

The Chairman : I do not know whether this is out of order, but he is entitled to his own opinion. I think.

Mr J. O. Taiwo (Oyo North West) : I do not want any bribery but I am only telling the House that it is being done. It takes two actually for bribery to take place, anyway.

I want to appeal to the Minister to give us more Police Posts in Oyo North West. We can travel about 130 miles without seeing a Police Post. I have said this once in this House.

For instance, in Oyo North West we have our boundary, the Nigerian boundary with French Dahomey. There is no Police Post at

the boundary and many of our people actually travel from that place to the French territory. A lot of smuggling goes on there and the ultimate result is loss of revenue to the Government. Something must be done to it.

Apart from loss of revenue to the Government, the people there actually lose money because at times they are waylaid by some robbers because they don't have police protection.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Oyewole (Ibadan South West) : I am going to speak on the Police in the Western Region. The Western Region needs more Police. (*Interruptions*). It is the Police in the Western Region that I am after.

There is a certain Assistant Superintendent of Police there who is practising the activities of the Action Group in the Western Region. It is awful. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order !

Mr Oyewole : This man engages in active politics. Whenever one has any complaint and one goes straight to the Police Station to lodge the complaint, he first asks this question : What member do you belong to ? Are you Action Group or N.C.N.C.

An hon. Member : All right. What member are you ?

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu-South) : The hon. Member for Ibadan South-West (*Mr Oyewole*), is speaking about an A.S.P., but in the Western Region we have Commissioners of Police. Has he ever made the complaint before coming to the Floor of this House ? It is improper for him to come here and complain. (*Loud interruptions*). He is talking with prejudice.

The Chairman : Order, order. There is no breach of Order in his speech. It is quite in order to lodge his complaint here.

Mr Oyewole : By practising all these evils, our supporters have no way of lodging their complaint to the Police Station again. When they have any trouble, the only way open to them is to run back to Lagos and report to a Minister, instead of doing so at the Police Station because the Police would not listen to them. We have to thank our present

[MR OYEWOLE]

Governor-General for not allowing the Regionalisation of the Police Force to take place in Nigeria. Otherwise, there would be no safety for human beings.

My suggestion is that all the Policemen in the Northern Region should be transferred to the Western Region and those in the Western Region to the Eastern Region, and so on. That is the only way to fight against discrimination and victimisation by the Policemen in the Western Region.

An hon. Member : You can bring Northern Region to the West, better.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : It appears that some Members do not seem to know who is in charge of the Nigeria Police and I want to tell them that the Prime Minister is in charge of the Police.

Quite a number of points have been raised and I must say that they are the usual points which are raised at all meetings of the House about the Nigeria Police : allegations of bribery and corruption in the Force. I agree with my hon. Friend, the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Mallam Ali Monguno*) that these people who allege that the Police are corrupt are possibly, indicating that they more or less saw them taking the bribe. Why did they not catch them and let us know ?

We have a gentleman somewhere there, I think, my hon. Friend, the Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) who said he was a lorry-owner and that he had to sell his lorry because the Police were always demanding money from his drivers. Why didn't the hon. Gentleman follow his drivers and try to catch those Policemen who have, more or less, made it impossible for him to be a transport owner ? If the hon. Gentleman has got some facts, I should be very interested to know.

We had a Minister in the Western Region Government sometime ago who chased a Policeman, got hold of him and had the man prosecuted. I hope Members of the House will do the same and not to come and make allegations. When these allegations are made, all the members of the Force become hurt because we can't say that every one of them is corrupt, and so it is wrong to make general allegations of this kind. The Members of the Force are doing their best.

My hon. Friend, Mr Tokula, I think, tried to explain the action of our Nigeria Police officers in Igala and he said that they arrested a lorry. Well, how could a man arrest a lorry ? I do not know. However, I note the points he has made, but I want to tell him that it is not in the interest of the public if the lorry is overloaded, as he alleged that the loads were very high up in the air— that is what he said. If the lorry is overloaded and the load was so high in the air, I think the Police have every right to arrest the driver.

Again, My Friend, Mr Tokula said he was surprised to see that some robbers were actually in Police uniform. What Police uniform ? We have got Local Government Police in the Western Region. We also have Native Authority Police Uniform in the North, or the Nigerian Police uniform. Which Police uniform ? Nigeria Police uniform or what ?

Also I want to say that robbers or thieves who are really very clever can do these things, and possibly they are learning from the cinemas or television.

My hon. Friend the Member for Oyo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) raised the question of Nigerianisation. I entirely agree with him and I assure him that the whole aim of the Federal Government is the complete Nigerianisation of the Police Force in course of time.

My hon. Friend the Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) has also suggested that every superior Police Officer must be a lawyer. Well, I do not know what lawyers will say ! I think, however, that when we have too many of them and there is not enough practice to go round, some of them might possibly care to apply. I assure my hon. Friend that the door is always open.

I would like to tell the House that usually after these debates, we look into the *Hansard* to see the points made and try to meet the wishes of the House as much as we can.

My hon. Friend the Member for Kaga Marghai (*Mallam Ali Monguno*) raised a very important point in connection with what the hon. Chief Anthony Enahoro said yesterday about the appointment of Superintendent-General of Police. This is a matter which we have disposed of and I think we had better leave it at that. I hope to make a statement to the House and I shall include this matter in my statement.

I think I have covered most of the points made. I have taken note of them and will try to implement some of the reasonable suggestions made by hon. Members.

Amendment put and negatived.

£199,030 for Head 23—Police—agreed to.

HEAD 24—MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed, That £88,000 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): I rise to move that the sum of £100 be removed from this Head of Estimates.

In doing so, I want to say that I have had the pleasure to hear the Minister of Commerce and Industry on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill condemn the importation of second-hand clothing from overseas.

I want to tell the Minister that these goods are imported and that customs duties are paid on them. They are not delivered duty free, and I see no reason why the hon. Minister should have made such a statement on the issue. Further, there is always a certificate of fumigation issued by the Ministry of Health of the importing country to show that these goods do not contain any contagious disease. If the Minister had got a written document reporting that these items of second-hand clothing contain contagious diseases or anything infectious, I could have sympathised with him.

An unprogressive and revolting measure has been introduced by the Government whereby the Customs Authorities seize second-hand clothings from the importers.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of Order! Industrial development is under import. It has nothing to do with second-hand clothing.

The Chairman: Will the hon. Member then please speak to the point.

Mr Okay: I was saying that an unprogressive measure was introduced whereby second-hand clothings are seized from the importers. Now, I want the Government and the Minister

of Commerce and Industry to tell us who issues the licences with which these goods are imported.

I now call upon the Minister to see that these measures are abrogated forthwith.

I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): The proposal to the Federal Government to refund import duties on industrial equipment imported into the country is a good one which has for its purpose the encouragement of the establishment of industries in this country, but I think that in order to help people who want to set up industries, especially Nigerians who have not got much money with which to do these things, the Government should consider not only to refund the import duties but to take no import duties at all on its being satisfied—and that point must be made very clear, on its being perfectly satisfied—that the equipment is meant indeed for the industry for which an application is made.

There are cases in the country in which people are not able even to pay the import duty to start with, and it is no consolation to such people that the money will be refunded. I would like the Minister to consider the point that import duties will not be paid at all to start with. The question of its being refunded should not arise.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West): It is a pity that the Minister was not in the House when I spoke on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

However, I would like to call his attention to the fact that Ministers are expected to work hand in hand. I wonder whether the Minister, when he was negotiating with the Tins Smelting Company between Bukuru and Jos about the importation of coal to Nigeria, did consult the Minister of Mines and Power to ascertain whether such coal can be found in this country. I would like him to investigate this point and try to see that something is done.

Mr L. N. Ezeani (Onitsha North): What I want to say on this Head is in connection with what I will describe as the "duping" which certain foreign firms have been doing in this country, that is in respect of shipping useless materials to Nigeria. I do not know whether the Minister of Commerce is aware of this.

[MR EZEANI]

For instance, one can read in our newspaper announcement advertising second-hand printing machinery, and so forth. In spite of the fact that these firms give the guarantee that these machines are in perfect working condition, when they are imported into this country we find them to be completely useless, and as a result, many industries have suffered. And so, the earlier the Minister takes steps to see that this is checked, the better. We cannot allow foreign firms to send to our people here materials which are already worn out, under the pretence that they are very good and in good working condition. These people are allowed to advertise in our newspapers. This practice should be stopped immediately.

Another thing, is the restriction in certain areas on import licences. I feel that we in the Eastern Region are not getting a fair share of our own import licences. The people in Lagos, the Federal Capital, may be more fortunate—I do not know, but I want to say that we in the Eastern Region are not getting satisfaction in this matter. I am sure that we are not getting a fair share of import licences. It takes a long time to write here to Lagos. In some cases letters are not replied to, or perhaps vague replies are sent, which give no help. I want to ask the Minister to lift the restrictions with regard to the issuing of these import licences to people in the Eastern Region, so that we can have our own share in the importation of goods, as do the people of Lagos.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : Talking about industrial development, I should like to make a few points.

One is that the impetus we can give is not only limited to refund of import duties. I associate myself with the views expressed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*), who said that they should not be collected at all, because it means a lot to collect money from a man who has very little to spare.

Another point I would like to touch upon is the question of incorporation of companies. There has been a lot of talk about Nigerians not coming together to form companies. I wish to say that one impetus or encouragement that could be given towards industrial deve-

lopment would be to encourage our people to form bigger companies, and not merely companies that are very small in size and scope.

In this regard, I would ask the Minister to try and discover what is the reason for the practice with regard to the Judiciary? Why is there a limit to the fees payable in filing a summons? Many may be surprised to know that when people say they are filing an action for £50,000, it does not cost them that much. It costs the same to file as ummons for £50,000 as it costs to file one for £1,000.

With the need for our people to come together and form big companies, particularly when one thinks in terms of investment companies, it should be made easier for Nigerians to be able to form such companies. It is no use forming a company where the duty alone would cost as much as £5 000. It is not so easy to get Nigerians to subscribe money for the formation of companies. And when £1,000 alone would be payable to the Registrar by way of stamp duty, how much is left? Our people soon start looking for profit, and the money paid for registration does not itself yield any profit.

I am therefore suggesting that there should be a limit in the duty payable on incorporation of a company so as not to make it an exclusive preserve of indigenus businessmen, please make it possible for Nigerians to incorporate companies with far larger capital and scope.

I would also like to commend to the Minister the need for the encouragement of the formation of investment companies. It looks as if it is only the Englishman or the American or the European that can think in terms of investment companies. I think that by making it easier for people to incorporate companies by limiting the amount of duty payable, we will also be helping the Nigerians if there is careful vigilance and encouragement from the Government.

The Government is not necessarily being asked to put up the money for formation of Investment Companies. It will encourage people to know that the Government itself is aware of some of their difficulties and is prepared to try to provide some safeguards. I know that there has been some move to incorporate indigenus investment companies, but the difficulty has been one of vigilance and integrity.

Fortunately some expatriate organisations are interested in providing the know-how, provided the people can get together. Our people are prepared to come together so long as there is some sort of security by way of Government vigilance and assurance.

I have suggested before that if need be, our Criminal Code and Company Law should be so amended as to make it impossible, difficult and unpleasant for anybody to play the fool with other people's money. That is one of the things that are really working against indigenous enterprise in this country. Some thing that once money has been collected from a company, one can do what one likes, and they can be kept dancing from one court to the other for ages. My suggestion therefore is that the Government should seriously think in terms of helping Nigerians to form investment companies. The expert personnel can be found. What is necessary is Government's encouragement and one great advantage in it would be this. So far, expatriate investors can only look up to Government for partnership in business, although there may well be one or two individuals who have avenues accessible to them which are not open to the vast majority of people in this country, however well intentioned.

I think it is important that if we can create such investment companies, the Government should give them recognition, sympathy and encouragement though not necessarily as purely Government concern. As it is now, in most of the Regions, no big investment or industrial project can be undertaken unless the Government is participating; the Regional Governments have very little money to spend. So if these companies are encouraged, the Regional Governments will be in a better position to use the resources at their disposal for such matters as come within their province.

I think it will help our people much better to get up some of such existing business organisations, which if we are not careful, will get out of control and become matters of international politics any day we may want to have a greater say in them.

Another point I would like to make is on this question of Government participation in business. There is a number of projects already in the country to-day in which Government is participating. Now, what happens?

I must say that there should be a limit to bare-faced political patronage. To name a man as a Director of a business company when perhaps the most he has heard about business or trade or commerce is contained in *Pendlebury Arithmetic* and he hears of £1 million only on the pages of *Pendlebury* but that will not do for business. I think that when Government participates in business there must be some attempt at being realistic in appointing those who will properly represent the interests of the country in the company. Care should be taken that one does not just nominate people who will be overwhelmed by the dignitaries sitting around them.

The difficulty in it is that in many of the companies in which Government participates—it does not matter whether it is the Regional or the Federal Government—the management is under remote control either from London, New York or Paris. The people overseas dictate the policies while the man who sits here in Nigeria, may be with all the intelligence within the limits of his own learning and experience, has not much to accomplish. I do feel that where Government is participating it must take very great care to see that it is not one of those run-away things operated by remote control which in effect will be serving interests other than those of Nigeria.

Where Government is participating, and in fact in most of the projects now established in Nigeria, it must make it a policy to see that the distribution of the products, as much as possible, is left in the hands of indigenous businessmen. We come up against difficulties in this respect every time. I have heard some people say things like what we used to hear during the colonial days. When we talk of patronising indigenous businessmen with distribution of manufactured products they try to counter with the excuse that they have not the organisation. When they have the organisation, they are said not to have the money. When they have the money they are said not to have the experience. It is known as a fact that in such a trade if the manufacturer appoints one his agent or distributor and fixes his selling price those who want the goods buy them from him. He paid the manufacturer and gets his commission. That is all there is to it. The whole thing becomes a vicious circle. I do sincerely hope that the Ministry will intervene in this matter and break this deadlock.

[MR AKWIWU]

It is common experience that soon as some manufacturing companies come into this country even when the Government participates in them they nominate one of the already fabulously wealthy expatriate distributors to do the distribution. In the end, one would probably find that what is manufactured in Nigeria, even with the participation of our Government, because of unpatriotic influence on prices is costing more than what has been manufactured and transported over a distance of 4,000 miles! I think this is a matter which should seriously engage the attention of our Minister.

Another aspect is this; Expatriate businessmen must be discouraged from importing salesmen. Expatriate business houses must be discouraged from importing clerks, salesmen and storekeepers. We have got enough of them in this country. After all, what are we suffering from to-day? There are so many people who have passed their Senior School Certificate but cannot get jobs. A standard VI boy cannot even get a driving job and yet a man will travel all the way to India to bring shop attendants; into the country. The next thing is for them to import scavengers!

This action is an insult to the people of this country. We are producing far more school leavers than many other countries in the world, including even those who are fortunate to start manufacturing these things before us. Why should we be insulted by bringing labourers from countries where Ph.D. holders queue for messengers' jobs? They have the impudence of bringing people to come and work as clerks in this country. Certainly, we shall not have it.

Now that we are beginning to produce University Graduates what will happen? *Ashby* says that we shall have produced 7,200 graduates by 1970. When we turn out 7,200 graduates, we have to find work for them to do. We have got to start preparing for them now. Nobody should insult us by importing Steveadors from other parts of the world when we have got people to do the work here in the country. I think that this practice should be completely discouraged.

Another thing that should be discouraged is the continued importation of expatriate Legal Advisers by firms. Now the position

is that some of these expatriate Law Firms in this country to-day have established such a 'long foot' that all they need is to have an inkling that a firm is coming to Nigeria and they arrange the legal business immediately. We have not started a law faculty in Nigeria but everybody can see the number of lawyers coming into the country. There is nothing as dangerous as having unemployed intellectuals. So I feel that our Government has been tolerant enough. These expatriate lawyers should honestly realise that they are eating other people's cakes and have got to be really careful.

There is no point planting spies in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, at the Airport and other places through which expatriate businessmen come into the country. Before ever these businessmen arrive in the country, these selfish practitioners have captured them even before the Ministry of Commerce and Industry knows that such businessmen are coming into the country.

I feel that these are matters I would recommend to the Ministry for serious consideration.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East): I would like to speak on this Item which provides the sum of £88,000 for the refund of import duties. It is quite certain that some importers have lost enormous amounts of money by importing singlets from overseas at one time or the other. But it appears that in refunding some of these import duties consideration has not been given to one or two of these importers. I am appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to reconsider his stand on this question of refund because it is not good to discriminate against these importers.

Likewise, I am appealing to the Minister regarding the question of the issuing of licences to indigenous importers. There are cases where there has been discrimination in granting licences to indigenous importers. We know there are a lot of business octopuses in the country who are trying to monopolise all the licences in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but notwithstanding that fact, I believe, while considering the granting of

licences to expatriate importers, due consideration should be given to our people. After all, charity begins at home. I have had on some occasions the privilege of visiting the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and I have seen on such occasions that our men are not given due encouragement.

In this connection, I would appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see that in granting import or export licences, due consideration is given to our people and not only to the expatriate importers and exporters. I know that a lot has been done already because I have observed many changes in the policy of the Ministry in the issue of these Licences. The activities of the Minister in this respect are highly commendable, but I do not think he should rest on his oars because more could still be done.

I hope the few points I have raised will be taken into consideration by the Minister.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I am really thankful to hon. Members for the constructive suggestions they have given to us. We shall no doubt consider these in our Ministry and see in what way we shall benefit from them.

The hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*), raised a point about the importation of second-hand clothing. Unfortunately he has left the Chamber, but I have received many telegrams from the Eastern Region stating that the statement made by me is quite right and that Nigeria has reached a stage when we can dispense with the services of second-hand clothes. We cannot abruptly cut off these things, but surely time will come when we must have only the very best for Nigeria. We cannot continue indefinitely importing second-hand clothes; and so I must say that the days of second-hand clothing and trading are numbered.

May I inform hon. Members that there is no licence restriction by my Ministry. Federal officers in all the Regions cater for the interests of the Regional residents and there is no restriction at all. Consideration is given to people according to their capacity and it is our intention to build up really strong middle-class

families in Nigeria. At the moment this is one of the things which we are looking into and we are doing so. We intend to build really strong middle-class families in order to stabilise the economy of Nigeria.

The hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr E. C. Akwivou*) who is now in another capacity as the Chairman, has made many suggestions. May I say that the promotion of industries is really very actively being pursued by my Ministry. Hon. Members know of the Stock Exchange, the Investment Corporation and of the encouragement being given to Nigerians to participate actively in big business enterprises. The Government is giving loans for the establishment of various industries and when such industries are established, Government usually gives out its shares to Nigerians in order that they may participate actively in the industrial life of our community. This Stock Exchange is an open market and anybody can buy or sell there.

The Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) in his speech made mention of the collection of duties. I am honestly in sympathy with all that he said, but I should like to add that there are a lot of administrative difficulties involved in these things and the Federal Government loses because after these duties are collected, they go into the distribution pool. The Regions must have their shares. Something will be done to solve these administrative difficulties.

Hon. Members will agree with me that increased speculation shows signs of activity, industries are expanding, people are so confident in Nigeria that they are establishing more industries than can be envisaged. I am sure we will be all happy in the end. The look of happiness on the faces of hon. Members shows that the economic development of the country is encouraging. I wish there would be no further arguments and that the Head should be approved.

Question put and negatived, That Head 24 be reduced by £5.

£88,000 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—agreed to.

HEAD 25—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

Question proposed, That £3,000 for Head 25—Marketing and Exports—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): I think it should be appropriate under this Head to speak on the marketing and exporting of cement in this country. I read in the Press, and I also received a letter from somebody complaining that he applied for the importation of cement from Russia but the application was refused. Not only is this detrimental to the economy of this country but it also runs counter to the foreign policy of this country.

Our foreign policy is that of non-alignment and that we are not allied to East, the West or any of the blocks, and in economic matters I also understand that our policy is to trade with every country in the world. If this is true, why should somebody apply to import cement from Russia and such an application is refused? It was not on any particular matter of principle or on any financial or economic ground, but probably simply because the importation was to be made from a Communist country.

Happily, last week, the Minister of Commerce and Industry made a statement to the effect that he is going to sign a trade agreement with some Communist countries. I hope that one of those products to be imported will be cement. It is no use tying ourselves economically to the apron-strings of Britain or America. Why do we have to confine ourselves only to the importation of Portland cement.

I am appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to review this matter and approve applications for people to import cement or any other product from any country in the world, whether from Nationalist China, Communist China, Fidel Castro's Cuba or Kennedy's America. It is no use saying one thing on the Floor of this House and in practice doing another thing.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Odegunmi (Egba North): I beg to disagree with the last speaker. The importation of materials that can be manufactured in this country should be restricted in order that the one manufactured in this country might receive greater patronage. What made Japan a great country to-day was that as soon as she

achieved her independence there was a very strict measure made against the importation of foreign goods, particularly those that they could manufacture in their country. This is what will encourage Nigerians to buy the goods manufactured in this country.

We have a cement factory in the Eastern Region; we have another in the Western Region and there is going to be another in the Northern Region. We ought to give them due encouragement so that the more the difficulties that are placed on the importation of cement, the more the locally produced one is boosted up.

Not only that, we need to curtail the importation of those other goods that can be manufactured in the country. This will increase the wealth of the nation, and I would like to see us have in this country those products that are in very great demand, particularly wrist watches. We need a wrist watch factory. I am sure—

The Chairman: Order, order. It is not my intention to distract the attention of the hon. Member for Egba North (*Mr Odegunmi*), but when he was talking about cement I was wondering that it might have something to do with the construction of semi-permanent buildings. But certainly wrist watches are very far from the subject under discussion.

Mr Odegunmi: Thank you, Mr Chairman. We certainly need cement in producing these buildings, and I am quite sure that the Minister concerned will do all that lies in his power to encourage the nation in boosting up the goods manufactured in this country.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

£3,000 for Head 25—Marketing and Exports—agreed to.

HEAD 30.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed, That £47,700 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): I beg to move, That Head 30 be reduced by £100.

I am moving this Amendment because I feel that our policy in the development of this country is far from what the ordinary man in the street would want it to be. A few days

ago the Chief Spokesman for the Opposition raised a point on the future of Government investments in this country. Later, the Minister of Finance gave what is now the Government policy on the future of Government investments in this country. I feel that that policy is not in the best interest of the common man in this country.

To refresh hon. Members' memory, the policy outlined by the Government is that investments being made now by Government will, when they mature—when they become productive enough—be sold out to private capitalists in this country. I feel that that will be a betrayal of trust. Industries, economic proposals that have been brought into being—

The Chairman : Order, order. May I remind the hon. Member that we have only three items under Head 30 of the Estimates and I do hope he will endeavour to confine his remarks to those items.

Mr Odigbo : Thank you, Mr Chairman. The fact remains that we are only contributing our suggestions so as to raise the economic position of this country and I think that in doing so, we should bear in mind that we are doing it for the benefit of the people of this country and for the prosperity of this great country.

I agree that it is good that we should give assistance to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, but, in doing so, we should ensure that any benefit we derive is for the good of the people of Nigeria.

Also we are going to contribute to the British Commonwealth Scientific Committee. I do insist also that whatever benefit we derive from our membership of this Committee should be preserved by this Government for the welfare of the common man.

The West African Institute for Oil Palm Research should be expanded and made as efficient as possible.

If we invest public money in all these projects and, as a result of what we get, we are able to establish industries and Government projects that will yield revenue, and we eventually turn back to sell out these projects to individuals in the country, we are not protecting the interest of the common man.

We are, in fact, contributing to the widening of the gap between the very poor and the very rich. That is where my point comes in, that the policy enunciated by the Federal Government is far from what the common man in this country wants.

Maybe we do not as well realise that this country cannot maintain its services from taxes alone. It is impossible because we have not got the projects that can pay enough income to the revenue of this country and we have not got the minerals that will yield such money. Our only secure means of acquiring sufficient wealth to run our country is by investing public money in projects that will remain public property for ever.

I will repeat that if the Government is not prepared to depart from this type of policy, it will be very unpopular.

It is high time we planned our economy on a national basis. If we are going to have a co-ordinated progressive policy in our development, there must be good co-ordinated planning. We do not even know what the National Economic Council is doing about this planning. One would like to hear from the Minister whether that Council is pursuing any policy whereby our development can be co-ordinated and how the present haphazard planning can be changed.

Now, another thing I wish to mention is that we in this country do not seem to have realised the very important contribution which research can make to our development. Quite a number of people usually think that money put into research is money wasted. It is quite true that one cannot see the result immediately but the ultimate result is always a very good investment.

The Chairman : I thought the hon. Member would have taken into consideration what I pointed out sometime ago. Really, what we have got here are : United Nations Technical Assistance Board : contribution towards running costs of Lagos Office ; British Commonwealth Scientific Committee : contribution ; and West African Institute for Oil Palm Research : subvention. These are the items we have got. I know that there are Members who might be interested in speaking on some other Heads and if we carry on at this rate, many Heads may have to come under guillotine.

Mr Odigbo : Mr Chairman, I thought I was discussing research and I believe that comes under the third sub-head of that Head. I was making the point that our contribution towards research is so insignificant that it will not make any good impression on our economy in the very foreseeable future, and that unless we increase our efforts on research, things will be difficult. This is important especially in palm produce which was the most important export of this country until new crops like cocoa and cotton came into being. Even now with sufficient research and with sufficient enterprise, the economy of this country can be very much increased. I wish that the Government would take a very serious view of this question of research into every aspect of our national economy.

I beg to move.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I see on this Head that we are voting supplementary provisions for the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, for the British Commonwealth Scientific Committee and for the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research. The total amount is £47,700.

Now, we have all these organisations to which we make contributions. These organisations are not new. They were set up before Nigeria attained independence. We do not know of the composition of these organisations; we do not know whether Nigerian experts are co-opted or appointed to serve on these organisations. I know the present Minister of Economic Development is new in that Ministry and he has to do a lot to cope with the volume of work in that Ministry, but I dare say without fear of contradiction that the Ministry of Economic Development, to my mind, is of the utmost importance. It is one of the most important Ministries in the Federal Government.

Prior to the 1st of October, 1960, the Regions became self-governing. The Western Region first, the Eastern Region and the Northern Region with the result that the Regions have powers to establish committees for the economic development of their respective areas. I remember in Ibadan, we have what we called Economic Planning Committee and it is in this committee that the reports of several bodies

of this nature are submitted and the experts are drafted in together to consider all these reports. Then the experts also make recommendations on how to use these reports.

Unfortunately, the Federation itself did not become self-governing until after all the Regions had been functioning well, with the result that economic planning and economic development in the Federal Territory had been lagging behind. For instance in the Western Region, we have what is called the Industrial Promotions Commission. We have several other organisations. In the Eastern Region, we have a similar body, in the North, we have a similar body; but here in the Federal Government, we are not aware that any committee is set up to co-ordinate the reports of all these organisations and to translate them into concrete terms.

I would therefore suggest to the Minister of Economic Development that he should establish a Federal Economic and Industrial Commission so that there will be co-ordination of efforts by all the Governments in the country. The industrial and economic development of this country is being handled by the Federal Government in such a way that the Federal Government could be likened to a commissioned agent for the Regional Governments.

The Regions spend vast sums of money on industries and research, and they go all over the world to see how the resources which are available in abundance in this country could be processed into finished products and sold both in the internal and external markets. But what do we have in the Federal territory? The Federal Government is registering companies from different parts of the world, knowing fully well that Nigerian participants in these companies have very little capital to contribute.

The Federal Government should take the lead in our economic development. The Federal Government should not act as a commissioned agent for the Regional Governments—collecting revenue from customs and distributing it on derivatory basis or basis of need. I think the Federal Government will be justifying its position as the leading Government in the country only if it takes the bull by the horns. By that I mean that the Government should go all out to promote industries in this country.

It is no use having the reports of the Oil Research Committee and the reports of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and the British Commonwealth Scientific Committee without having Nigerians who will pool their expert knowledge together and tell us how to use these things, with the Federal Government providing funds for the establishment of industries in this country. We cannot leave the industrial development of this country in the hands of aliens. It will not pay us and we cannot deceive ourselves by holding phoney posts of Directors on their Boards. We must go all out. Until we have our people who have sufficient money to control this business, we shall not only be aiding and abetting monopolists in this country, but acting in a way that will be detrimental to the interest of the Regional Governments who are doing all they can to promote industrial development in Nigeria.

Mr Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) : Speaking under this Head, I feel we have got a lot of work to do and we have many ways of improving our standard of living. The present Minister of Economic Development is a new man in this Ministry, and I hope that now that he has come to this office the standard of living of our people will improve. I feel that the standard of living of our people was higher before than it is now that we have got our independence—

The Chairman : Order. The standard of living does not come under this Head.

Mr Isandu : I accept your ruling, Mr Chairman. But what I am trying to say is this—(Interruption).

The Chairman : Order, order. Under Standing Order 34, when a ruling has been made by the Chair it cannot be challenged except by way of a substantive motion. So when a ruling has been made by the Chair the hon. Member will kindly accept and proceed with his points.

Mr Isandu : I quite agree, Mr Chairman. What I mean is that I would like the Minister of Economic Development to invite Nigerian experts and work hand in hand with the Regional Governments to see that we develop ourselves better.

Elaborating on that, I would say that there is plenty of land wasting in the Northern Region where cotton and groundnuts can be grown. The Federal Government should make better use of all this land. Even the cocoa grown in the Western Region, I am sure, can be grown in some places in the Northern Region. The Federal Government should put this into practice or do research on it.

Mr Mbah rose—

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. Since this House is composed of over three hundred Members, I think that if someone has spoken about three or four times other people should be given the opportunity to speak because we are not mummies.

The Chairman : Mr Mbah.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : May I start by pointing out that the economy of this country is faulty, the planning is haphazard—(Interruption).

Mr A. A. Odurinde (Oshogbo North) : Point of Order, Mr Chairman. I refer to Standing Order 27 (3) which says : "Members shall not read newspapers in their places and shall only read such books and letters as may be connected with the business under debate." Just look at the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), he is reading a newspaper. These Opposition people are too rude in this House.

The Chairman : Order. I think the hon. Member for Oshogbo North (*Mr Odurinde*) has quoted a very relevant section of the Standing Orders, but I am sure Chief Rosiji, as an experienced legislator, will decide whether he has got anything in that newspaper relevant to the debate.

Mr Mbah : I want to say that the economy of this country—(Interruption)

The Chairman : Order. I think there are times when things that might normally be glossed over should be brought to the notice of the House in case serious mistakes have been made. I think it is unpleasant and most unparliamentary for Members sitting in their seats to be shouting at the occupant of the Chair when a ruling is made.

Mr Mbah : My time has been wasted by all these interruption .

I was trying to point out that to be able to plan the economy of this country, all those who are in a good position to offer advice to the Government should be invited to do so. At the moment we have not in this country any reliable cost of living index. The Government cannot tell us that the price of this particular article or foodstuff is so much either in the North or in the West or in the East. And yet we have the Department of Statistics and we spend thousands of pounds every year to maintain that Department !

Again, there is always a tendency on the part of Government to give increases in pay arbitrarily without relating them to the actual cost of living of the people. This is most unfortunate. I am therefore submitting that we should be able to set up an Economic Council where we will have experts who will be able to advise the Government better.

The other point is about the Minister of Economic Development.—

The Chairman : Order. It is now one o'clock and I am bound, under Standing Order 4 (1), to suspend the sitting until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : (Awka North): I have great pleasure in contributing to the debate this afternoon. In this country, we have been hearing a lot of pronouncements on the question of our economy and we support the Prime Minister in his assurance that Nigeria would not be dragged into the European Common Market.

It is quite true that we with our young economy would not allow our economy to be trampled upon because of foreign Companies wishing to come into the country. Without protection to our infant industries, we shall stand at a loss in the event or rather in our determination to be industrialised, because it is obvious that our standard of economy cannot match the standard of economy of those Members of European Common Market. If Britain is going to join the European Com-

mon Market, certainly, every effort must be made in order to protect Nigeria from the adverse effects of competing with countries with an advanced economy.

We are quite happy with the assistance which Britain is trying to give us under the British Commonwealth Assistance Programme but at the same time, like other Commonwealth countries which have protested against Britain joining the European Common Market, we of this country believe that our infant industries, whether they be cement, or Asbestos or Textiles, must be given adequate protection.

Sometime ago, some Members of this House were advocating free trade. It is quite true that from the economic point of view international free trade is the standard. Everybody would wish to see international free trade, but as long as other countries of the world have not devoted themselves to free trade, I do not see why Nigeria alone should become a free trade centre.

From the theory of comparative cost it will pay a nation to concentrate on those products in which her productive capabilities and ability are at the maximum point. That is where it has the greatest advantage. That is a question of economic theory and not one of practice.

Under the United Nations Technical Assistance, we are really appreciative of the amount of effort which the United Nations has been trying to make towards the development of the under-developed countries, and we hope that more and more efforts will be made by the United Nations to give us more and more assistance either in cultural or scientific matters.

It is quite obvious that without developing the standard of living of the under-developed countries the world will never be at peace. The United Nations, as a world organisation, owes it a duty to the under-developed countries to give them assistance in order to raise their standard of living, their standard of production, and in fact, their standard of life.

Under this condition we must have to take into consideration the contributions which we are making. It is quite true that under this Head we are making a contribution of £1,500 as supplementary provision to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board. If we had been richer, we would have made a greater contribution.

It is quite true also that various elements in this country have in no mean words supported the efforts of the United Nations in the Congo and elsewhere. We in this country still believe that world problems can only be solved on the platform of the United Nations.

I will now take the West African institute for Oil Palm Research for which a subvention of £46,000 has been put down as supplementary provision. I agree with the provision on the ground that this Organisation has been making efforts to carry out research work into our palm produce and the growing of palm trees. The fact is that the palm produce has been contributing a great deal towards our economic progress, especially in the Southern parts of the country where trees grow very well.

An hon. Member : But their research has been concentrated on Calabar !

Mr Ogbalu : Whether they have been researching for Calabar alone or not is not the point, I do know however that they have been working for the whole country and not for a particular town.

It is quite true that we have been able to get some species of palm trees which yield good fruits, but at the same time it is obvious that not enough suitable palm trees have been developed which would enable us to have greater yields. Nigeria has other competitors in the palm oil market ; there is the palm plantation system in Malaya where the Government and other private enterprises have established palm plantations, but without adequate research work in Nigeria it will be difficult for us to compete successfully with these new adventurers in the palm produce market.

I hope that research will be made on the actual production of palm oil because that is the best process by which we can get high grade oil in Nigeria. It is one thing to produce oil in good quantity but quite another to produce a high quality grade. There are many other palm produce dealers and others whose special occupation is the production of oil, but without adequate guidance especially in the rural areas they may not be able to produce good quality oil, and, of course, sufficient quantity.

It is quite true that it is for the Regional Governments to make arrangements for the establishment of mills but here again it would be a good thing if the Federal Government

would help the Regional Governments in trying to keep this important item of our economy up to the standard.

I notice that some hon. Members have asked for the establishment of oil mills in their respective constituencies and that they have been directed to the Regional Governments. I do not think that if the Federal Government undertook to establish oil mills in the Regions the Regional Governments would stamp them out. In fact, I do not think it is on the Executive List of the Regions, that is to say, that it is merely a regional concern. If the Federal Government can establish a cement industry at Nkalagu and other places why should it not help in the advancement of our palm produce. I think I have said enough about palm produce and how to improve our economy.

Finally, I want to emphasise that our economy should be geared towards the establishment of a Socialist Commonwealth of Nigeria in which capitalism will be discouraged and in which people should be given equal opportunity to reap the fruits of independence. Our economy should be divorced of that element of capitalism where few people have got themselves entrenched into the means of production.

Amendment put and negatived.

£47,700 for Head 30—*Ministry of Economic Planning—agreed to.*

HEAD. 36—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £115,810 for Head 36—Ministry of Education stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North) : I would like to ask the Government, and in particular, the Minister of Education, to consider doubling the number of students taken into the University College Ibadan every year. That College was founded in 1948 and up to date the student body is less than 2,500. A small Polytechnic say, in London, would take as many as 5,000 students. And we spend quite a lot of money on that University every year.

According to the Ashby Commission Report, Nigeria will need about 700 graduates annually in order to meet the needs of manpower in this country. We have the University of Nigeria

[MR OGEDENGBE]

in Nsukka, the University of Ife and the University of the Northern Region, and we have to work together collectively to supply these needs for manpower.

In the Medical School—I have been to the Hospital at Ibadan, the University College Teaching Hospital—there are adequate facilities for the training of at least 100 doctors annually and from the statistics which I have, the Teaching Hospital produces only 15 doctors annually. It appears that the Academic Board of that College copies sheepishly everything Cambridge. This is Nigeria—I am not condemning Cambridge University, it is one of the best in the world, but what I am saying is this : Why can we not be a bit contemporary in our outlook.

Even in England some eminent people will not like certain aspects of the organisation of Oxford or Cambridge. For instance, there is no reason why students who need not be resident in college ought not to be admitted into the University College. In some universities in England the condition before you can qualify is : say you are spending three or four years in college, then it may be obligatory or compulsory for you to spend at least two years in residence. Once you have satisfied that minimum requirement in residence you can stay outside.

Twenty years ago it might have been impossible or very difficult to get suitable accommodation for university undergraduates in Ibadan, but things have changed. In Enugu, Kaduna, Ibadan, Lagos, there is suitable accommodation not only for undergraduates but even for professors. You have so many houses in Ibadan to-day which could be converted into hostels, and you have private houses where students can stay and which are very near to the College.

It may be argued that the condition of transport in Ibadan is not very good, but we are spending £115,000—why can we not provide a few buses which will convey these students from their hostels to the College and back to the hostels.

Finally, I have to say something about the appointment of Dr Ikejiani as the Chairman of the University Council. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central): The hon. Member for Owo North (*Mr S. A. Ogedengbe*) is being quite irrelevant in trying to talk about the appointment of Dr Ikejiani as Chairman of the University Council.

The Chairman : Maybe he is going to be irrelevant, but before I rule that out, I will have to hear more from him.

Mr Ogedengbe : I was saying that Dr Ikejiani is going to be Chairman of the University Council. For two reasons I would (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I would implore the hon. Gentleman to confine his remarks to what is contained under this head : University College, Ibadan : subvention ; United Nations, Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation ; subvention ; British Council Hostels : subsidy for the welfare of Nigerian Students in the U.K. ; UNESCO contribution to Working Capital Fund ; Educational External Aid Bureau ; in all these, there is nothing like the appointment of Dr Ikejiani, and it is a sheer waste of time for him to dwell on that point.

Mr Ogedengbe : Finally, I would appeal to the Government to consider the possibility of awarding more scholarships to whoever qualifies to go to the University College, Ibadan. It would be a shame, and a very bad thing, for any Nigerian, a young man or woman, who has the requisite qualifications to enter the University College, to fail to go there simply because he has not got the money.

I am not advocating university education, but what I am advocating is this : that the harvest is plentiful in this country and the labourers are few. We cannot afford to destroy a strong generation of young people who are eventually going to be the leaders of our country ; we must be prepared to give them adequate and requisite qualifications which will fit and qualify them to step into our shoes when the time comes, it is not sufficient to say : "Oh, well, boys and girls, we have done our best, it is now up to you to carry on."

If we want to leave this country better than we found it, we must be prepared to work very hard. In the colonial days scholarships were awarded to students—in fact many of our

leaders to-day were trained by the scholarships or by Government. If the Colonial Government could offer some sort of scholarship to our people to go to England and qualify, there is no reason why an indigenous Government in a self-governing Nigeria should not encourage our young people who want to go and study in the University College.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East): I rise to make a very small observation under this Head. In the first place, I feel that Nigerian students in the United Kingdom are not quite satisfied with some of their lodgings and foodstuff. So far, as I can understand and can see, many of our students who come back, having learnt to live on European diet, always find it very difficult to eat these foods in Nigeria.

I think the Government should start to send them Nigerian foodstuff such as our own sweet potatoes instead of the Irish potatoes. *Gari* is particularly important. Students from the Western Region in particular have learnt to eat beans, cocoyam powder and plantain powder. So I think it would be a very good thing—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Chairman, Sir, on point of order, the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Igala North East, is irrelevant.

The Chairman: Order, he is irrelevant but not totally, perhaps I would only ask him to speak on the point.

Mr Tokula: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Another point which I would like to stress is the sending of *amala* to those students.

An hon. Member: You are irrelevant.

Mr Tokula: This time I am referring to the students at our Ibadan University College. I think the students have not been treated in the way they should be treated. For instance, I think enough liberty has not been given to these students who continue to study all the time.

Moreover, we often hear about the continued disturbances amongst students. In many cases we do not know who is to blame. I wonder whether the Minister will be good enough to make it plain to us whether some

of these students are actually allowed to take part in politics because that is the usual cause of the trouble in the University.

I beg to support.

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu): I first of all wish to congratulate the Minister of Education for his dynamism and his practical approach to our educational problem. Only the pessimist will say that the University College at Ibadan is not doing well. The standard of education there is high and our Government is doing its best. I think the subvention provided here is inadequate and in future more money should be provided in order to aid the first premier University which will be a model and an example possibly to the new University to be established at Ife.

I wish also, on the question of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation subvention, to congratulate the Minister for the way in which the United Nations agencies are being attracted into this country. There is no doubt that the U.N.O. aids have been of great help to Nigeria and some other parts of Africa and I hope the Government will take closer interest in taking advantage of that international body in order to help this country. In this connection, the efforts of the Minister of Education should be commended.

As regards the British Council hostel I wish to appeal to the Minister that more attention should be paid to the welfare of our students overseas. Some of them at times run mad because of lack of welfare. And some of them, I know, return home half mad and when all these cases were investigated, it was discovered that all the students were not properly cared for. When our sons go abroad in order to win the golden fleece it is necessary that they return healthy. I would ask the Minister to look into this matter without delay.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): I wish my information is wrong because if it is right it will be a sad state of affairs. I have heard that certain students have been given scholarships to the United States of America, and not a single one out of these students came from a certain Region, and that Region is a big one. We have already accepted the principle of a federal system for Nigeria, and we are

[ALHAJI DANDOGO]
practising this system in Nigeria. What then is the criterion for the selection of these students? One big Region has been forgotten and yet one says "One Nigeria, one Nigeria."

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): On point of explanation, I wish the hon. Gentleman, Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) will enlighten this House as to how many students applied for scholarships from the Northern Region.

The Chairman: That is a question.

Alhaji Bello Dandago: We sometimes misunderstand each other. Some students were sent to America on Government scholarships and not one single person from the Northern Region was included. If I am told that nobody applied from the Northern Region and that was why nobody was selected then I will accept. I would very much like to have a tangible explanation from the Federal Minister of Education, for whom I have much respect, in order to clear the position.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): I would first of all like to speak on the University College, Ibadan. I have to congratulate the Government for the financial support given to the College. In all the University Colleges in West Africa the University College, Ibadan, has proved the best, and Nigeria can boast of this fact. Most of us have learnt about the last result of the College's degree examinations and I think we should be impressed by the performance of this University. I want the Government to give more grants to the College to make them work more and more.

Secondly, I would implore the Government to work as quickly as possible for the establishment of the University College of Lagos. This University, when established, will be very useful to workers in the Federal Territory of Lagos in that even if they will not be in residence, they will continue with their studies after their work. That will be helping the country in that we shall be needing the services of more and more qualified people in our offices. Therefore, the earlier Government starts to think of the immediate establishment of the University of Lagos the better.

I suggest that there should be co-operation in all the University Colleges in Nigeria. In a very short time, we are going to have many

more of these Universities. Already we have the University College, Ibadan, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and we are going to have the University of Ife and so on. I think it would be a good thing if an Inter-University Union or Council is established so that they can meet to deliberate and think of the improvement and progress of these Universities.

There is no real need for our people to go overseas to further their education. We need to conduct research into what are and what had been in Nigeria to enable the people in this country and those from abroad to study with a Nigerian background. It is necessary that all these Universities should have a Union or Council whereby their Professors and Lecturers could hold meetings and plan the study of things Nigerian. This could be of great benefit to us all. We have many Nigerians going to England to study Law and other things which could be studied here in Nigeria, in one or the other of our Universities.

It is not disputed that they need to go abroad in order to have a wider background, but since we have many qualified lawyers, like the Attorney-General, and many others who are very versed in law, a Law Department could be established in our Universities and our people could plan legal studies based on Nigerian laws for our people to study instead of going to England. As it is when our students study abroad they are subjected to the study of English law alone. In Ghana there is established a School of Law and the study of law there is mostly based on Ghanaian Laws.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): On point of information. All the points made by the hon. Member are contained in the Ashby Report which every hon. Member of this House should read.

Mr Kolade: I would like to go over again to the University College, Ibadan, and this time I want to talk about the Students Union there.

An hon. Member: The students are on vacation now!

Mr Kolade: I know they are on vacation. I think the students should be given some sort of freedom. After all they are the builders of the nation and the future leaders of the

country. As we have now had our independence, we have to allow our students some freedom too. The idea of the rule that no politician should give a lecture at the University College, Ibadan, is what worries my mind greatly. I do not think this is usually done in University Colleges. These students should be free to some extent, I think.

We should not try and encroach upon the liberties of these students. I think there are some elements there who are trying to cause confusion among these students. They are denied the freedom to write to people, to have lectures from people who would like to give the students the benefit of their experiences and if we want them to develop well, we should give them their liberties. After all sooner or later they will come out and take over the reins of Government from some of us.

I have to suggest that the Students' Union should be given some grants. These students run the Union out of the meagre money which they have and they are in some way or another, making some contribution to the development of Nigeria. If Government could give them some grants, this would help them to do more and help them to develop well.

I will now say something about the British Council. It is a good plan that Government should grant some money to the Council especially for the Hostel which they run in England. Many people who go to England suffer for lack of accommodation. We know that most of our people going to the United Kingdom are good mentally and if they have better accommodation, they will do better in their studies. The British Council has been running this Hostel to help our students in England and I think nobody should be against the idea of giving some grants to the Council.

I have to say however that in addition to having these hostels in the United Kingdom, the Government should consider building similar hostels in other countries. The Government can give some grants to similar agencies as the British Council in U.S.A., Western Germany and other places for these Hostels to be built for our people who are studying in these places. Since we are not against any nation in particular, even Russia, we should make such arrangements in other places so that our students could have where to stay and study comfortably.

I congratulate the Government on the award of various scholarships to our people. Many Nigerians are benefiting from this scholarship scheme, but I think the awards should be more fairly distributed. If we say truly that Nigeria is one, these scholarship awards should be made to benefit every section of this country.

The Action Group has been questioning this Government for some time now and there has not been any satisfactory answer from the Minister of Education about the awards of scholarship from Russia. It has been said that some awards had been made to Nigeria for about 40 students to go and study in Russia, but this Government turned it down. We say that we love all nations equally, that we are friendly with every nation, that we want our students to go anywhere in the world and absorb knowledge for the benefit of this country, and that we want to trade with all the nations in the world. We want the Government to make a statement on the Floor of this House as to whether what I have stated is true or not, that the Russian Government made a free offer to the Federal Government for our students to go and study in Russian Universities but the Government turned it down.

I am speaking seriously on this matter. If we want to develop quickly, we must allow our students to go and study anywhere in the world; let them go to England, let them go to America, let them go to Russia, Scandinavia and anywhere in the world and study so that when all of them come back they can contribute to the improvement of this country.

I think what is wrong is that we are biased and keep on talking of U.K., U.K. and U.K. ! It may be because we were under them for years. We know as a fact that Britain is actually backward now, at least scientifically. Russia started only about 40 years ago and now they are masters of the world, scientifically and even in other ways.

The Chairman : This does not come within the scope of the question under consideration.

Mr Kolade : I am trying to emphasise some points in order to make this Government think twice before taking some steps. If they are not told when they go wrong, they are likely to misdirect this country.

Before I sit down, I want to congratulate the Government on what it has been able to do so far. I have had to tell them their weak

[MR KOLADE]

points so that if they think of these things, there will be improvement. I would still like to emphasise that more grants should be given to the University College in Ibadan for encouragement and the students should be allowed their freedom, the award of scholarships should not be for a particular tribe, but should be distributed fairly. With these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): From the contributions so far made, I have been able to discover that those who have spoken have spoken in praise of the Ministry of Education. I want to explain a few points which had been made in the contributions by hon. Members. One is the appeal made by the hon. Member for Owo North (*Mr Ogedengbe*) that the number of students in the University College, Ibadan, should be doubled. It is not easy to do that. However, we have always done our best to see that the number continues to increase every year and the increase is based on the recommendation which is held every *quinquennium* by the Inter-University Council when they are invited to come to the University College to see what progress has so far been made and to make the necessary recommendations. We always work on their recommendations.

He said that as we have £115,000 under this Head that we should be able to give more scholarships, and that in the Colonial days many scholarships were awarded. I have to say this much that in the Colonial days we only had as our target 180 scholarships, but in the non-Colonial days, which I may term "Nigerian days" we have been able to triple this number—we have 540.

This year, applications were invited and we received over 3,000 applications. I think this is a reflection of the very good way our scholarship awards are based. Out of this number, over a thousand applications were screened and applicants invited to come for interview.

It might be because of the anxiety to help students that we have been able to exceed our target—we recommended 767 students instead of 540. Out of the 540 awards, 30 are awards committed. These 30 awards go to our Institutions of higher learning: the Nigerian College—10; the University College, Ibadan—

10; the University of Nigeria—10—leaving us with only a balance of 510. In other words, we have now 257 students for whom no financial provision has been made.

It will not be wise to continue to say that the number will be doubled when already we have not been able to meet the demands of those who, by technical error or so, have been awarded scholarships.

I now come to the points raised by the hon. Member for Igala North East (*Mr Tokula*). He was talking of European diets. Unfortunately, I am not a dietician, so I do not know what to do in this case. He mentioned *Amala*, which is double-Dutch to me. I do not know what the food looks like. I am wondering whether he would like to be commissioned to take care of the diet of students.

He also said that students are not allowed to take part in politics. This shows that he does not know what obtains in our institutions of higher learning. In all the branches of the College of Technology and the University College, Ibadan, we have all political parties represented by the students there. They are not asked to stop holding political meetings; they are sensible people and unless they go contrary to the Ordinance establishing the University, those in authority will not quarrel with them.

I have to thank the hon. Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) for the very nice things he said about my Ministry and the appeal he has made that we should do more to cater for the welfare of students. That is very dear to our hearts and we have always tried our best to see that our students are well looked after, both inside and outside Nigeria.

Coming to the burning question raised by the hon. Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Dandago*), that 70 students are to go to the United States and that none of them is from the Northern Region. Our scholarship awards are based on the best material, and those who are qualified from the Northern Region have been absorbed by the Northern Region Government because it appears the Northern Regional Government have more attractive conditions. Their students are allowed leave but we do not give our students leave; they are allowed to come home and go back to the United Kingdom with their wives but we

have not got the money to do that because of the very high number of scholarships we do award. We have always tried our best to absorb those who are left by the Northern Regional Government, and if the hon. Member knows of any case of an applicant from the Northern Region who is qualified and who was not recommended for a scholarship by the Scholarship Board, he is free to bring that to my notice.

But I have to say this that the men who are members of our Scholarship Board are men whose names inspire confidence and who are always ready to deal with whatever application is put before them very dispassionately. If anybody fails to get a scholarship, it is not because they have discriminated against him, it is because they feel he is not qualified. He may have the basic qualification for entry into the University, but there may be others more qualified than he. What will then happen is that the better of the two will be given preference.

The hon. Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) said he was going to the University College, Ibadan. For his information the U.C.I. is on vacation. If he goes there he will not see anybody.

He also talked about grants to the Students' Union. It will be a pleasure for him to learn that we have always given grants to the Students' Union. We have always paid their fares if they want to go to any country outside Nigeria to represent us, and I do not think that any student has come to tell him that we do not give them aid. If they do that, it means they are ungrateful to the Federal Government. We have always given them every co-operation.

He also said that the scholarships are not fairly distributed. He said the scholarships only go to one section. That is not true. I am sure he does not know where those who have been given these scholarships come from. This year what happened was that we had applications from institutions both in West Africa and overseas. What we had to do was to get people who were going to sit on the Scholarship Board into panels. Some of them sat in Lagos to consider applications from people who were not already in the University, and those in the Universities and the Colleges of Technology had their own interviews down in

their Institution. I do not think that the bodies in those Institutions can discriminate against the students. In the case of those in West Africa, like Ghana and Sierra Leone, we had an *ad hoc* Committee which dealt with their applications; and those overseas had their own applications treated in London, so that there is no question of somebody trying to have these scholarships given to one section of the country.

I will now deal with the questions of students in Russia. Already we have thirty students in Russia; I am told it is about 61.

Having dealt with the points raised, I would like now to say a few words about the Carnegie Corporation and the UNESCO. The Carnegie Corporation has made available 225,000 dollars to the Federal Government which, in our own money, is about £80,300 spread over three years. Members will recall that the Federal Government is embarking on a gigantic programme which may cost about £75,000,000 between now and 1980 or something of that magnitude as recurrent expenditure after 1980. The amount is obviously beyond our financial capacity and all we have to do now is to look for outside aid, and we are very hopeful that we will obtain such aids when we do look for them. And, to facilitate our work in this regard, the Carnegie Corporation of New York again have provided the funds for setting up a bureau for its operation during the next three years.

The Parliamentary Committee for International Aid to Education was formerly inaugurated on the 16th of this month and we have representatives of the Regional Ministers of Education, members from the Federal Ministries of Economic Development, Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, as well as the Federal Ministry of Finance. I had the honour to be the chairman on that occasion. Members will like me to take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Government to this philanthropic body, the Carnegie Corporation founded by Andrew Carnegie. The Corporation is maintaining a continuing interest in our own educational welfare and also in the progressive implementation of those proposals of the Ashby Commission which I think have constituted the blueprint of our educational development for the next twenty years.

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I wish also to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and his colleagues for all they are doing to assist us in various ways in respect of our educational problems. It will be recalled that Nigeria was admitted a full member of the Organisation during the last eleventh session of the General Conference held in Paris and it will be a pleasure to Members to know that all of us who were there were happy to see the Nigerian Flag fluttering along with the 93 other Flags.

Many hon. Members are aware, I believe, that recently, U.N.E.S.C.O. Commission for the establishment of a University in Lagos visited the country and took evidence and visited places. The report at present is being awaited.

This naturally brings me to the Motion which has been sponsored by nine hon. Members to reduce the Head of my Ministry by £100. We have a common adage that the leg of a mosquito is so tiny that it can never ache. We are so much involved in our educational development and we are doing everything in our power and means to invest in a big way in education. It seems a pity that Motion such as this to reduce the Head of the Estimate by any amount could be conceived by any Member in this honourable House. I do hope Members will use their good sense to reject this Motion.

Here, I may add that the Supplementary Estimate under my Ministry is composed of a subvention of the University College, Ibadan which is in need of urgent and rapid expansion. A subvention to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and a subsidy for the welfare of the Nigerian students in the United Kingdom. It could have been very interesting if the Movers of this Motion had indicated under which item of this Head they wish this £100 be taken out.

I leave the judgment to the honourable House.

Question put and negatived, That Head 36—Ministry of Education be reduced by £100.

£115,810 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—agreed to.

HEAD 39—MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

Question proposed, That £27,800 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): I want to talk on the canteens which are set up for our staff in various places. Most of these canteens are being wrongly used. Some of the senior staff commander most of the provisions of the canteens and make use of them and those who actually need them, I mean those who are in the lower income group, do not have the opportunity of using the canteens. I rather feel that the man who earns more can do with greater expenses than the man who earns less. I think the Minister will see to this matter so that these canteens will be made properly available to those who really need them most.

That leads me to one or two other items about the attitude of some responsible senior officials to the juniors. I want to make myself clear on this particular point. I am not talking of our men who have just been put in places of responsibility, I am talking of the attitude of the old ones from the colonial days to the indigenous establishment in this country. It is just exactly the same thing that happens in the case of canteens here when it comes to asking some of these people to recommend the younger ones for promotion.

It is a fact that some of them who are on top are sincere and sympathetic enough to help the younger ones but I think the type of co-ordination which I suggested when we were talking about this last April will be put into practice so that any deserving person is not being deprived of the opportunity of being allowed to get to the top.

I remember that I suggested that the opportunities which exist between one Ministry and the other are in some cases too full to be able to give the deserving youths the opportunity for promotion and I also suggested that inter-ministerial and inter-departmental transfers would best be done if there was a central pool where the services of every junior worker or young worker in the whole of the Federal establishment could be co-ordinated so that it would be possible to get one man from one Ministry to another so as to give him

the promotion which he deserves. I would like to leave that there, I think the Minister of Establishments knows exactly what I am talking about.

The next thing I have to say (I will touch other points when we come to Head 40) is that there are still a number of certain posts which have been created and that the people who have been put there have not been assigned with the responsibilities which will qualify them to be able to do the work properly when those who are doing the work now go out. I think the Minister will look into this because this is really a devilish way of trying to keep the hands of the clock back.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): In supporting this Amendment, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister.....

The Chairman: No Amendment has been moved.

Mr Okay: I rise to move that the sum of £100 be reduced from this Head. In doing so, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister what we are here for in respect of this Ministry. We understand that this Ministry is encouraging the enthronement of mediocrity in the Federal Civil Service. I would want the Minister to make a statement in this respect because we want efficiency in the Federal Civil Service. No one would like the appointment of a Class IV holder in preference to a Higher School Certificate holder nor would we prefer a Class IV chap to a graduate in any Ministry when a post is created.

Sir, I beg to move.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West): In commenting on this Head, it seems to me that more people have been employed in the Service and that is the reason why we are now needing additional money.

The Minister of Pensions (Alhaji Shehu Shagari): I notice that hon. Members are under the impression that this amount which is shown in the Estimates is meant for additional staff to be employed. This is not the case, Sir. This amount is only an additional amount which will be used for leave pay for those expatriate civil servants who have given notice of retirement and while they are on leave prior

to retirement they are paid salaries before they finally retire. This amount is specifically meant to meet this charge and nothing more.

M. Isandu: I thank the Minister for his explanation. I am even happy to hear that some of the expatriates are leaving and we are now going to engage some of our own people to take their place. But I want to advise the Minister that when these expatriates go he should see to it that Northerners are encouraged to join the Federal Civil Service.

The proportion of Northerners to Southerners in the Federal civil service is very poor indeed. I know very well that many of us in this House will raise an eyebrow when I say this. We talk of the oneness of Nigeria but we must believe also in the equal sharing of the amenities of the Federation.

With your permission, I would like to refer to what one of the hon. Members here said the other day about the appointment of some of the people in the Foreign Service. He said: "The information I have is that the brilliant boys whom we recruited from the universities on the eve of our independence are now being thrown aside and superimposed". "Who by?", he asked, and I think some hon. Member here said "by mediocres and half-witted people who have political backing". Mr Chairman, I think these are actually offensive words—

An hon. Member: They are facts.

M. Isandu: They may be facts but they are offensive. I hope that something must be done to stop this kind of talk and this kind of partiality. When we say we want equal share of amenities we know what we mean. We are all in the Federation and we want to see that things go smoothly in this country. We cannot come here and shout "one Nigeria" when amenities are not proportionally shared.

I am sure that although some of the people from the Northern Region have little education they can do the same work as other people do. I therefore want the Minister of Establishments to take this into consideration. We of the North want to maintain the good name and unity of this country and we are doing all in our power to see that this is so.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): I think the trouble with some of our hon. Members in this House is that they do not read between

[MR ELENWA]

lines. Let me substantiate this. The trouble in the Congo to-day which is well-known to all of us arose mainly because when the Belgians were leaving the country they left people with only half-education or with no education at all to run the country with the result that later on the civil service of that country broke down completely. We should not mind whether one is from the North or the West or the East in appointments to the civil service. We cannot lower the standard of the civil service because somebody wants to join. We must keep to the standard. If the requirement for any post is a degree qualification, for goodness' sake let a graduate be appointed. If a Class Four standard is the requirement, let a Class Four man be put there. I am not against any particular people.

It was on the Floor of this House last year that I made it abundantly clear that some of our senior civil servants when they have their leave always prefer going overseas to spend it. Thank God this Ministry has been wise enough because I understand that this privilege has been stopped. An African should be proud of his country. There is no need for any Nigerian to go overseas to spend his leave when he can spend it here in Nigeria comfortably. Some of us have not visited the Northern Region, some have not been to the Western Region and so also the Eastern Region. We can all afford to spend our leave in any of these places we have not visited before.

Secondly, we have here sub-head 101—Staff Canteens. We must congratulate this Ministry for providing canteen facilities. It makes for efficiency for officers, after working very hard, to have somewhere to relax and chat with their friends. There is no need to say that meeting and chatting with people is a means of education. It is indeed commendable for this Ministry to establish staff canteens.

Lastly, we have here "Seconded Officers and Officers on Special Duty". I think these officers on special duties are not those whose time have expired. There are many youngmen and youngwomen on the very low rung of the ladder in the civil service, and who are always working hard to improve themselves. If old people are re-engaged the chances of these young people will be blocked. I hope the

Minister will not make this mistake of blocking the way of the younger elements of our generation.

I beg to support.

Question put and negatived, That Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—be reduced by £100.

£27,800 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—agreed to.

HEAD 40.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question proposed, That £140,000 for Head 40—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): It is surprising that these people to whom this meagre sum called pension is paid never get their money in time. I do not know whether this arose from local organisation but I think something is wrong somewhere. A man retires from service and does not get his money earlier than fifteen months after his retirement. Before he gets his money he has already fallen into debt because his earning has fallen. He does not even get it unless he fights hard for it.

It takes about eighteen months for gratuities to be paid to unfortunate families whose bread-winners are killed or die in the service. Before the gratuity is paid, the children might have stopped schooling because there is no money to pay for their fees and school materials. I cannot understand why this should be the case. If the reason is that the people in the offices who work out what people are entitled to are not capable, they should be done away with.

This situation is even worse in the Regions where documents have to go to the local head, from the local head to the central head and from there to Lagos. The result, as I have said is that people fall into debt before this meagre sum is paid to them. This lateness in payment is the result of incompetence on the part of the Ministry of Establishments. This type of incompetence is even common in all the Ministries. It is time to check it in our public service. Let people have this little money that is due to them in time.

Mr L. N. Ezeani (Onitsha North): I rise to move that the sum of £140,000 for War Disability Pensions be reduced by £5. I do so because I feel that ex-servicemen are not

being well treated. I know of people who went to the Army and during their time in the army they lost some parts of their body, and are disabled. One cannot express what one feels on seeing that these people are paid sums ranging from £1 to £5.

An hon. Member : Are they your relatives ?

Mr Ezeani : They are not. I have come here to fight for the interest of the whole country.

We often hear that people go to their Divisional Headquarters to receive the arrears of their pensions. Sincerely, I doubt the fact that soldiers are being paid arrears of pensions.

The Minister of Establishments : The hon. Member for Onitsha North is mis-informed. Disabled soldiers have been paid.

Mr Ezeani : Even if they are paid, the amount paid them is not sufficient as to encourage youths to join the Army.

Recently some intelligent people of high rank, even a Commissioner of a Province in the Eastern Nigeria, volunteered to go to Tunisia to help that country. If they had gone to Tunisia and in course of struggles there these people become injured and consequently disabled what would happen ? I wonder if the £5 or £10 a month pension will be sufficient for a person who had been a Commissioner of a Province. My point is that our disabled soldiers are not well cared for.

Further, when there are arrears of pension, ex-servicemen have to demonstrate and use force before they are paid the money they are entitled to. There is no reason why ex-servicemen should not be well cared for. If we do not take proper care of the disabled ex-servicemen I do not think that people can volunteer for service in the army even if there is war. They will feel that if they are disabled during the service the Government will not take proper care of them.

As I said earlier, I have risen to move to reduce the sum for this Head in order to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the ex-servicemen are not well cared for. I hope the Minister will look into this matter and improve the standard of living of our disabled ex-servicemen.

I beg to move.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West) : I wish to support that this Head be reduced by £5. My reason is that in this country, we definitely need to encourage past services. Lots of people are used to the best advantage of the nation and it is necessary that at some stage in their life, when they are no more able to render such services, they should receive adequate pension for their past services. If everybody has such a hope, that in his waning days he will reap what he contributed when he was young, people will work much harder.

Our soldiers who are expected to defend the country in times of war, people who have to risk their lives for others, ought to feel that some day, if they survived the ordeals of the Army, they would look forward to something really worth their while, they would work harder.

But for the provision of the law, I would have moved that this Head be increased. Unfortunately, the law does not allow it. However, my contention is that we should make adequate provision for our disabled soldiers.

It is not only soldiers that become disabled in the service of the nation. Most other people who are also working for the nation can become disabled. I know that Civil Servants are invalided because they have become unable to perform their duties. They should also be adequately provided for.

I wonder into what category we place world veterans such as Ministers of State and Legislators ? I wonder whether they deserve any compensation when they leave their honourable duties to retire to private life.

The Chairman : The expenditure on this sub-head is only confined to war disability pensions.

Mr Odigbo : Finally, I wish to emphasise this point of our soldiers because I feel that most of our men who have left the Army disabled are not being cared for. We see a good number of them limping on their artificial legs and are just eking out an existence. One would expect that now that we are independent, a proper provision would be made for them.

The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : It is surprising that Members who have moved this Amendment are asking for

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more pay for the disabled and Ex-Servicemen while at the same time, they are asking for the vote to be reduced.

This amount is meant to increase the disability allowances being paid to Ex-Servicemen and all hon. Members should support this wholeheartedly.

The question of the welfare of our Ex-Servicemen is not within my competence, it is in the hands of my Colleague, the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs.

On the question of delay in paying pensions which the hon. Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr A. Akomolafe*) raised, I must say that it is something which is uppermost in my mind. I want to get it rectified as quickly as possible, but the main difficulty is that papers are not submitted to our Ministry in time. When a person retires on pension, it is the responsibility of the Department to bring the papers to the Ministry of Establishments and Pensions in order that it should be examined. But if the papers do not come in time to our office, there is little we can do about it.

There are also some pensioners who have mixed service—that means that they had served in the Regions before they came into the service of the Federal Government, and *vice versa*. In the case, we have to refer to the other employers to provide the required data.

We are trying on our revised procedure to make things work quicker than was the case before. We have a new procedure now in which payment can be made by the Regional Agents directly without reference and if there are any queries after that, they can be rectified later on. This will help the pensioners to get their pension in time.

Also in our Pensions Pay Office, we are trying to mechanise the office so as to get the calculations and everything done quicker and in a better way. Those are some of the things which we are doing in order to help the pensioners to get their pensions in time.

Question put and negatived, to reduce sub-head 6 by £5.

£140,000 for Head 40.—Pensions and Gratuities—agreed to.

HEAD 41.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE
95,300 for Head 41—Ministry of Finance—agreed to.

HEAD 44.—MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH
RELATIONS

Question proposed, That £225,610 for Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations stand part of the Schedule.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting the Motion, I must say that I am glad to note that out of the £225,000 provided under this Ministry, about £178,000 is for the United Nations Organisation, that is Nigeria's contribution towards the United Nations Organisation. Though there is pressing need for attention in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, generally, I think I should, however, confine myself to the United Nations Organisation in whose functions this Government seems to have active interest.

I must make it quite clear at the very beginning, that I am not against the provision which is sought as Nigeria's contribution to the United Nations Organisation. However, I think at the same time, we should give the Ministry our suggestions in order that the amount provided for the United Nations Organisation may not be in vain. I say this because at the moment, one can understand that the function of the United Nations Organisation has been impeded by the bigger Nations of the world and it seems that it is only the smaller, the so-called under-developed and uncommitted Nations, who observe, respect the actual democratic principles upon which this United Nations Organisation was formed.

It is regrettable to note that the role of the bigger Nations, say, the United States and the Soviet Union, is only to get political scores and propaganda at the United Nations Organisation. Well, if this is the case, I think it is time that Nigeria, being a Member of this Organisation, plays an active part to see that the United Nations Organisation is constitutionally based in a way that its morality does not so deteriorate. I have a few suggestions to make to the Ministry in order that the United Nations may be worthy of its purpose :

1. That the Charter should be revised to do away with the present assumption that it was originally framed to suit the United

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States and the Soviet Union and their respective satellites. It should instead have an international outlook.

2. That the admission of Nations in the United Nations Organisation should not be restricted. The world, as it is to-day has all sorts of Governments and Power. If one system is constitutional to one country, it may not be to another and so the Governments which should not be admitted in the United Nations Organisation should be those which are deliberately violating fundamental principles of democracy, like the Union of South Africa.

That the practice adopted in the United Nations Organisation should be purely on principles of democracy. That is, there should be one vote, one Nation irrespective of size, population, power or military strength. This is most desirable in the Security Council where the Big Powers have the so-called Veto. The security Council, I think, should be completely overhauled.

Of course, this criticism is already existing and the general impression is that the Council, has been dominated by the different Power Blocks, the non-committed Nations should be admitted, I support this idea. But I think I should go further to suggest that the Security Council should in no way be based on Power Blocks, otherwise, it will seem the United Nations Organisation is encouraging the present world conflicting blocks.

The last thing is how the resolutions passed in the United Nations Organisation should be binding on the Nations concerned.

At present, it seems as if it is only the smaller Nations that are bound by these Resolutions. There are many instances. France refused to accept resolutions passed at the United Nations Organisation, yet it is a member. If France, for example, can abide by the resolutions passed in its Parliament, can abide to the decisions of its Courts, there is no reason why decisions in the United Nations Organisation should not be respected. I think therefore that the Minister of Foreign Affairs should see that Nigeria insists with all vigour, that decisions taken in the United Nations Organisation are respected.

Mr C. A. Odigbo : (Bende West) : I wish to support the Motion and in doing so I wish to congratulate the Government on their appointment of our able hon. Jaja Wachuku to head this important portfolio. As many people have said he is the right man in the right place.

I wish to mention that we, in this country, are very much worried, in fact, embarrassed by the manner in which our friends in the United Kingdom take the problems of African struggles for unity. In this regard, I have in mind the issue concerning Angola. One would have expected that the British Government would have taken into consideration our feelings here in Nigeria when it comes to her actions concerning this particular matter which is very dear to us. We are supposed to be on friendly terms with her, yet from all her actions and utterances, there is every indication that no regard whatsoever has been given to our feelings. I do hope that in due course our Government will make it plain to the British Government that we are really embarrassed by her reactionary attitude towards the struggles of African countries seeking freedom.

The Chairman : Order, order ! I would like to remind hon. Members that there is plenty of opportunity for them to discuss foreign affairs later on, when the Minister introduces his White Paper on Foreign Affairs. For the time being I think we should concentrate on the consideration of the expenditure in the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr Odigbo : I would like to mention under this Head, the question of new embassies overseas. I really feel that it is time we opened more embassies overseas.

I therefore support this Head, but in doing so I would wish to emphasise that we should as soon as possible open embassies in all African states so that we can really have proper contact which is necessary in developing friendship with all these states. Similarly, I would like us to think of opening new embassies not only in the Western world but also in Eastern Europe and the Far East. In all these places, I believe we still have untapped resources of market that will be of benefit to us in this country.

With these few remarks, I support.

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): In supporting this Head I would like to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs to see to it that we have adequate representations overseas. We must make the other nations of the world to know something about: firstly, our tradition, secondly, our geographical position, and thirdly, our commerce.

In the past, we have had no representations in many parts of the world. In Latin America, up to now, we have no representative; in Western Europe, we have only in Great Britain and Western Germany. I am, therefore asking the Minister to see that we are adequately represented in India, Pakistan, Japan and Indonesia. In Africa, we want to have representatives in the United Arab Republic, in Morocco, Tunisia and Somalia in Abyssinia. In Latin America, our representative must be in Mexico. In Eastern Europe, we should also remember the Soviet Union and Poland.

Another point I would like to mention is in connection with our passport. Since our independence, we have not thought it wise to change the contents of our passport. If one opens our passport, one sees nothing but the handwork of our colonial masters. The only countries one is allowed to visit are in Western Europe. It is a shameful thing to observe that Nigeria still retains this old form of passport and I think this is the main reason why Nigeria has been accused of still being under the direction of the British in all things. Therefore, the Minister should take immediate steps to change our passport. Anyone who opens our passport will not find the name of any place in the Middle East. All one finds are the names of those countries which are friendly with Britain.

Further, since we are now independent, we must make every effort to have an Immigration Office in each of the three centres in Nigeria. At the moment, if anyone in the Northern Region wants to travel overseas in September, he will have to come down to Lagos in order to obtain a passport. This is a sheer waste of time. I am therefore asking the Minister to see that we have immigration Offices at Kaduna, Enugu and Ibadan, but all these offices must be under the direct control of the Federal Government. The Regional Governments should not interfere with them.

Finally I am asking the Minister to change the present contents of our passport. We are not under anybody; we are independent, completely independent and our people must be able to travel to any part of the world without let or hindrance.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I want to make just a point about the United Nations. It seems to me that this world organisation is now being used as an instrument of the Western bloc. The conflict between the existing blocs is really obstructing the progress of the world. This organisation is dominated by the United States, and it does not respect the views of the world. It is at the moment going the way of the defunct League of Nations.

I should like to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs to make it known to the Member States of the United Nations Organisation that Nigeria's foreign policy is one of non-alignment, and that we stand for truth. The United Nations Organisation to-day is an organisation of political manoeuvres by both the Western and Eastern blocs. Why is it so? It is because the United States dominates the deliberations of the United Nations; it is controlling the United Nations Organisation.

The whole world depends upon this Organisation for peace and orderliness. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to see that Nigeria's foreign policy is reflected in the United Nations Organisation. If it is true that the United Nations upholds the interests of the whole world, why is it that the People's Republic of China is not represented there? This is because only one country—the United States of America—is resolved not to allow the People's Republic of China to be admitted into United Nations, and this action of the United States is against our declared policy of non-alignment.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs should see that Member States of the United Nations Organisation understand that we are not prepared to take dictation from any country—even if that country controls the economy of other countries with millions of dollars. When one studies the deliberations of the United Nations Organisation, it becomes obvious that this Organisation is going the same way as the

League of Nations. I appeal to the Minister to see that our foreign policy of friendliness to all nations is projected into the United Nations Organisation.

I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi) : This is, of course, a new Ministry, and it has made a very good start. As such it certainly deserves a pat on the back. However, looking at sub-head 24 one sees : "Visitors : travelling and other expenses—£5,000". This is all right in a way, but having had the privilege to belong to a delegation once and having enjoyed the hospitality of other countries, I would very much like to see that our visitors—I am going to emphasize this point—that our visitors should enjoy the hospitality for which we are famous. Many times I have heard that certain visitors to this country were not treated as fairly as they should have been.

Another point on visitors is that whenever anybody is invited to this country, the invitation to such a person should be a very popular one, it should be extended, if not on behalf of the entire nation, then on behalf of the majority of the people of this country. It may be necessary at certain times to invite people, very very important people, whose visits to this country would be so important that the summoning of Parliament would not be considered a waste of public funds.

It is remoured, and rumour has it very strongly too, that possibly Mr Kruschev will be invited to this country ; if and when such a thing materialises I think it will be only fair that Parliament be summoned. It is also said that President Kennedy will be invited, if an invitation has not been sent out already. This Parliament would certainly like to be summoned on the occasion of so important a visitor as the President of the United States.

Under sub-head 26—Contributions to United Nations Extra-Budgetary funds, 1961, money is also asked for. Although I have accepted the ruling from the Chair that we should confine any comments on foreign affairs to what is scheduled formally, I certainly would like to say that whatever line of action is taken by our Members at the United Nations—*(Interruptions)*.

A Member of the Opposition : Point of order. There is no woman Member in this Parliament, but I can see a woman over there, Sir.

The Chairman : Order, order. There is no woman on that side.

M. Ali Monguno : In a nutshell, what I would like to say is that whatever line of action we take must be democratic, popular and useful, whether it is in respect of African affairs or the world at large. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for pointing out to hon. Members that perhaps it would be better to reserve what they have to say for the full dress debate which will take two days, but there are one or two things that have been said on which I would like to make myself clear, so that when the time comes it may be more usefully occupied in saying what would be constructive.

One point is the question of representation abroad. I want to assure hon. Members that the question of representation abroad, opening more embassies and offices, both in Africa and outside Africa, is being actively dealt with at the moment by the Ministry, and the Government is very conscious of the fact that Nigeria should be adequately represented everywhere.

However, I would like to say, as a warning, that diplomatic representation costs money. I sincerely hope that when my Ministry comes here to ask this House for the necessary funds in order to carry out its work I can be assured that it will get it. This time though it will not be in terms of thousands, it will be in terms of millions.

Some hon. Members : You will get it.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am glad to know that this House is favourably disposed to this Ministry.

With regard to passports, I am sure hon. Members know that the Government is keenly interested to see that the old colonial passport is withdrawn. In fact, I intend very soon, in co-operation with the Minister of Internal Affairs when necessary, to see that all the old colonial British passports are withdrawn and

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exchanged for new ones. I am considering that very actively. But the only one thing I would say is that if one paid thirty shillings and has a current passport one should be prepared to pay another thirty shillings because I am not going to waive the fees.

The position is therefore that if one wants to retain the old passport one can do so but if one wants the new one, one must pay another thirty shillings. The Treasury must not lose any money. I am prepared to withdraw all the old passports on the condition that everybody pays thirty shillings each for the new ones, so that Government does not lose any money.

With regard to our attitude in Angola and the attitude of the United Kingdom, I must say here that every country is independent and free and it is not the duty of any country to interfere in the internal affairs of another independent state. The United Kingdom Government is the controller of its own policy just as we are in our country, and we will not entertain any interference in our policy by the United Kingdom. So, our duty as an independent state is to make sure that we are the masters of our own policy. And that being the case, we should also be broad-minded enough to allow them to control their own policy. But sometimes the purpose of diplomatic representation in countries is to be able to persuade other countries to see your own point of view.

Certainly, I can assure this House that the Government is not indifferent to what is happening in Angola and that we are very actively concerned. We are trying to bring about a change. When we come to a full debate I think we should be in a better position to further explain what we are doing in regard to Angola.

With regard to what the Member for Adamawa North West (*Alhaji Yerima Balla*) said about representations in other countries. I would like to say that apart from opening offices we need men who are trained. We need the equipment to back them up and, above all, we require people who cannot be bought with money. We require Nigerians not in words, and not politicians who are without any sense of patriotism. We want Nigerians who are also patriots, loyal to this country and its Government.

I want to say that as long as I hold this portfolio I will never agree to anybody being appointed to any office when it is clear to the Government—it may not be clear to the public—that this person cannot be trusted to be loyal to this country and is likely to sell this country.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): On a point of order. Considering the heat with which the Minister is speaking, it seems that he has some examples. Would he like to tell us?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: I am only emphasising this matter to enable the Member for Adamawa North West to appreciate how Government feels about the point he raised in his speech. We need men with loyalty and integrity.

I will make a comment on the United Nations. I want to tell hon. Members that this country is not committed to any ideology. We are neither in what is called the Western Bloc or the Eastern Bloc. We are in Africa. If one looks at the map of the world one will see America on one side, Europe on another side, Asia on another side and Africa standing right by itself. We want to remain there. We do not want anybody to lead us to jump into any ideological bloc. If others have been able to think and originate an ideal called socialism, and Africa being an ancient continent with a peculiar sense of its own, I see no reason why Africa should not be able to devise something that others can emulate.

I am not going to be bound by any political tag. The important thing is for us to be ourselves and that is what we intend to be.

It is not true to say that in the United Nations the members of the Western Bloc or the Eastern Bloc are the only people wielding power. We must remember that the United Nations Organisation was devised by these great powers for their own end. Fortunately for us we have gone in there and because of our numerical strength we are beginning to wield power in the United Nations through our votes, though not as a bloc.

This Government would not like people who will stay in Nigeria and have no loyalty to Nigeria. We do not want people who see no good in their own country, their own Government, their own people or their own

tradition, but can only see good in other places where they have not been and where they would not like to live.

There are people who degrade the name of the country. I want to say that I have had the impression from people who have travelled to various countries that the Nigerian environment is excellent. And yet the Nigerian is the one who keeps on running down his own country. This is a very bad thing.

I read in the papers to-day that there is a country where if one libels somebody by word or in writing one is liable to imprisonment for three years.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : The hon. Minister is basing his arguments on newspaper reports. I hope you will not allow him, Sir. And the earlier he stops talking the better because we want to continue with the debate. After all, we will have a full debate on Saturday.

The Chairman : I quite agree that the Minister should be more brief but he is not basing his arguments on newspaper reports.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Sir, I will crave your indulgence to ask Members not to call names because if Members insist in calling names I will not call names. But I have enough time to meet any Member that calls names.

I was saying that in this country if a person chooses to libel the Prime Minister or any Regional Premier or anybody else he can do so either by word of mouth or in writing. But that individual has the right under the law to go and say that my name has been soiled, clear me or pay me compensation. But elsewhere one either goes to gaol for three years or may pay £500 fine or both. We have not got that type of thing here in Nigeria. The Opposition Members can say whatever they like here and nobody will imprison them for five years without trial in this country. I have to say here that the United Nations has been an institution which has enabled Nigeria within a short time to make itself known. There is no other organisation in the world to-day that has enabled a small country to play a role that it would never have played. Therefore, in regard to this, the United

Nations is not only an institution for the benefit of the big powers ; it is more for the benefit of the smaller countries to-day, and that is why the big powers do not want it any more. The smallest countries, particularly African countries gain from the United Nations more than the big powers, and that is why Nigeria supports it, and that is why we ask you to vote this money in order that we can continue to play our role.

With regard to China, the Government has made its position clear. We support the admission of China into the United Nations.

£225,610 for Head 44—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations*—agreed to.

HEAD 45.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

£38,190 for Head 45—*Ministry of Health*—agreed to.

HEAD 46.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed, That £51,310 for Head 46—*Ministry of Information*—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : I am very pleased to speak on this Head. It is very lamentable that in the library we have only one copy of the Nigerian Constitution. I hope that the library will be improved by being supplied with many more books.

I come to the National Library which is being contemplated. It is a very good idea because it is very lamentable that there is no place in this Federal Territory where copies of books which have been published in this country are being kept and as a result, enquiries are always directed to the Minister of Information for books and publications in Nigeria. One gets surprised to find that the Minister has no knowledge of the publications. I feel that the establishment of the National Library will enhance the preservation and the cataloguing of books published in this country. Furthermore, it will enable Nigerians to have important books within their reach. I commend the establishment of a National Library for Nigeria in this Federal Territory of Lagos.

There is a very important point in relation to visits of Commonwealth Journalists to Nigeria. Nigeria desires to be put on the map of the world.

An hon. Member : Nigeria is already on the map of the world.

Mr Ogbalu : Yes, it is there already, but I know that in the map of the world still circulated in the schools Nigeria is still printed red as if it is still in the British Empire.

I think the visit of Commonwealth Journalists to Nigeria is an important thing because these journalists will be able to tell their countrymen stories about Nigeria. On the other hand, they always give wrong notions about Nigeria. Many journalists have left this country to present Nigeria in very bad colours. So, I think this is an opportunity for giving ample hospitality to them.

The Chairman : Order, order. It is now a quarter to six and time for the disposal of the Order, I think.

£51,310 for Head 46—Ministry of Information—agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report progress—to sit again on Thursday, the 31st August, 1961.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the House do now adjourn until Thursday, the 31st of August, 1961—(The Minister of Transport and Aviation).

EXPLOSION IN THE "HMNS" "NIGERIA"

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): I want to be as brief as possible. On the 23rd of July, 1961, there was an explosion in the H.M.N.S. "Nigeria" seventy miles from Calabar. During the incident three lives were lost. The Chief Engineer, who incidentally is a Nigerian, was left alone in the engine room, and he managed to bring the ship back to Calabar. He remained there for a number of days without any help. Nobody sent him

a word of comfort and up to the present moment the Minister in charge, shall I say, has not got the courage or even the mind to extend a common verbal word of sympathy to the families of those involved in the accident nor any commendation to the only Chief Engineer who brought the ship to Calabar.

It does not speak well of the Ministry, I am sorry to say, and it is not in any way encouraging to other members of the Navy. I do not want to go very far, but I wish the Minister to say what he has done if he has done anything, in the way of sending a special word of sympathy to the relatives of those people or for the relatives of those who lost their lives to receive compensation.

Minister of State (Hon. M. T. Mbu): The incident that occurred on the 23rd of July last is one of great regret. Within 24 hours of this occurrence, my Ministry sent appropriate letters of condolence to the bereaved families, one signed by the Minister of Defence and the other by the Commodore in charge of the Royal Nigerian Navy. In these letters it was made clear to all concerned that the Government will entertain and pay adequate compensation to the dependants of the deceased.

Hon. Ekanem has also charged that no steps were taken to commend the bravery of the engineering officer in charge and the crew involved in this unhappy incident. That is not correct. Appropriate steps are being taken to show due recognition for devotion to duty not only to the Officer-in-Charge but to all the members of the crew who very bravely tackled a very unhappy situation and saved far more lives than one would expect. I do want to assure the hon. Member that the Ministry is taking every step and we do sympathise with all involved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 5.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 31st August, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Angola

O.330. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Prime Minister what steps is the Federal Government taking against Portugal for its atrocious activities in Angola.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : This Government is unequivocal in its condemnation of the activities of the Portuguese Government in Angola and every step is being taken to apply pressure on the Portuguese with a view to securing their recognition of the nationalist movement in Angola.

The activities of our delegation at the United Nations, in concert with other Afro-Asian countries, in the debates and on this subject are well known. We have also urged our views on the Portuguese Government through the appropriate channels and have made it clear that we will continue to give the Angolans every reasonable and possible support.

Housing of Ahoada Police

O.331. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider, as a matter of urgency the building of suitable quarters at Ahoada to house the Assistant Superintendent of Police who has recently been transferred there ; and if he does not think it economical for the Government to provide additional accommodation there to house police constables who now live in the town in houses for which the Police Department pays exorbitant rents.

The Minister of State (Hon. M. A. Olarewaju) : A Police Station will be built at Ahoada this year and provision for quarters will be given priority in the 1962-63 building programme.

Monrovia Conference

O.332. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the recent Monrovia Conference and in particular

deny or confirm the allegation that the Conference was instigated and financed by the Western Powers.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : The Prime Minister has already given a full report to the nation in a radio broadcast on his return from Monrovia.

As to the allegation that the conference was instigated and financed by the Western Powers, this Government has no doubt that there is no truth whatever in it. Suggestions for such a conference of independent African States were first initiated by the Prime Minister and, independently and about the same time, suggestions were received for a similar conference from several African countries.

Police Quarters for Otuocha

O.333. Mr L. N. Ezeani asked the Prime Minister, if he intends to build Police quarters at Otuocha in Onitsha Division for the constables who have been living in rented houses for the past two years.

The Minister of State (Hon. M. A. Olarewaju) : The erection of quarters for police officers at Otuocha will be given top priority in the building programme for 1962-63.

Meetings of Parliament

O.334. Mr L. N. Ezeani asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that the present practice whereby Parliament holds short meetings about three times a year is inadequate to meet the responsibility of a large independent country as Nigeria in regard to internal and international affairs ; and whether he has plans for Parliament to meet more often than is being done at present and to lengthen the period of sittings.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : This matter is receiving the attention of the Government. But the Prime Minister would like to add that Parliament can be summoned at any time when this is justified.

Itu Police Office

O.335. Mr P. E. Ekanem asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that the Police Office at Itu in Enyong Division is in a dilapidated condition and unsuitable for a Divisional Police Office ; and if he will say when a new office will be built there.

The Minister of State (Hon. M. A. Olarewaju): Arrangements are in hand to build a Police Station at Itu.

M.P.s' Official Touring Allowances

O.340. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Prime Minister, the rates of daily allowances payable to Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and other Members of Parliament whilst on official tours both within and outside Nigeria where applicable.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: The rates of allowances per day are as follows:—

	Within Nigeria			West African Countries			United Kingdom			In Transit		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
Ministers ..	3	3	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	2	2	0
Parliamentary Secretaries	2	2	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	—	—	—
Members of Parliament	—	—	—	3	3	0	5	5	0	—	—	—

When they tour places like the United States they get double the amount of the rates because of the high cost of living in those places.

Police Barracks in the North

O.341. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware of the acute shortage of accommodation in Police Barracks in Northern Nigeria and what he intends to do about it.

The Minister of State (Hon. M. A. Olarewaju): The hon. Prime Minister is aware of the shortage of accommodation for the Police not only in Northern Nigeria but also in the Federation as a whole and efforts are being made to improve the situation within the financial resources available.

As far as Northern Nigeria is concerned quarters for the Inspectors and 364 other Ranks have been erected within the last three years; quarters for 16 Inspectors and 48 other Ranks are at present under construction and provision has been made in the current Estimates for the erection of quarters for 9 Inspectors and 188 other Ranks.

British Voting at U.N.O.

O.342. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to make

it known to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that Nigerians resent the way the British Government has been casting her votes in the United Nations against anything which is favourable to the "blacks" but unfavourable to the "whites".

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: As the hon. Member is aware, the British Government, like every other independent Government within the Commonwealth, is free to express its views or take any stand consistent with its own policies in international matters. However, I am not aware that the British Government has been constantly "casting her votes in the United Nations against anything which is favourable to the 'blacks' but unfavourable to the 'whites'". Nevertheless, I would like to assure the hon. Member that whenever we have different views with the United Kingdom on any issue we have always made our stand very clear at all levels through the appropriate channels.

M. Aminu Kano: Will the Minister tell us what happened last year at the United Nations when there was a resolution condemning the *apartheid* policy in South West Africa, when Britain refused to vote? Why did the British Government refuse to vote?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: Our views differed from the British, but they did not refuse to vote. In fact, they voted for the Indian resolution which did not go as far as ours but went near to it.

Mr D. N. Abii: Will the Minister tell this House what stand Britain took in our condemnation of France for her atom bomb tests in the Sahara?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: They took a stand consistent with their own policies.

Shettima Ali Monguno: Is the Minister aware that our desire to join the Commonwealth of Nations is with a view to enjoying such facilities that sister-members of that union can provide?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: I am aware.

Mr R. N. Muojeke: Is the Minister aware that if the British Government has such unbridled freedom and expresses it in such an unbridled way against Nigeria, Nigerians who

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have the same unbridled freedom should exercise it against the British Government in such an unbridled way?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : As I have already said, every nation is the best interpreter of its own policy.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo : Is the Minister aware that the British Government always votes against any nation which introduces anything against a NATO power.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am not aware of that.

Union of West African States

*O.343. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has for the political union of West African States in the near future.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Nigeria attaches great importance to the unity of Africa but believes that the best approach to such a unity is not through immediate political union but through the breaking down of economic, cultural and technical barriers that exist among the African countries.

Nigeria has actively participated in the Monrovia Conference which endorsed plans for effective co-operation leading to unity through the pooling of resources and the co-ordination of efforts to overcome these barriers.

A follow-up of that conference on a technical level was recently held in Dakar. The conference in Dakar made certain recommendations for the next conference of Heads of African and Malagasy States to be held later here in Lagos. These recommendations contain definite plans for effective co-operation in economic, transport, telecommunications, medical, scientific, education and cultural matters.

It is the firm belief of this Government that once the various African countries succeed in achieving co-operation and mutual understanding of each other in the various spheres enumerated above, political union will come as a matter of course.

Mr Speaker : I would like to remind hon. Members that their supplementary questions must be relevant to the original Question; otherwise such supplementary questions will not be entertained.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : Is it true that the recent All-Nigerian People's Conference is a prelude to a radical change on our African policy, particularly having regard to the union of African states?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : No, Sir.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah : May I know what effort the Government is making to reconcile the Casablanca powers and the Monrovia powers?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : All African powers are invited to the Lagos Conference.

Mr V. E. Eze : Does the hon. Minister not consider it of urgent importance to have immediate diplomatic representation at least in each of the capitals of countries in Africa in order to facilitate the proposed union of African States?

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo : Is the Minister aware that the Western imperialists are doing all they can to prevent African countries from taking their worthy stand in the world, with a view to maintaining the economic domination of Africa?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : There is not only the question of Western imperialism but also one of African imperialism.

Ugbawka Police

*O.344. **Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Prime Minister, what arrangements he has made to provide office and lodgings for the Police stationed at the Police Post opened at Ugbawka in Udi East.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : It is intended to provide permanent office and quarters for the Police stationed at Ugbawka when funds are available.

Awka Police Quarters

*O.345. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider the immediate rebuilding of the Police Quarters at Awka which is now in a most dilapidated condition.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : Arrangements are in hand to build a new Police Station and quarters at Awka.

Mr R. N. Muojeke : Will the Minister tell the House what steps are being taken to build the proposed Police Station at Uvuma in Awka Division ?

Parliamentary Delegation to the U.S.A.

*O.346. **Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** asked the Prime Minister, when he proposes to send a party of Members of this House to the United States of America to study the Americans' parliamentary procedure and system.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : When a suitable opportunity occurs, Government will consider sending a parliamentary delegation to the United States of America to study Parliamentary procedure and system as obtaining in that country. I should, however, remind hon. Members that a Parliamentary delegation visited the United States of America two years ago.

I intend to send a fully representative Parliamentary delegation to visit some parts of Africa either this year or early next year.

Agenebode Police

O.351. **Mr M. C. K. Obi** asked the Prime Minister, how soon Government will build permanent quarters for the police at Agenebode, who at present live in hired Quarters ; and if he will make a statement as to the estimated cost of the quarters.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : The sum of £20,000 is available this financial year to build a Police Station and quarters at Agenebode and work is expected to commence soon.

African Unity

O.352. **M. Ibrahim Na Maitama** asked the Prime Minister, whether in view of the vital importance of African Unity, he will create a Ministry of African Affairs in the near future.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : No, Sir. There is an African Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

First Anniversary of Independence

O.467. **Mr N. Nwangbo** asked the Prime Minister, what preparations he is making for

the celebration of the country's anniversary of independence.

The Prime Minister : This is more or less exactly the same as question No. O.485. We are intending to celebrate the first anniversary of our independence in a dignified way, but I would like to tell the House that it is not our intention to invite the whole world again as we did before. We want to celebrate it locally at home. Nor do we intend to invite all Members of Parliament to come to our celebrations. We hope they will join in the celebrations in their respective homes.

Mr Mbah : I wonder whether the Prime Minister has any plans to arrange the celebrations in such a way that the ordinary man in the village will feel the impact of the first anniversary of our independence or whether it is going to be confined to Lagos alone.

The Prime Minister : The important thing is to remind the ordinary man that the 1st of October is the anniversary of Nigeria's independence and the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) has got a duty to add to reminding the ordinary man of that.

Chief Anthony Enahoro : Would the Prime Minister consider, as part of the celebrations, summoning a meeting of Parliament so as to give us an opportunity of examining Government's programmes and activities over the first year of independence ?

The Prime Minister : It is my hope that Parliament will meet immediately after the first anniversary. I am thinking of a possible meeting in November.

Nigerian Police Officers

O.468. **M. Haliru Gwandu** asked the Prime Minister, what additional facilities he has provided for the training of Nigerian Police Officers in order to equip them for the higher posts in the Force.

Minister of State (Hon. Olarewaju) : There are various training facilities in Nigeria for Police Officers and in addition, the more promising officers are sent Overseas for advanced courses to fit them for higher posts in the Force. For such courses, 58 Superior Police Officers and 71 Inspectors have been recommended for 1961-62 in addition to 22 rank and file.

Nigerian Embassy in Moscow

O.470. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, what is holding up the immediate establishment of a Nigerian Embassy in Moscow; and why the U.S.S.R. has been delayed in her effort to establish her own Embassy in Nigeria.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : The Government of the Soviet Union has not been delayed in her efforts to establish her Embassy in Nigeria. As soon as the necessary agreements were reached after the usual processes of negotiations between our two Governments the Soviet Union established an Embassy in Nigeria which is now operating under a Charge d'Affairs.

Nigeria will establish an Embassy in the Soviet Union as well as in other parts of the world as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed.

Mr W. Briggs : Is it true that the representative of the Soviet Union is housed at the Federal Palace Hotel for want of accommodation?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : It is correct. I may add that we are also housed in hotels when we go abroad for want of accommodation.

Mr Ogbalu : In view of the importance of the Soviet Union in the world, does the Minister not consider it late the fact that we have not established an Embassy in the Soviet Union?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I do not consider it late. The U.S.S.R. being so important, it is necessary that when opening an Embassy there, we should take every step to ensure that we make no avoidable mistakes.

Mr Okoronkwo : Can you tell the House when the Soviet Union applied to open an Embassy in Nigeria and what has caused the delay?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : No, Sir.

Assistance to African Countries

O.471. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, what steps have been taken to assist Africans still struggling for independence to achieve their freedom.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : This Government has made it abundantly clear that it does not consider the independence of Nigeria complete until every other African country is free from foreign domination. For this reason we have consistently been in touch with the leaders of nationalist movements in the non-self-governing territories and are in full consultation with them and rendering aid in various ways as necessary in their struggle towards freedom.

Mr Ogbalu : May I know what specific assistance had already been given to some of these African Nations like Angola and Algeria?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : It will be most indiscreet for me to tell you.

Police Posts

O.472. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, what is holding up the building of the proposed police posts in Awka Division?

Minister of State (Hon. Olarewaju) : The proposed police post in Awka Division will be built as soon as financial resources permit.

Ufuma Police Station

O.473. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Prime Minister, what steps he is taking to build the proposed Police Station at Uvuma in Orumba District of Awka Division.

The Minister of State : The proposed Police Station at Uvuma will be built when funds are available.

Motor Vehicles

O.476. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Prime Minister, whether in view of the inadequate number of motor vehicles attached to the Traffic Division of the Nigeria Police serving in Northern Nigeria, he will consider providing them with more motor vehicles in order to facilitate their good work.

The Minister of State : It is proposed to increase the number of motor vehicles attached to the Motor Traffic Division of the Nigeria Police not only in Northern Nigeria but also in other parts of the Federation as soon as financial resources permit.

Women Police

O.479. Chief R. A. Orok asked the Prime Minister, how many Women Police have been

employed in the Nigeria Police Force; what are their regions of origin; and what is the highest rank they have attained.

The Minister of State: There are 189 women Police, 70 are from Western Nigeria, 114 from Eastern Nigeria and five from the Cameroons. The highest rank reached is that of Women Assistant Superintendent of Police and there are three who have been promoted to that rank.

Mr Akomolafe: Will the Minister explain why there are no women of Northern Origin in the Women Police Force? After all, it is one Nigeria.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

The Prime Minister: I would like to draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to an article in one of the daily papers. There, I was quoted as saying in Parliament that the Federal Government was considering the suggestion of the appointment of an Inspector-General of the Police Force and indicated that I, as Prime Minister, would make a statement on this very soon.

I cannot remember ever making such a remark in this House on the appointment of a Nigerian Inspector-General of Police and I just want to draw your attention, Sir, to the ways in which some of these statements we make are misquoted. (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: It is your paper. It is the *Pilot*.

Mr Speaker: Order, order! The paper is the *Daily Times*. I do strongly hope that this newspaper will make the necessary corrections in a conspicuous place and in a prominent page tomorrow, otherwise, the admission of the reporter may be withdrawn.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time, to be read a Second time *This Day*.

STAMP DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill to amend the Stamp Duties Ordinance presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time, to be read a Second time *This Day*.

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA BILL

Bill to make provision as to the operation of the law in relation to the Union of South Africa, and persons and things in any way belonging to or connected with the Union of South Africa, in view of the Union of South Africa having become a Republic outside of the Commonwealth: presented by the Attorney-General, read the First time, to be read a Second time *This Day*.

EXCHANGE CONTROL (AMENDMENT No. 2) BILL

Certificate of Urgency from His Excellency, the Acting Governor-General of Nigeria to amend Exchange Control Ordinance presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time, to be read a Second time *This Day*.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance: I beg to move, That, notwithstanding anything contained in any Standing Order and Order (26th August), Government Business shall be taken this day in the order in which it appears on the Order Paper; and at the hour appointed for the interruption of Business the Chairman shall put successively all Questions necessary to bring the proceedings in Committee of Supply to a conclusion, including the Questions on any Amendments of which notice has been given by a member of the Council of Ministers (but not other Amendments).

The Minister of Education: I beg to second.

Chief Anthony Enahoro (Ishan West): We are not opposed to the intent of this Motion. Consultations were held at another level, and an effort was made to reach agreement as to the business of this House to-day and we undertook to provide a list of non-contentious Bills through the Government so as to facilitate the business of the House for this day.

I recollect that two of the Bills on this *Order Paper*, that is No. 13 and No. 20 do not fall within the category of non-contentious business submitted by our side and submitted through the Government and accepted. I hope that in order to speed the debate on the Committee Stage of the Appropriation Bill, the Minister will be agreeable to the transfer of his Bill No. 20 later on in the day.

The effect of that will be that all the other Bills remaining at page 254 can be disposed of within an hour and we will then have far more time for the Committee Stage and after the Committee Stage, we can argue about the contentious Bills. But let us take all the non-contentious Bills this morning, dispose of them within an hour, and then come to the Committee Stage. Apart from these reservations, we do not oppose the Motion.

Mr Speaker : To clear mis-understanding, the Bill No. 20 which hon. Member from Ishan West (*Chief Anthony Enahoro*) refers to will not be taken at to-day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That, notwithstanding anything contained in any Standing Order and Order (26th August), Government Business shall be taken this day in the order in which it appears on the Order Paper ; and at the hour appointed for the interruption of Business the Chairman shall put successively all Questions necessary to bring the proceedings in Committee of Supply to a conclusion, including the Questions on any Amendments of which notice has been given by a member of the Council of Ministers (but no other Amendments).

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for an Act to amend the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1961. The object of this Bill is to enable Police Officers to cope with the problem of traffic offenders. At present, such offenders do not often give their correct addresses and therefore make it difficult for the Police to serve summonses on them.

The Bill, when passed, will enable the Police Officer to retain the licences of offenders and it would not be difficult to serve them summonses. The licences will, however, be returned to such offenders when they report to the Police Stations to collect them or where a summons has in fact, been served on the offender.

The Bill will apply to Lagos only and Regional Governments will be asked to consider introducing similar legislation in their Regions.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development : I beg to second.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : I rise to speak in support of the Second Reading of this Bill. In so doing I would like to draw attention to what I feel is mainly responsible for the numerous cases, where offenders have been served with one thing or the other.

Respect for law is encouraged by reasonable restraint on the part of law officers. Very often, allegations of corruption are made against members of the Police Force. I am not personally going to pursue that line this morning, but what I wish to say is that at times Police officers, for very tribal reasons, apprehend motor drivers. A lot of the summonses that are being issued by Traffic Policemen are completely unnecessary and unjustified and many a time they go out of their way to look for reasons for apprehending people. It may be because they had some angry exchanges or one does not like the face of the other or one had refused to do certain biddings, and therefore he must be victimised.

I know some cases, where lorry owners who happened to be outspoken at some forum or the other have been singled out for victimisation and the result is that a motor driver or the motor owner may be confronted with about a dozen summonses for things that could safely be ignored. I do feel that an appeal should be directed to Police Officers who have to administer the Road Traffic Laws and Regulations to exercise great restraint, show more initiative and be more sensible in their approach to their duty. It should not be regarded as a privilege because they have got the cover of the law to say what they like and do what they like.

I may go further to suggest that in future it should be possible for policemen initiating prosecutions to be made to pay costs personally where the court is satisfied that the prosecution is frivolous and unreasonable. I suggest that this matter should be given very serious consideration. It has been proved, in fact, in many cases in court that the prosecution has no reasonable foundation whatsoever, and that their action has only been based on probably the pride of a policeman being hurt.

Secondly, there is something that makes the Police keen on litigation, and that is the unsystematised manner of penalties inflicted

[MR AKWIWU]
by the Courts. Many a time, when the court inflicts very high fines on offenders, it serves as a signal for the policemen to run their own private courts more lucratively. Again, when the court is very lenient, then the drivers themselves take advantage. The net result is that if the court is lenient, the number of cases swells up, and if the court is too severe, then it encourages the opening of backyard courts.

I think that a workable and sensible medium should be devised. After all, these laws are made for the preservation and safety of the members of the public who use vehicles on the highways and should in no way be turned into a system of enriching either an illegal court or inundating the already overworked courts.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): In supporting this Bill, I have to draw the attention of the Minister to the difficulties being encountered from the Police by the public in respect of traffic offences. In fact, it is not a secret that policemen in the traffic section have caused a lot of hardship to transport owners and drivers in various ways. Only yesterday we heard of the experience of one of our colleagues on how most of his lorries were sold in order to meet the constant demand of money by the traffic policemen. And now, we are trying to give additional powers to these policemen to seize licences because they complain they cannot trace some drivers who have committed traffic offences! I think that that will be adding more to the evil practice of corruption in this country.

One only has to look at the roads to see that every lorry that passes on the highway is halted and unless the driver meets the demand of the traffic policeman, such frivolous charges as failing to maintain the lorry in working order, keeping the body of the lorry neat, and so on, are brought up against the driver. I, therefore, feel that this Bill is only going to encourage bribery and corruption on a level never before known because as soon as the police understand that driving licences can be impounded at any time they will certainly do all they can to take full advantage of it.

This type of offences for which drivers are charged will not really help us. I am sure that this Bill will not work out successfully on the side of lorry owners. It is important

to make sure that traffic offences which will be taken to court or over which driving licences will be impounded must be very serious cases and not mere charges affecting tyres or broken mirrors. Such trivial cases have caused a lot of hardship to lorry owners and the police should be made to understand that there is a general complaint from the public in this connection. Instructions should be given to them not to impound driving licences indiscriminately.

There was a time when a decision was taken somewhere that lorry drivers should not be stopped on the roads except by superior police officers; but what we find is that these superior police officers are the men behind the screen. They hide about two hundred yards away, and send out traffic motor-cyclists to stop a queue of lorries. After some time, they come out of hiding and simply ask their men to carry on.

From this example you will see that the Assistant Superintendents of Police and the Inspectors are the men behind the screen and I feel that this Bill is purely a licence for the traffic policemen to continue their nefarious acts.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North): I am going to speak on section 3 of this Bill. When a licence is seized by the Police, two conditions are given and one is alternative to the other. The first is that if the driver reports at the Police Station within three days after the seizure of the licence he may obtain his licence back; or if a summons has been served on him to appear in court, he is also entitled to get back his licence.

This will appear to give a greater incentive to the Police for bribery and corruption except the Minister in Charge of Police Matters can endeavour to see that subsection 3 (b) of section 3 is not used as a cloak for corruption. I have had a practical experience of what I am talking about. The law may be all right in Lagos but the fact is that many drivers will have to come to Lagos from the provinces when they are arrested in Lagos.

The police will ask them to report within three days for their licences; when they do report at Ijora, they will be told that the policeman who arrested them is not on duty. They will then be asked to go away. The

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unfortunate thing is that the driver, not understanding the provision of subsection 3 (a) of section 2, goes away. He comes back the fifth day and he is told the same thing.

The alternative provision—that is in respect of a summons—has also been abused by the Police!

Often times, they tell drivers that investigation is continuing, when nothing is actually being done. Some of these unscrupulous police officers, when they are broke and in need of money, go on the roads and collect about 50 drivers at random and ask them to report at Ijora Police Station. In the meantime their licences have been seized for unspecified offences and they are bound to give some sort of inducement to the Police in order to have their licences released. I am not, however, accusing all the officers in the traffic section of corruption, we have some honest ones among them.

I am therefore appealing to the Minister in charge of Police Matters to see that in the administration of this law definite steps are taken to ensure that drivers are not unduly delayed when they report for their licences.

I support the Bill.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): In supporting this Bill I would like to associate myself with some of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*). It is very essential that it should be made clear to the Police that only under specific offences should licences of drivers be withdrawn.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West): I rise to support this Bill.

The observation I have to make is this: now that we have got one Nigeria, why not one Police Force? The separation of the Traffic section from the rest of the Police Force is something that will bring shame to Nigeria. Before the creation of the Traffic Police section, corruption started from the Superior Officers. I contend that someone who is not a "giver", who is not a "bad boy" himself, is not appointed as a Traffic Police Officer by his superior officer. They are encouraged to take the attitude: "Why not, in the performance of my duties, fill my own pockets at the same time."

I suggest that the Minister in charge of the Police should reconsider the criterion for the appointment of these Traffic Police Officers, to ensure that only qualified people are appointed as Traffic Police Officers. All the policemen should also be made to perform both duties in rotation. What usually happens is that whenever there is a disturbance somewhere and the Police is asked to go there, the Traffic Police Officers are not prepared to do so; they prefer to remain on their job and rob lorry owners.

I am saying this from personal experience. Many a time, before I became a Member of Parliament, I travelled throughout Nigeria, and I witnessed the sufferings of lorry drivers.

If there are people in this Parliament who can give a good defence of the Police, I am one of them, because I know that with them we are safe. Whilst travelling on occasions from my constituency to Lagos here, I have witnessed the tremendous difference which exists between Benin City and Lagos, and the difference between Onitsha and Nsukka. So many complaints have been made in this House against Traffic Police. These allegations should be investigated to see whether they are true or false, before this House is assured that Traffic Police Officers are in fact performing their duties.

With this, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Establishments (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

In the Pensions Ordinance, as is the case in all major Pensions Schemes, provisions exist which allow an officer to transfer from one service to another and still preserve his eligibility for pension on his final retirement. These arrangements were devised when the great bulk of transfers which had to be considered were those of expatriate officers between one British Overseas Territory and another. But they are proving inadequate now that Nigeria is independent.

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

Within Nigeria, a considerable number of semi-commercial bodies are coming to the fore, to which, for public reasons, it may be desirable at times to supply public service officers. Some of these bodies, like the Central Bank, are creations of the Government, but their superannuation regulations may differ widely from the normal pensions provisions applicable to public servants.

In the international field, numerous organisations exist and there may be excellent reasons for supplying officers temporarily or permanently to one of these bodies.

Whilst it would be inappropriate, because of the different nature of their superannuation schemes, to deal with such organisations under the existing arrangements whereby continuity of service of transferred officers is maintained for pension purposes, it is nevertheless necessary to ensure that the pensions already earned by officers released for service in those organisations permanently or temporarily are not lost.

The Bill now before the House seeks to introduce a new form of service to be called "Approved Service". Very briefly, it allows for the release of an officer to these organisations, either permanently or for short periods, while reserving his earned pension up to the date of his release in cold storage, so to say.

There is also provision in the Bill to allow for the payment of transfer value to such an organisation if an officer is permanently transferred. The payment of such a sum ensures that the officer will receive, on retirement from the organisation or authority to which he is released, the full benefit of his earlier service with the Federal Government in consideration of the transfer value paid by the Federal Government.

In addition to this main Amendment to the Ordinance, the opportunity has been taken to effect two other changes. Throughout the Pensions Ordinance reference is still made to the Governor-General as the appropriate authority. This is so because at the time of the general adaptation of the Laws, the Governor-General was still Head of the Public Service. It is now more appropriate for the powers to be vested in the responsible Minister and Clause 2 of the Bill amends the Ordinance accordingly. In addition, reference to the Secretary of State

at various places in the Ordinance and Regulations because surplusage on the attainment of independence and these references are now removed.

The Bill itself is short and straightforward and will provide a means whereby the loan or release of Government officers to any of the numerous semi-public bodies both within Nigeria and abroad could be quickly and expeditiously arranged without adverse results to the officers concerned. The new type of service, namely "Approved Service", which the Bill seeks to introduce is in general very suitable to modern circumstances and to the Federal Government's commitments both at home and abroad, and I commend the Bill to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : I have no intention of opposing this Bill but still I want to sound two notes of warning. The first is that we have to be careful that this preferential treatment does not become too adverse to the finances of the country when some officers, especially expatriates, are being brought into this country. The conditions precedent must be very carefully considered before such officers are appointed because under the cloak of bringing people whom we need there is the possibility of some officers who are being given benefits and opportunities, for one reason or the other, to come into the service and gradually make us accumulate an adverse balance.

The second warning which I want to strike is that Government must make sure that it does not use this as a pretence for granting certain privileged persons some benefits and opportunities which, under normal circumstances, it may not be possible to grant them. Do not give them the posts which will give them the opportunities which they ought not to have whilst still preserving the previous opportunities when there are some other people who should have been put in such posts and granted those opportunities.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL : CONSIDERED
IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 6, ordered to stand part of the Bill
Bill reported without Amendment, read the
Third time and passed.

WATER RATES RECOVERY (GOVERNMENT
TENANTS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

In moving the Bill before the House I must say that the Water Rates Recovery Bill is non-controversial and the House will agree that the aims and objects, as contained in the Bill—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, I think the hon. Minister of Finance and most of the Ministers are toying with this House. If a Minister is paid to do some job he must be here to give an account. But now neither the Minister of Works and Surveys nor his Parliamentary Secretary is here to move the Bill. And the Minister of Finance gets up, without the Bill in his hand, to deceive this House.

The Minister of Finance : If the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) has not got the Bill, he should make a bold confession. I am not bound to produce a copy of the Bill which has already been laid on the Table of this House. There is no doubt that because the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) comes from the creeks and rivers he is really worried about the Water Rates Bill.

The Bill, as I have said, is to make better provision for the recovery of water rates in respect of Government tenants and the aims and objects of this Bill are quite clear. The Minister of Works and Surveys may, from time to time, make regulations prescribing water rates for the purposes of this Act. And such regulations, I am sure, will facilitate the easy collection of water rates.

I commend the Bill for the acceptance of this House because it only seeks to make better provision for the recovery of water rates levied on property in the Federal territory, which are occupied by persons in the employ of the Government. These monies will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund for monies thus collected. I am sure that the Member

for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) will agree that this is the rightful thing to do to facilitate the easy collection of these rates.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I just want to be enlightened on a few points in this matter. Firstly, I would like the Minister to tell me what class of houses is involved in this Bill. And secondly, I would like to know what happened in the past in regard to this class of houses.

Mr R. O. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I rise to support this Bill for one main reason. This Bill will enable the Government to earn more money from the tenants of the Government.

I would say further that the Bill does not go far enough. The civil servants have been created into a class by the Government not only in respect of the salaries they get but also in respect of their housing accommodation. I think the civil servants deserve the salaries which they are paid because they really work for them but as regards to housing they are just being over pampered by the Government. There should be an agonizing reappraisal not only of the water rates being paid by the civil servants but also the rents they pay for their houses.

I think it should be the policy of the Government to encourage civil servants to build their own houses and, if it is possible, to give them loans. I understand that there are instances of civil servants who got money to build their own houses either directly from the Government or through the Government's agencies, let out these houses to tenants at fantastic rates and at the same time are still living in Government houses. If the Government wants to recover money and swell the revenue of the country then let these civil servants pay more for these houses or encourage them to live in their own houses. Houses which could be let at Ikoyi or Apapa for probably £60 or £80 a month are being let out to civil servants at £10 per month. These civil servants are infinitesimal, probably less than 2 per cent of the whole population of this country.

[MR AKINJIDE]

The whole fortune of this country should not be for the civil servants, but for the suffering masses.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

WATER RATES RECOVERY (GOVERNMENT
TENANTS) BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC.)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 2-6, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

EXPORT OF NIGERIAN PRODUCE
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Export of Nigerian Produce Ordinance, 1958, be now read the Second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to rectify an anomaly arising from the definition of the word "Produce" in section 2 of the Ordinance. An opportunity has also been taken to correct two typographical errors in the printed text of the Ordinance.

The Bill is brief and non-contentious. Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee, reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

EXPORT PRODUCE (FEDERAL POWERS)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for an Act to be entitled Export Produce (Federal Powers) Act, 1961.

The object of this Bill is to empower me to prescribe grades and standards of quality for any non-Marketing Board produce intended for export, after consultation with the Produce Inspection Board and the Government of any Region affected. It has been drafted in close consultation with the Regional Governments who have given it their full support. Similar powers were originally vested in the Produce Inspection Board established under the provisions of the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950, but this Board ceased to exist and the Produce Imports and Exports Ordinance, 1959, came into operation on the 1st of December, 1959. As a result of the powers with which it was invested having since been transferred to another person or body, this Bill therefore, seeks to invest these powers in me as the Federal Minister responsible for external trade.

I do not intend to emphasise the importance of ensuring that any Nigerian Produce for export should be of good quality and should be highly competitive in the world market. But if high grades and standards of quality are to be in force, it is essential that the powers to prescribe these grades and standards should be vested in some persons or body. This is the sole object of this Bill which I hereby commend to the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move, That a Bill entitled the Customs Tariff Ordinance be read for the Second time.

In the provision of section 12 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance of 1958, experience has shown that it is sometimes inevitable to charge the full duty on some types of composite goods without regard to the parts or ingredients thereof and this Bill seeks to empower the Board of Customs and Excise to impose

duty on such goods and their composite parts and ingredients so as to result in an equitable levy.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): I have no intention of opposing this Bill, but I would like to make a few remarks on the duty imposed on composite goods as well as on the parts that make such composite goods. I think that a good example that can be given is that of motor cars and their spare parts. It has been the experience of this House that Members of the House have complained about the high cost to them of the parts of motor cars. It is absolutely certain that the parts of motor cars are not expensive, but simply because of the duties they are imposed. I have no doubt that the sellers of these car parts are taking advantage of that fact and are abusing that fact to impose obnoxious prices on the spare parts of the motor cars which they sell.

On the other hand, I think the Minister and the Government should consider not imposing duty on the costs of composite goods which are imported into this country with a view to assembling these goods and creating industry and capital for the country. I think that the Minister should consider making specific legislation to waive duty on such parts provided it is established beyond doubt that those parts are going to be used for the assembly of composite goods in industry in the country.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): The point made by the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) also applies to building materials. It appears to me that in the first place the taxes imposed on building materials are rather high. Not only that, it also appears to me that the firms who are selling these building materials are taking advantage of this tax to make more profit for themselves. It costs more to build a house in this country than in England. A house of £6,000 in this country is almost little or nothing whereas if one has £6,000 in England one can get almost a castle.

Housing is one of the greatest problems we have in this country to-day. If our people can live decently, if our people can live in good houses, I think it is only fair that people should be able to build cheap houses. I would appeal

to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry to look into this particular problem. I suspect there is a racket among the firms in respect of building materials.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

[CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL]
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

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

EXCHANGE CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL:
Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Exchange Control Ordinance be read a second time.

Exchange Control was originally introduced in Nigeria as a war measure under the Defence Finance Regulations, 1939. This was replaced in turn by the Defence Finance (No. 2) Regulations, 1939, and a series of other Regulations. Our present Exchange Control Ordinance came into operation on the 10th of December, 1950 thereby placing Exchange Control on a more permanent basis. Regulations have been issued from time to time since then to meet the changing conditions which have occurred.

The principal object of Exchange Control in Nigeria as in other countries is to conserve foreign exchange resources and to ensure that they are not dissipated by unnecessary payments abroad. It is on these last words—unnecessary payments abroad—that I should like to lay emphasis. Under the existing Exchange Control, we have been concerned to conserve our resources of the currencies of countries outside the sterling area. To this end payments to countries outside the sterling area have required prior Exchange Control permission. It is the Federal Government's policy to preserve this state of affairs and to maintain freedom to transfer funds to and from the sterling area countries as in the past.

The purpose of this Bill is merely to ensure that Exchange Control permission is obtained for two specific types of transaction which the Federal Government feels to be a wasteful use

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]
of personal resources and likely to have a harmful effect on Nigeria's credit worthiness overseas.

Hon. Members are already aware that substantial amounts of funds are transferred every week from Nigeria to the United Kingdom and other countries by way of stakes in football pools or through other betting arrangements. I am sure this hon. House will join me in saying with all emphasis that this is most undesirable for the economy. It has been estimated that Nigeria is losing roughly £2 million to £3 million a year on foreign football pools. I ask: How can we honestly appeal to our friends overseas for assistance when we allow our own resources to be used so recklessly? I am sure those Nigerians who love to invest in football pools will be prepared to invest in domestic pools and they are able to do this as a result of the establishment of a local pool. Immediately this Regulation comes into force no payments in respect of football pools or other betting arrangements may be made to any place and I emphasise—any place—outside Nigeria without reference to my Ministry.

I now turn to the second part of this Bill which relates to loans, bank overdrafts or other credit facilities and to the repayment of such facilities not including those relating solely to the import and export of goods. Under our present Exchange Control arrangements, it is possible for residents of Nigeria to take up such facilities in the sterling area without the knowledge of my Ministry. We know that all businessmen require loans and overdraft facilities for the conduct of their business. Banks and other credit institutions are able to provide these facilities and it is not the intention of the Federal Government to interfere with their legitimate business in this field. On the contrary, it is our aim to strengthen their position because we believe they have a very important role to play in the economic development of our country. What the Federal Government intends now is to bring within the provisions of our Exchange Control Law those overdraft facilities which are taken outside Nigeria and which could have serious repercussions on the credit worthiness of Nigeria if they were to assume large proportions. Government is, therefore, proposing to bring these financial transactions under control before these proportions are reached.

Furthermore, payments of interest and other charges under such facilities to any country outside Nigeria must in future receive the prior permission of my Ministry. In order that the Federal Government may be informed as to the extent of facilities already arranged, all residents of Nigeria enjoying such facilities are required to submit details to my Ministry within three months of the coming into operation of this Act. I should like to stress once again, that the arrangements I have just outlined does not include loans, overdrafts and other credit facilities which are related solely to the import and export of goods nor to the repayment of such facilities.

This Amendment is also not intended to cover the small personal overdraft facilities that may be required by Nigerians temporarily overseas. To this end, I have authorised all licensed Banks in Nigeria to continue to make available to Nigerians overseas including students, personal overdrafts and other credit facilities of an amount not exceeding £100 at any one time.

Hon. Members have expressed concern over the deterioration in our balance of payment position during the last year or so. It has been a major objective of the Federal Government to improve that position and these Amendments to the Exchange Control Ordinance are designed to that end. I am sure therefore that all Members of this House will welcome the Bill and give it full support in the interest of inspiring confidence in our economy.

In conclusion, I should like to impress that my sole purpose in employing the certificate of urgency procedure has been to make it impossible for any one to take advantage of any foreknowledge of the provision of this Bill. Instructions will be issued to the Banks to-day so that immediate effect may be given to this measure should it receive the approval of Parliament.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): I beg to second.

Chief A. Rosiji (Egba East): Sir, I welcome this Bill. I think that we all agree with the Minister of Finance when he said that we are all concerned about the deterioration in the

balance of payment of the country and I think that this is a good way to some extent of reducing the gap in our balance of payment. I think also that in addition to this, it is an insult that we should be dissipating our money not on substantial things but in gambling. It is a great pity that human nature is what it is, that people always like gambling. I believe that if a step had not been taken for football pools to be established here locally in Nigeria at the same time these steps were taken by the Government, it could have resulted in some under-hand operations because it seems that there are some people who may gamble in any event, it does not matter what restriction is placed.

The Minister of Finance : Like you.

Chief Rosiji : I do not gamble like my hon. Friend the Member for Lagos South (*Hon. Johnson*).—It does not matter what restrictions the Government puts. To have black marketeering in the finances of the country would have been a bad thing indeed for the country.

The other thing I would like to say in connection with this is that the Government should consider the question of the establishment of football pools in the country. Even though it will be necessary, it is better that it should be done by the indigenous people of this country. There is a pools organisation in which foreigners have a majority interest ; there is another one which is one hundred percent organised by Nigerians. I do want the Minister of Finance to listen to what I am saying because it is very important. I do wish the Minister not only not to discriminate against the indigenous organisation but he should prefer it to the one which is dominated by foreigners and he should go all out to encourage it.

Furthermore, I would like to say something about the question of overdraft that the Minister intends to control. Is it to overseas and other banking facilities overseas ? I would like to be more enlightened. I do not know for what other things people would get overdraft overseas other than import and export business. I do not know what *wuruwuru* business has been going on. It only rather baffles me why the Minister excludes facility connected with

the import and export of goods to people who are visiting overseas from here, students and other people. There must be other sources where this sort of thing is going on. I do not know. I would like to understand what other avenues are there whereby people get loans from overseas other than for export and import and for personal use. I think the Minister has more information than I have and I think the House will feel more knowledgeable if the Minister could enlighten this hon. House more on this point.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like very much to support this Bill because it is a most progressive one and one which has long been overdue like most other Bills we have passed since this Sitting.

I would like to confine my remarks to only one or two aspects and that is to say that it is a very great credit to the Government for having paid respects to public opinion in this country. For sometimes now, public opinion has been very strongly raised against foreign based pools and I for one on the Floor of this House charged—at that time, it was the Minister of Internal Affairs who was in charge of pools.

Now that we have domestic pools, I would urge the Government to be bolder to ban foreign based pools entirely. It is not enough to say that anybody who wants to invest in foreign pools would have to receive the permission of the Minister of Finance. I agree that the Federal Minister of Finance is a very good economist and a financier, therefore he would not like any wastage, but I think it should be banned entirely. There should be no question of saying “apply to the Federal Minister of Finance for permission to invest in foreign pools”. That means therefore that all emphasis should be laid on our domestically based pools. I think one of them goes by the name of *Niger Pools* and another one has just been founded.

I think I do agree with my hon. Friend, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) that the pools which are domestically based would defeat their purpose if they are predominantly owned by foreigners, or run by foreigners, or even if the shares there are largely owned by foreigners. I think all encouragement should be given to our own uprising financiers in this country to participate in this domestically

[DR KALU EZERA]
based pools. It is only in that regard that we can achieve the intention of this Bill, namely to preserve our financial resources within this country.

The other point, I would like to make is in regard to savings generally which the Minister intends to control somehow. I do not know what has happened to the large amounts of money which we have long invested abroad in Commonwealth countries and in other countries. I think the Minister would think very seriously on this and find out ways and means of recalling our investment abroad both in gold and otherwise. It is ridiculous for a country to say it needs money and yet it has large sums of money invested abroad, in Australia, New Zealand and so on and so forth. Therefore, I welcome this Bill as a most progressive one and to urge the Government to be bolder enough to ban foreign pools.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : Sir, I beg to support the Bill. I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his vigilance and unflinching devotion to duty because without that we would have been losing so much money.

This Bill is long overdue and in fact this country has already been greatly impoverished by unscrupulous individuals and bodies corporate. It is therefore the main intention of the Bill to put a stop to this shameful practice. After all, exchange control is the replacement of market mechanism by the Government or Central Bank decisions relating to payments to residents of areas outside the country or groups of countries.

Exchange control is a very good device, particularly for conserving the currency of a country. Last time many hon. Members complained about the adverse balance of trade. This imbalance of trade, to a very large extent, has been caused by the unscrupulous dealings of certain individuals who have been evading the Exchange Control Act. As I have said, this Bill will certainly put a stop to this practice. In fact it appears a black market already exists without Government intervention in the Exchange Control system because the rate at which the Government may fix exchange control may be appreciably higher than the rate at which unscrupulous individuals buy, and we lose thereby. It has been alleged that a certain

organisation, in fact an indigenous organisation for that matter, has had to its credit about £7 million or so. Notwithstanding the avowed and vocal utterances about nationalism and patriotism, when it is a question of one's pockets some people do not mind cheating their own country.

I welcome this Bill. It will help to prevent depreciation of our currency. It is true that we are in the sterling area but we are now an independent and autonomous country and we must look after our own interests. It will also put a stop to the loss of prestige which will follow the indiscriminate transfer of monies without the consent of the Government.

With regard to overdrafts, loans and other monies which are made over to some business organisations, as someone has already said it is difficult really to find out the sincerity of such transfers. So this Bill will help the Federal Government to control the money which might be lost either by way of pools or by overdrafts to foreign countries.

Mr Speaker, since this is not a controversial Bill, I will stop here without giving more points, otherwise I would have given many more.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West) : In welcoming this Bill I have one point to make and I hope it will be taken seriously into consideration. First of all I must associate myself with the hon. Member who has just congratulated the Minister of Finance for his efforts in this field.

It always displeases me when on some days at the Lagos Racecourse gambling is allowed. In Hausa we call it *chacha*. But, if gambling is supposed to be against the law let it be against the law. Many people are arrested when they are caught gambling. I do not know why the Government should allow gambling on a certain day for everybody when they consider it to be unlawful.

M. L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : That day is a free day for you.

M. Isandu : If it is a free day, can we then, with regard to murder which is a crime, set aside a separate day for it? I do not agree with that at all. I beg to support.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Sir, the objects of this Bill are very good and I join those who say that the Bill is a progressive one. But I feel that the amendments do not go far enough. One of the objects of the Bill is to stop the drain on our national economy and I feel that it should have included deposits allegedly being made by Nigerian citizens in foreign banks in England, America and Switzerland. These deposits are tied down there whereas they could be of use here for development purposes. I would like the Minister of Finance to see to it that deposits are included because this country is deprived of the use of these deposits.

The Minister of Finance : I had proposed to gloss over the remarks made by my hon. Friends but the last speaker raised one particular question on which I would like to speak. The purpose of this Bill really is to disprove some of the wild allegations made by certain people of individuals transferring money overseas to Switzerland and other places. If it is true that they have the money there now, they would never be able to bring them back by the back-door. (*Interruptions.*) Sir, I am merely remarking about the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) and all the money he made when he was Minister of Health.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : There is one important aspect of this Bill which I would like to touch upon. As the Minister of Finance has rightly said, immediately this Bill receives the Royal Assent it would be illegal for anybody to participate in overseas pools. The next question is this : what replaces these overseas pools? At the moment, I understand, we have two pools in this country, the Niger Pools and the Pan African Pools. I further understand that while the Niger Pools is licensed, the Pan African Pools is not yet licenced. In other words, the monopoly of these pools being given to the Niger Pools. I understand that when the Pan African Pools applied for a licence they were called upon to deposit £20,000 cash or get a bank guarantee for that amount, in addition they would only be registered for fixed odds, not for the treble chance.

I used to understand that the aim of this Government is to promote private industry as far as possible. We are supposed to have a

free enterprise economy in this country. If that is the case I do not know why fetters and chains should be put in the way of people who are aspiring to have private enterprise. As far as this Niger Pools is concerned, it is in the Estimates that this House will be called upon to vote £51,000 and I think 51 per cent of the shares goes into the coffers of this Niger Pools in conjunction with an overseas which is based, I understand, in Switzerland. When was this company with which the Niger Pools is going to be in partnership registered in Switzerland? What is the capital of this company? Who are its shareholders? Who are its directors? What is the credit-worthiness?

These are some of the things which we would like to know. We would also like to know the performances of these companies for the past few years, and see whether their rate of progress is favourable. We here, as the spokesmen or the representatives of the people of this country, are to vote money for the Niger Pools which is going to be in partnership with the Switzerland Company. If these facts are not made known to us, and something goes wrong in the future, our opponents may seize that opportunity to embarrass us. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to put all the cards on the table on this issue. It is a vital one because the usual gossips are now circulating all over the country.

I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : Shettima Mallam Baba Shehu Ibrahim.

M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim (Borsari Damaturu) : It is really very encouraging that the Government has introduced this Bill.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : It seems to me that both Sides of the House are in favour of this Bill and I think it is a mere waste of time to go on speaking on it. Certainly we are wasting time.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi) : On a point of information, it is not usual for people to be called Mallam and Shettima at the same time. They are either Mallam or Shettima. Furthermore, the hon. Member for Borsari Damaturu (*M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim*) is a Mallam, not a Shettima.

M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim : Baba Shehu Ibrahim is my real name. Shettima is a title given by the Shehu of Bornu to those who deserve the honour. The hon. Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Alli Monguno*) is correct in stating the fact.

It is very encouraging that the Minister of Finance has introduced this Bill. Considering its importance I thought it could have been introduced long before now. In any case, I am happy that it has been introduced before the first anniversary of our Independence and I am sure the hon. House will support the Bill.

I have noticed some points which the Minister could have considered when he was introducing this Bill. We have millions of pounds in many Commonwealth countries while we have many projects for which this huge sum could have been used. We have investments in New Zealand and Australia. Why should we not recover them as soon as they are matured? What gain do we derive from money we lent to other countries at 2½ per cent rate of interest while we ourselves borrow money at the rate of 4-8 per cent interest? This is no progressive economy. We should not go on with this kind of monetary transaction which is definitely to our disadvantage.

Exchange Control is really a very important subject to every country. There are smugglers, criminals of the first order, who invest in neutral countries like Switzerland, politicians who feel they can do away with the country's money and make use of it when they are sent in exile or banished from the country—all these people will be kept in strict control.

I would have liked to go on speaking but, I am afraid, time is limited. So, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

EXCHANGE CONTROL (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC.)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(SECTION 5 OF ORDINANCE AMENDED).

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : We have here in Clause 2 (d)—“Or make any

payment to or for the credit of a person resident outside Nigeria or place any sum to the credit of any person so resident on account, in either case, of stake in foreign football pools or other betting arrangements”. I think this provision is wise enough, but the last part ought to be explained more clearly, that is, “other betting arrangements”. In this country at the moment, we see different types of betting arrangements. Some people bet that a horse would win a race and when it fails to win, they pay so much. Some children and even grown-up people play all sorts of games with money. It should be specifically stated what type of betting the Minister has in mind when proposing this proviso.

That is the remark I would like to make.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : What will this provision for its effective operation entail? Does it mean that the Minister of Internal Affairs will not grant any licence to the Foreign Pools? If there are some existing ones already, to give effect to this Amendment we will have to put them out of business. Otherwise there will be some technicalities.

If in fact, there have been some foreign pools already licensed for the current year to carry on business in this country, it would mean that they have to be given another licence immediately, or do we take this as over-riding it? It think this point needs to be taken into account quickly.

This concerns the Minister of Finance, I realise, but it has some relationship to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Clauses 2 to 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 :

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : I want to amend Clause 4 (30) (a) subsection 1 (a) by adding after the word “facilities” the following words “of not more than £100 at a time.” Thus amended the clause will read “subject to the provision of this section, no person resident in Nigeria shall without the permission of the Minister pay outside Nigeria take or accept loans, bank overdrafts or other credit facilities of more than £100 at a time or””

This should be a non-contentious Amendment because the Minister himself while proposing the Bill has said that that provision

has been recognised by him to the extent that he has even written a letter or he is going to write the letter, to the bank concerned. He has given us a private undertaking and I congratulate him for confirming it in this open House. I feel it should be written into the Ordinance itself instead of just writing an unofficial letter to the Bank.

I hope the Minister will accept this in case it happens that the present Minister ceases to be the Finance Minister later on. I do not think that he hopes to be the Minister of Finance for ever. Does it mean that anybody who comes to be Minister of Finance will have to write another letter again? He does not even provide for his dying sometime! I hope though that he will live for a very long time, but everybody has to take death into consideration. I am asking that that portion be inserted into the section of the Ordinance for the greater protection of the individual.

The Minister of Finance : I appreciate the contribution of the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*). indeed for the first time, he has tried to be constructive. Since he came into this House, he has been earning his salary here only on destructive criticisms. In spite of all that, however, I must oppose the Amendment. I think my hon. Friend will agree that if a Minister gets up in the Legislature and makes a statement, that statement is binding and already under the present Exchange Control Regulations, I delegate my powers to banks and officials in many respects.

The letter that I am writing is as good as the law because it is a delegation of the powers which I have to the banks. Under the law, the powers which I have under the Exchange Control Ordinance is being amended now, there is a general provision for me to delegate such powers. I am giving the assurance that will cover the point which the hon. Member for Degema has made, I am giving power to all the licensed banks to exercise that power on my behalf.

I hope my hon. Friend will withdraw his Amendment.

Mr Briggs : The Minister of Finance is saying this because he is not a lawyer. What he says is not part of the law at all and he can

only delegate specific provisions that are made in the law, he cannot delegate what is outside the law. For greater protection, with the greatest respect, the Amendment should be inserted into the law.

Question put and negatived.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : The Amendment I am proposing is to section 4 (30) (a), subsection (1) (a) "subject to the provision of this section, no person resident in Nigeria shall without the permission of the Minister outside Nigeria take or accept loans, bank overdrafts, or other credit facilities or" after the words "or make fixed deposits in foreign banks".

For once in this session, the Minister of Finance had made favourable comments on my observations. I think that to dispel the ugly rumours, whether imaginary or not, about Nigerians resident here making large deposits of money in foreign banks and to check some other people who when they are in Nigeria are poor but immediately they go outside the confines of the country, they become millionaires and semi-millionaires; to check those people, I think the Minister of Finance will accept this Amendment and make it an offence for anybody not to obtain his approval before making large deposits of money in foreign banks.

The Minister of Finance : With respect to the hon. Member for Egba South, it is precisely what this clause seeks to do—that one cannot take the money away from here without the permission of the Minister to whom the power is delegated. If money is put in the bank there, it must be money obtained in England and when the man repatriates it to Nigeria, it helps our balance of trade. If he wants to take it out, he cannot because he has to show how he obtained the money. That is the position of the law.

We have been saying that we wanted all monies repatriated here because we have established money markets here. We have Treasury Bills and loan Bills and people are repatriating their money.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Have you brought back yours?

The Minister of Finance : I will bring it when Chief Rosiji has brought his own from Switzerland!

Chief Akin-Olugbade : On a point of explanation, what I meant was that payments made to Nigerians who are resident here should receive the approval of the Minister before they are deposited or paid into a fixed deposit in foreign banks.

The Minister of Finance : I am sure that all reasonable men will agree that if the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has made some deal in London and they pay him some money there—

Mr W. Briggs : On a point of order, it is against parliamentary procedure to impute motives to anybody.

The Chairman : These are not serious enough.

The Minister of Finance : What I am saying is that what you are asking me to do is impossible unless I am a detective in the United Kingdom. If someone saves his money in a bank overseas how do I know that he has done so ? I am not controlling the United Kingdom finance transactions and I could not. If money is transferred from Nigeria to those places, well, then we have to control it. That is exactly what we are doing ; and if it is in Switzerland which is outside the sterling area naturally it will be controlled right there. If however someone manages to steal money and deposit it there and then wants to bring it back, we shall see.

Question put and negatived.

Mr Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) : Clause 4 (i) 30A (i). Subject to the provision of this section, no person resident in Nigeria shall, without the permission of the Minister—I want the following wordings to be added : “Except Missionaries who may receive free donations from Overseas”—

The Chairman : Order ! Before you propose words to be added you will have to give notice of Amendment which you have not done, therefore it will not be allowed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South-East) : I rise with respect to say that, Sub-Clause 2 vitiates the main objective stated by the Minister and also stated in the Explanatory Notes. Sub-Clause 2 says, nothing in this section shall be construed or be taken to affect any loan by

overdraft or other credit facilities obtained solely for the purpose of financing the imports or exports of goods. I am sure that everybody will agree—and I suppose official information may support it—that by far the greater bulk of the money transferred either into or out of the country has to do with the import or export of goods. To exclude this completely from the vigilance of the Minister, even by way of a block or general approval, I think opens a very wide gate which in effect would completely negative the objectives of this nations except in exceptional cases. It is not unknown that by far the greatest transactions in the export and import of goods are undertaken by non-Nigerians, and these non-Nigerians must have various reasons for transferring money either into or, more often, out of the country. One can rightly say, that knowing that some of the already existing commercial firms, even with the existing stringent laws about taxation, do still manage to evade the vigilant observation of the Minister and his Ministry. Some of them are known to keep three types of balance sheets and statements, all for the purpose of evading the vigilance of the Ministry of Finance.

The Minister made a statement about double invoices. It is the businessmen abroad that started the trick, and it was being operated by businessmen in this country. It was started first by the expatriate businessmen operating in this country. Otherwise, how could one explain why in the days past, and even now, some Asiatic businessmen sold and still sell the very same articles at about 10 per cent the price at which their colleagues are selling them and yet make profit ? It is all because of this business of double invoices. The double invoice trick is not only practiced by expatriates trading here but it is also assisted and promoted by expatriates abroad. Therefore when we talk about allowing the transfer of money, not even with the courtesy of informing the Minister, I think we are opening a very wide gate.

Businessmen are highly ingenious and I know that many a time, a lot of money raised is devoted towards devising clever means of evading legislation. I therefore feel that this Clause 4 as it is, particularly Clause 4 (ii), negatives the principles and objects of this law. It cannot be otherwise, unless Minister

is going to say that he will go out openly and encourage the move already operated by John Holt in the Western Region of transferring their merchant trade to African traders. In that case you can be assured that owners of the business resident in the country will have far less urge for the transfer of money by way of profits or anything abroad.

After all, our own people are beginning to distinguish themselves in the art of buying and selling and the main trading companies, if they want to continue in this country, must be made to realise that but for merely trading in merchandise, we just cannot allow that wide opening. This law as it is can only be justified if importers and exporters, the bulk of them, are Nigerians.

Again, what prevents a reputable firm in Nigeria from depositing a sum of £10,000, with a Head Office in London, allegedly for the purpose of goods? Then off their agent goes to England or perhaps he instructs his business associates in England to withdraw it? Thereafter his first order might be cancelled: how does one recover the money so transferred? It becomes a book transaction. In any event, all you do is, pay the money here, the branch notifies their head office in London, their head office account is credited, the book is not posted and the money is withdrawn there and the purpose for which it is originally deposited is carried out.

I think that it is necessary. Already, we know that some of the Commonwealth countries in this country have been exporting capital from Nigeria, they have been abusing their Commonwealth privileges. I think that if we really want to control the bare-faced exportation of capital in this country which will have adverse effects on our balance of payments, we ought really to face the problem in a very realistic way.

The Minister of Finance: I really cannot understand what the hon. Gentleman is about. First, it will be dangerous to the economy of this country to control exports and imports because we should have a free trade here, and it is obvious that if you buy goods from here, unless relevant documents are here for the banks to pay, they will not pay. On the arrival of the goods, those documents will support the bill of entry, that would be produced for

the Customs to clear the goods. No money can be paid by the back door as is suggested. The hon. Member gave another example. Suppose, he asked, somebody pays £10,000 to a leading firm here, perhaps with headquarters in London ostensibly stating that it is for goods? Obviously, if it is fictitious, the money remains here and will never go out. But if it is for goods and it is paid here so that credit can be given to him overseas naturally

(a) there is no transfer from here, and it does not affect us;

(b) the goods will be imported, and if the goods are imported, the goods imported will be sold and the money will remain here and he cannot repatriate it unless he gives proof of it and gets permission to do so.

Clause 4 ordered to stand part of the Bill. Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time.—(The Minister of Finance).

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East): I would like to say, with due respect to the Minister of Finance, that his answer, in my own view, does not satisfy the argument adduced by the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivuu*). I would like to give a categorical example.

Mr Speaker: The Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivuu*) raised his points on Clause 4 which we have already passed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

FEDERAL SUPREME COURT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

The object of this Bill is twofold. The first part of it in section 3 provides for the issue of admission to bail while a case is either pending from the Regional High Courts, the Federal Supreme Court or a question of law has been referred to the Federal Supreme Court for a ruling. At the moment there is an omission from the existing legislation in respect of the Regional High Courts,

[MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

The second object of this Bill is contained in section 4 which relates to the High Court of Lagos. Under the High Court of Lagos Ordinance, there is no provision for appeals in cases of interlocutory orders or decisions made or given in the High Court of Lagos.

As I explained briefly in a Press release recently, these two points had been the subject of correspondence between me and the Nigeria Bar Association, and when I received that communication to the effect that lawyers all over the Federation apart from Lagos have been experiencing difficulties in this regard, the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of the Federation and to the other Judges both of the Lagos High Court and of the Regional High Courts, and together we come to the conclusion that this Amendment should be made.

I therefore recommend them to the House, and beg to move.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie) : I beg to second.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I must say that this Bill is very welcome. A lot of havoc has been done within the last few months in view of the decisions of the High Courts of the Regions and of Lagos in respect of appeals from the High Court to the Federal Supreme Court in respect of interlocutory matters.

I do not know whether the Minister will make the application of this Bill retrospective : I see that the date of commencement is still left open. At the moment cases in the High Courts of the Regions involving valuable landed properties are at stake in view of the unintentional restraint of the right of appeal by the Adaptation of Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order, 1960.

Furthermore, section 1 of this Bill purports to refer to the Federal territory (which I take to mean Lagos only). This view is supported by the explanatory note which says that the Bill refers to Lagos. Is it then the case that this Bill does not affect the Regions ? If this is so, we still are where we started. It means that appeals in respect of interlocutory matters in respect of the Regions cannot still come to the High Court. I do not know whether I am mistaken on this point. This law affects not

only lawyers but also litigants who are the common people in this country. I therefore think that the Minister would like to make some clarification.

The point I wish to make is to appeal to the Minister to make this Bill retrospective because the Order which takes off the right goes as far back as 1960—almost two years now—and since then a lot of confusion and chaos is still in the High Court. If it is not made retrospective, many litigants will lose valuable acres of farmlands involving cocoa and kola-nuts.

I welcome the Bill and I support it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee : reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
(HABEAS CORPUS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court from any Refusal or Grant of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, be now read a Second time.

You will notice that I have made a slight addition.

As hon. Members will be aware, this Bill becomes necessary because the existing law in Nigeria is, as the lawyers are aware, as treated in the Eshugbayi-Eleko case in 1920 and 1921. Under this, anyone who has been deprived of his liberty can, in certain cases, appear before every Judge of the High Court until he has the remedy of his case.

In England, two years ago, it was found necessary for this particular case to be regarded as not having been properly decided. It was said that it had been based upon a wrong view of the proceedings of the Court in England, although it was a decision of the Privy Council.

What we have to substitute in this Bill, therefore, is to make it necessary for any accused person or anyone who regards his rights as having been unduly restricted, to go before a Judge of the High Court here and there follow the normal machinery of appeal, without having to go before every Judge of the High Court in search of a remedy.

The second part of this Bill deals with the question of the entrenchment of fundamental human rights in our Constitution. Already there are provisions for the hearing of these cases, but I consider it essential that we should be able to speed up cases affecting fundamental human rights, so that the individual can get his remedy as expeditiously as possible. I think that this Bill will commend itself to the House.

I beg to move.

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

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): In principle, the Bill is good, but I think that we must be very careful that we do not deprive the citizens of the remedies they now have to protect their liberty.

I would like to join issues with the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice on the Amendment which it seems to me he now seeks to make, about an appeal lying in the case of a grant of a writ of Habeas Corpus. I think that these laws are made with a view to a bias existing in favour of the liberty of the citizen, and I think that wherever this type of law exists, the citizen should be the person on whose side the weight of advantage will be. In the matter of Habeas Corpus, there should be an appeal only where the Court has refused to grant the writ of an applicant; it should not be in a case where the writ has been granted to an applicant.

Furthermore, I think that the decision in Eshughbayi-Eleko case is an outmoded one; it makes nonsense of the judiciary, that an applicant can go from one judge, then to another judge, then to another judge, until he obtains the remedy that he wants, even if he exhausts the number of judges there are in the judiciary.

But there is an advantage in that procedure which does not reduce itself to an obscenity, and that is that the applicant has a quick remedy. If we restrict him to being able only to lodge an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court, without at the same time ensuring that the Federal Supreme Court is going to hear the appeal immediately, I think that great injustice would be done because the purpose of this prerogative is to make sure that a man who has been unjustifiably detained is quickly brought

out of detention. But if he has to appeal and—as happened in the case which the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has invoked—the Court happens to be in recess or the Court cannot meet for two or three months, I think that the man would have lost all his remedy.

What could be done, I think, is for the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to have a provision which will make the hearing of this appeal a matter of authority in the Supreme Court, and in addition if the Court is not in session, it should enable Members of the High Court to sit on appeal—either two or three of them—so that the remedy of the citizen is not unjustifiably withdrawn.

Mr A. A. Odurinde (Oshogbo North): I agree with Chief Rosiji on his comments as regards this Bill.

In the first place, I welcome it because it is a very progressive Bill. Anything that guarantees freedom of the individual must be very welcome. But the object of the Bill would be defeated if, as in the case mentioned by the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), somebody is detained and, because he wants freedom, he goes before a Court and his application is refused; then he wants to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court and finds it is not sitting; and he does not know whether the application can be taken in time. Then the whole object of this Bill will have been defeated.

The object is to get the man out as quickly as possible. For that reason, I was going to suggest that a man should be left with two alternatives. I do not believe that his having to go from one Court to another makes nonsense of the law. I do not think that at all. For example, a man may be in Kano. He goes before the High Court, Kano, and the application is refused. He has to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court under this Bill, if it is passed into law. It may be easier for him, or for anybody, to go straight to Kano and file another application before another High Court Judge. In fact it may be quicker and it would be less expensive. The man should have the right to his freedom as early as he can get it. If he is allowed to go before another High Court Judge, he may get out, because one cannot say that because one High Court Judge has refused his application, it follows that the

[MR ODURINDE]

other High Court Judge would do the same thing. After all, whether an application is refused or granted—as in this case—would depend on the opinion of that particular Judge as to the facts before him. We cannot say that once one Judge says that he is not satisfied with the weight of evidence before him, therefore another Judge will say the same thing.

I would urge the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to consider if he could make it the authority, that is for a man either to go straight from one Court to the other, or the authority to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (HABEAS CORPUS) BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC.), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(APPEAL FROM REFUSAL OF WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS).

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): I beg to move,—In line 15 of Clause 2, to delete “or the making of” and “as the case may be”.

The purpose of this Amendment is to remove the right of appeal from the grant of order, *Habeas Corpus*, by the Supreme Court. I think it will be readily admitted that it is not easy for the Crown to appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court in criminal cases and it is more difficult in cases of an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* that applies to the liberty of the individual. Even in ordinary criminal cases, the Crown does not possess the easy right of appeal as the ordinary individual possesses. The Crown can only appeal on special grounds, particularly on matters of law. This happens in an ordinary criminal matter let alone in matters of fundamental importance as the writ of *habeas corpus*.

As the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) has said, the liberty of the individual should be supreme within the law. If the High Court has made an order absolute that an individual has been unlawfully kept in custody and should be released, I think it is too much for the Crown to say that that is an unlawful order and is therefore going further.

At that stage the Crown ought to have defended the case to the utmost of its power and having failed to satisfy the High Court that the individual was lawfully restrained that should be the end of the matter. I think it borders on persecution for the Crown to say that it is going further to ensure that the release granted by the High Court is not granted.

It is different if an individual is pursuing the matter further. Where he fails to secure the order from one court he has the right to appeal further. But it should not be all that easy for the Crown to pester the life of somebody who was discharged from an unlawful custody, and having lost its appeal in the Federal Supreme Court, to threaten to go to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. This is a point of fundamental principle. The liberty of the individual should be jealously guarded. Once the issue has been contested by the Crown at the High Court level and the Crown has lost its case that should be the end of the matter as far as the Crown is concerned. It should only be opened to the individual to fight his case to the last limit.

It is to that effect that we are asking the hon. Minister to accept the Amendment that appeals can only lie in case the High Court refused to grant the order absolute or *nisi*.

The Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I think the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) overlooked the fact that more than eighty per cent of the cases of writs of *habeas corpus* are usually civil cases: false imprisonment and unjustifiable restriction of the rights of private individuals. And most of these things are always fought and decided in favour of the individuals whose rights are restricted. So, if an individual has been unlawfully released it should be opened to the High Court or to the other side, not necessarily to the Police at all, to do something.

Writs of *habeas corpus* are not usually criminal so that it is not a question of the Crown being involved and wanting to persecute.

This Bill must provide for both the grant and refusal to cover these other cases. That is why we are making the Amendment. Wherever the Crown uses its power in the way suggested by the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) it will be up to the court to see to it and the procedure of an appeal would, I think, control the situation.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu : With due respect to the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, I would say that in the process of the granting of the writ the other side would be given an opportunity to say why the individual is to be imprisoned. For instance, if Mr 'A' imprisons Mr 'B' he will say why Mr 'B' is being imprisoned. And if he has exhausted all his reasons, I think it should not be open to him again to pursue the matter from the High Court to the Federal Supreme Court to see that the liberty of that individual should still be restricted.

Question put and negatived, that the words there be deleted be deleted.

Clause 2—(APPEAL FROM REFUSAL OR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 23—(PROCEDURE ON APPEAL), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1961-62)

BILL

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

HEAD 47—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That £4,000, for Head 47—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : My view about sub-head 81—Nigerian Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association subvention—is that we have many of these ex-servicemen in this country and it will be a good thing if this Federal Government makes very good provision for them. In the Estimates, we see that the provision is only £4,000. I think that amount is very inadequate if one remembers that these people gave up their youthful days to serve the country and most of them have been disabled and are no longer useful to the nation excepting to themselves. So, I feel that the State should in fact care in full for these disabled ex-servicemen instead of giving them just £4,000 in the Supplementary Estimates.

A lot of these disabled ex-servicemen continue to complain and everywhere one goes in Lagos and elsewhere in the country one sees these men going about uncared for. I

therefore, implore the Minister concerned to see that these ex-servicemen are well cared for so that these complaints would be minimised.

I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : If a little consideration is given to the word ex-serviceman, it will be found that it means quite a lot.

I remember during Second World War how this country and indeed the whole world was full of confusion and trouble. People were asked to join the army ; some refused to do so, some ran away but some people volunteered and joined the army. When they returned most of them were disabled and as a consequence could not provide for their needs. For this reason, this Government should think seriously of giving the ex-servicemen of this country sufficient money to enable them to live well and be happy. If any of them has children, Government should take up the training of these children even up to the secondary-school level. I should like to say that if ex-servicemen are properly looked after, if there is war in future, many people will be ready to join, seeing what has been done to the ex-servicemen of this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr P. U. Eleke (Okigwi South East) : Under this Head, Mr Chairman, for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, I have a few remarks to make. The first one is to congratulate the Minister of Internal Affairs because he has been doing all he can to push ahead the Nigerianisation policy of this Ministry. All the Departments under this Minister, especially the Prison Department, are being strictly Nigerianised, and that is a credit to the Minister.

There is no need to have expatriates in any post anywhere in this country when we have our people, men and women, who do equally well or even better than most of these expatriates (*Interruption*).

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : What will happen with the little time we have if hon. Members continue to disturb the debate by talking while an hon. Member is on the Floor.

Mr Eleke : The next remarks I wish to make is on the treatment of offenders. In most of our prisons first offenders are put in

[MR ELEKE]
the same room as habitual criminals. I think this is wrong in view of the fact that habitual criminals always corrupt young offenders. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : There is so much noise made by the Front Benchers on Both Sides of the House that I cannot hear what Members are saying. Will they please maintain silence.

Mr Eleke : Finally, I congratulate the Federal Government for establishing the Niger Pools Company which I think everyone of us should patronise. There has been a lot of angry words against indigenous enterprises for what is described as a monopoly concession granted by the Federal Government to indigenous pools agencies. I think the Federal Government should examine the situation and see that indigenous pools promoters are protected.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

£4,000 for Head 47—Ministry of Internal Affairs—agreed to.

HEAD 50.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question proposed, That £32,560 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to say that both sides of this House and even the Council of Ministers will agree that the present office accommodation of the Ministry of Labour is a disgrace. It is the worst Ministry as far as accommodation is concerned. Speaking as an ex-serviceman, I remember that in those days we were using this place which is now the Ministry of Labour, including the office of the Minister, as Mess Room. I have been saying this in this House and I shall continue to say it until this Government sees it fit to make available a better office accommodation for the Ministry of Labour.

I was informed some time ago that another accommodation was to be provided somewhere along Apapa Road for the Ministry, but it was thought that the place was too small to accommodate the whole Ministry. I would like to say that another accommodation should be

provided for the Ministry of Labour. Most frequently, delegates and international visitors go to this Ministry for visits or conferences, and you will agree with me that it is very shameful to welcome these gentlemen into this so-called the Ministry of Labour which looks like Army barracks.

On sub-head 108 there is provision for Trade Union Education. I have said several times on the Floor of this House that one of the causes of labour troubles in this country is the lack of trade union education. I think it is left to the Minister to send two, three, four or even ten people to spend leisure days in Ibadan University and have some lectures. I am calling on this Government to make funds available to the Ministry of Labour for this purpose. The Regional Governments should also be called upon to contribute towards the cost of this scheme. Officials of the Labour Department with knowledge of industrial relations, with knowledge of trade union movement should be made from time to time to arrange week-end schools.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : As I was saying in the morning, I would love to see the Federal Government and the Regional Governments contributing some amount of money to further Trade Union education in this country: the Federal Government contributing the bigger share and the Regional Governments sharing the rest between themselves. Most of the Trade Union leaders in this country are not educated enough to lead the workers of this country, and that is the cause of many labour upheavals in this country. Some believe that a person is the best Trade Union leader when he can threaten the Management, declare a trade dispute and call the men out on strike. This is altogether untrue. A good trade union will resort to strike action when all available means for negotiations have failed. Most of them do not know this. I am urging the Minister to consult with his counterparts in the Regions to do something towards this end.

I would like to touch a little bit on bribery and corruption in this country. Without meaning to hurt anybody may I say that

bribery and corruption are very rampant in high places. I am sure there is a section in this country to-day called the Labour Exchange in the Ministry of Labour. As I said in January this year, either this section is made to function well or that it be scrapped.

In the United Kingdom and other places, all employment matters are directed to the Employment Exchange in the Ministry of Labour. Sometimes one sees in the Report that so many people were registered and that so many people were on the waiting list. Employers of labour in this country should be made to give respect and co-operation to the Labour Department or the Ministry of Labour on this matter of employment.

A youngman may leave school to-day, even though he may have the G.C.E. at Advanced Level, he will find it very difficult to get a job unless he can go through the back door. The Minister should see to it that all employment passes through the Employment Exchange in order that bribery and corruption may be brought to the barest minimum in all offices in this country, none exempted.

At present, the employers of labour in this country want to get rich overnight. They just ask the boys looking for employment to pay exorbitant amounts before they can be employed, with the result that these boys cannot afford to pay and they will not be employed. I wish the Minister would bring a Bill into this Parliament whereby nobody should employ a clerk, a labourer or even any category of labour without passing through the Labour Exchange. We really must do something, we must be on the move.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin East) : The hon. Member is not being audible enough and Members on his side have walked out in protest against not hearing what he is saying.

Mr Ekanem : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sure my hon. Friend is very much touched.

(*Mr Ekanem moved from his seat to another place.*)

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule) : The hon. Member is not speaking from his place.

Mr Ekanem : They are trying to disturb me. I am not disturbed at all. Those who

are trying to disturb me know that I am speaking the truth. Though truth is bitter, yet it will prevail. The Minister of Mines and Power himself should realise that his Ministry is involved in this bribery and corruption and I have cases to prove. I am praying that the Minister of Labour should introduce a Bill to this House in order that this racket may be stopped.

I am saying this because I deal with Members of the public more often than any Minister; I deal more often with them about their welfare and about employment. The problem of unemployment in this country is not difficult for the reason that we do not have qualified people, it is because they have no money to give to the agents of the employers and if this subject of employment is not strictly passed to the Labour Exchange, this racket will still go on. If the Labour Exchange cannot be made to work as it ought to be by this Government, then it is better to scrap this office.

I have to seize this opportunity once again to thank the hon. Minister of Labour for his very keen interest as far as is humanly possible for the welfare of the workers. I have to say that the Government should keep on trying to settle the quarrel between the two factions of our trade union movement. They should try to reconcile the unions in the labour front and they should not forget the old adage, "If at first you do not succeed, try, try, try again". It does not speak well of our country for one faction to attend the International Labour Conference in Geneva and another faction goes elsewhere, thereby presenting us to the outside world as a disunited people.

An hon. Member : Which faction does the hon. Gentleman belong to ?

Mr Ekanem : I was not directing my remarks to the interjector. I have just addressed a conference and I told them that the Government was trying to do its best, but that we have got to co-operate with the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of Order, I think the House will be interested to know which faction Mr Ekanem belongs to.

The Chairman : That is not a point of order.

Mr Ekanem : Although I realise that it is not a point of order, Sir, but I would like to

[MR EKANEM]
answer him in the language he will understand. I belong to no faction. I belong to the faction that will interpret the correct policy of the labour movement; that will carry out the policies of the Government as far as labour is concerned. The indigenous employers in this country do not know about labour relations. So when this office is set up, as many indigenous employers of labour as possible, as well as employees, should be made to attend this course.

I once again call on the Government to hasten action on the accommodation of the Minister of Labour, the friend of the workers.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : I remember I moved a Motion on the Floor of this House sometime ago asking the Government to establish a Sports Commission. I am really very happy that the Government has listened to the yearnings of the people and established the Sports Commission. That is an attempt to improve sporting activities in this country.

The Olympic Games will soon be held and the sum of about £2,000 is required to be given as subvention to the Nigerian organisation. It will be very good if Nigerian sportsmen will begin now to practise against the forthcoming Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games. At the last Olympic Games we fared very badly and won no medals. Now that Nigeria has attained independence, I think the performance of our team ought to justify the amount of money which we are voting in order to support sporting activities. I appeal to our athletes to begin now to practise so that at the next Olympic Games they will return with flying colours and raise the name of Nigeria in the world of sport.

In connection with the trade union movement in Nigeria, the Government ought to be congratulated for the efforts being made to get the workers educated. If the majority of the workers in this country are educated to know the principles of trade union movement and the principles that guide human understanding, I believe that the present rift in the rank and file of the trade union movement in this country will cease. But the trouble is that some of those people are half educated and some are intoxicated with the scramble for leadership and have made the Nigerian labour front a laughing stock.

It is something really lamentable, because this House has on many occasions appealed to our labour leaders to come together and stop their quarrel. But unfortunately they seem to be unreceptive to the many patriotic appeals which responsible citizens of this country have been making to them. I think this is the time to tell them, without mincing words, that we are tired of their squabbles. The Government cannot be giving away large sums of money to improve the labour movement and we are paid back in unending quarrels which are costing us a great deal in reputation both inside and outside this country.

The idea of improving trade union education is therefore very commendable and I hope that this sum of money which Parliament is voting will be used to train our trade union leaders to be more mature in thought and to case away their selfishness and inordinate ambition for leadership so that the trade union movement will attain a plethora of happiness.

Coming to the International Labour Organisation, it was very surprising to me to see that the Federal Government recognised one particular faction of the trade union movement. The Minister has already explained to us why that particular faction was recognised but I think it would have been much better—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of information, it would be wrong to say that the Government recognised one faction. That is not so to my knowledge.

Mr Ogbalu : If the Government had not done that, it would have been easier for the labour front to iron out their differences and they would be able to appreciate that after all the Federal Government is the father of all. Anyway, I am not trying to blame our most efficient Government which is in fact very dear to our hearts, but I am appealing to the Government to make further effort. As one hon. Member has said the Minister has failed but let him try, try, and try again. I believe that the effort which is now being made by the Committee set up by the *All Nigeria Peoples' Conference* which has just been formed will yield fruit, and that the two factions will listen to the Committee, submit themselves to it and let us hear no more about rifts in the trade union movement.

A subvention of £2,400 has been allocated for the Boy Scouts Association of Nigeria. I personally welcome the idea of improving scouting activities in this country. Our young boys must be made to feel that theirs is an independent country. I commend the activities of the Nigerian Boy Scouts Association. I do not know whether this subvention includes provision for Girl Guides who also ought to be encouraged. If not, I feel that some form of assistance ought to be given to them also as counterparts of the Boy Scouts.

Once more, I congratulate our Government for the efforts they are making to improve the labour movement in this country. I appeal to the Government to see that the most efficient workers are employed. That will save us a lot of the manpower lost as a result of trade disputes and internal squabbles. I am very happy that we have had no strikes lately, either go-slow or sit-down. This shows the efficiency of the Federal Government because if the Ministry had not been efficient we could have had more labour upheavals as in some other parts of the world.

The labour leaders do not deserve any particular praise because they have been causing confusion all the time. The ordinary worker does not understand the squabbles between the factions but he is compelled to join forces with one faction or the other because of local influences. I believe that if only our Ministry will put in more effort, greater efficiency will result in our Departments.

I would like to speak on the employment of our young boys and girls. It is a well known fact that to-day we have thousands of boys and girls roaming about our streets without employment and some of them have fallen easy prey to unscrupulous people who either misuse them or kidnap them, on the pretext of giving them employment, in order to make money.

With the co-operation of the Police the Ministry has been doing very well in getting these avaricious individuals who are never satisfied with the money they already have and who want to become rich at the expense of other people. I do not think it is out of the question to ask the Government to re-examine the reintroducing the Civil Service examinations in order to be able to get the best brains into

the Nigerian civil service. In fact, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed yesterday by an hon. Member that we should not allow our civil service to degenerate. We must maintain the standard on which the British administrators left us before our attainment of independence. There should be a kind of civil service examination and a better labour exchange system whereby our boys will be consulted to find out the vocations for which they are best suited; and their aptitudes.

Finally, I want to congratulate the entire Ministry of Labour for all they have so far achieved.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede Ejigbo) : I have just one or two things to say on the Ministry of Labour. I do not oppose making a supplementary budget, but the first thing I want to point out is the problem of employment which some hon. Members have already touched.

I think it is high time the Government made arrangement to take a specific line of action to solve unemployment problems in this country. In the Federal capital of Lagos and in the capitals of all the Regions we find many of our boys and girls roaming about looking for work. We have been talking of the Economic Missions which Ministers and Members of Parliament have undertaken.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) : On a point of information, the hon. Member for Ede Ejigbo is not audible enough.

The Chairman : Will the hon. Member for Ede Ejigbo please speak louder so that he can be heard.

Chief Ogunleye : When oversea investors start to set up businesses here, as a result of the Economic Mission which our Ministers and Members of Parliament have undertaken, the unemployment problem will be a bit settled. Meanwhile, I want to urge the Government to try as much as possible to help solve these unemployment problems.

Another point I want to make here is about wage increase. The West Regional Government has set an example which should be followed by the Federal Government. In the West the minimum wage for labourers is five shillings.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : In the Supplementary Estimates, there is nothing about a minimum wage which the hon. Member for Ede Ejigbo is talking about, much less that of a Regional Government.

The Chairman : Will the hon. Member for Ede Ejigbo please confine his speech to items indicated in the Supplementary Estimates.

Chief Ogunleye : If a labourer in a Region earns at least five shillings, there is no reason why the Federal Government cannot exceed this mark by making at least 7s-6d the minimum wage in Lagos which is the capital of Nigeria. I feel that the Government should be made aware that prices of commodities are rising rapidly and consumers are suffering all over the country. With very low wages for our labourers and workers life will be very difficult for them. So, I want the Minister of Labour to try as much as possible to consult his Colleagues and have the wages of the labourers in Lagos increased.

Another point I want to bring up here is the establishment of Regional Labour Offices. Now we have a Labour Office in Lagos. It is high time the Minister of Labour started creating Regional Labour Offices in all the Regions. In the Western Region, for example, it will not be out of place if we have Regional Labour Offices in Oshogbo, Ogbomosho, Iwo and Benin ; in the Eastern Region, in big and important towns ; and in the Northern Region, in places like Kano, Kaduna, Zaria, and so on. There ought to be Regional Labour Offices where our boys and girls can get their labour cards in order to be employed.

I beg to support.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West) : In supporting this Motion I wish to call attention to the position of our labour movement. I am very happy that there is here subvention for the education of our labour leaders. But I think it is very embarrassing to all of us that whereas much efforts is being made by this Government to make the labour movement in this country stable and independent, labour leaders of the various fronts of the labour movement seem completely unrealistic in their approach to their own problems. I say they are unrealistic because they do not seem to realise that unless they are stable and united they cannot bargain successfully with employers.

I would appeal to Government to reconsider its views towards these warring factions. I feel very strongly that if none of the factions is given the blessing of the Government reconciliation of the warring factions would be easier. I think it is necessary that we should call the attention of the factions to this very important point that it is their duty to project, whether here in Nigeria or abroad, the foreign policy of Nigeria. Although it is not the intention of Government to dictate policy to labour movements as such, but I think Government should make it clear to them that they are expected to project the Government foreign policy abroad.

I think that it will be proper if Government refuses to give recognition to any of the factions unless they are able to abide by this simple principle. I think it is in the national interest that any agency in this country that is going to represent the country abroad should be willing to consider it a duty to project the national foreign policy abroad.

I feel that one of the very important factors dividing our labour movement is foreign interference. It is a plain fact that some of the fronts have been influenced by foreign organisations to which they have been affiliated to divide the labour organisation of this country.

We have adopted a foreign policy in which we will ally with none of the ideological power blocs of the world and I think our labour movement should follow the same policy. We want to see our labour movement attempt promoting the formation of a Labour Congress embracing the whole of Africa so that we may have here in Africa a strong and virile labour movement.

We are happy to see that the Government is supporting the International Labour Organisation. That is an international platform on which we can all speak on equal terms. We were all very happy that our able Minister of Labour went to the Organisation and performed very well. He saw to it that some very naughty people in this continent were driven out of it. It is indeed a good platform for our Labour Movement. Any other foreign body should be left aside for the time being. Let us promote our own here in Africa.

The next point I would like to deal with is the question of unemployment. All that we are doing is to see that all able men and women

have something to do because we are aware of the saying that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. That is why I think it is necessary that while we think of how to make all these things work very efficiently, we should also think of unemployment which is eating into our economic fabric.

I have a very simple suggestion to make. We all talk of unemployment in a very hypothetical way. If we are going to be realistic about it, we should begin with ourselves. I think it is possible for Government to make it a law that anybody in this country who is able to own a car should employ a driver. I believe if all the devil servants, merchants and traders who own cars in this country employ drivers, we shall reduce the number of unemployed people. I feel that we should be realistic about our problems. If one is able to keep a car, he should be able to pay about £6 a month to a driver.

The other point I would like to mention is the question of our labour leaders going abroad on a sight-seeing or an educational tour. It will be a good thing if they do not confine their tours to Britain. In places like Israel, America, India and Russia, there are labour organisations that can be very educative. The more of these countries they see, the better they will be able to realise their duties to the workers.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I am happy to be called upon to speak at this time. I want to start with International Labour Organisation membership. I want to say that we are happy that at last, Nigeria has become a member of this world wide Organisation and I would take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Minister of Labour and his team for their fight in the last session of the I.L.O. whereby Nigeria successfully tabled a motion calling for the withdrawal of South Africa. I think the Minister and his Assistant, Mr Salubi, ought to be congratulated for their performances.

At the same time, it should be placed on record that the attitude of America and Britain on that particular occasion was most disappointing, in that, these two countries who are expected to give support to any measure that is calculated to eradicate racial antagonism refrained from voting. The attitude of America and Britain could be interpreted as an attempt to aid and abet racial antagonism

in the whole world. I was not surprised because even in Britain, some of our students study in a hostile atmosphere. Some of the Europeans who have not cured themselves from this colour prejudice refuse to see them. The same applies to America and the time has come when we should tell these countries our mind. They are our friends, we have agreed to move along with them but we should not hesitate to point out to them where we disagree with them.

I want to point out that it should be pressed home to Britain and America that we deprecate the attitude of their delegates during the voting.

There is the other question of trade union education. On this point, I want to say that the Government has not done enough to encourage workers here. In the past, we had trade union evening schools and seminars and in fact, at one time, scholarships were awarded to trade unionists to study in Ruskin College, Oxford, but after sometime, the Government said that Ruskin College was communist dominated. They withdrew from Ruskin College and since then, Government refrained from giving scholarships to unionists.

In the Estimate, we have under the trade union education, £3,000. It is stated as additional provision required to supplement scholarships and fellowship awards to Nigerian trade unionists by external agencies. Government cannot claim originality for these scholarships. They only try to supplement. This is not a credit to this Government and the same Government that has refused to allow unionists to go abroad to study would refuse them permission to go outside if they are offered scholarships by anybody. If Government is not prepared to encourage workers and their leaders to go abroad and study, I cannot see any moral justification on the part of Government for preventing them from going outside Nigeria to study wherever it may be. My appeal, therefore, is that Government should try to encourage trade unionists by way of scholarship awards and if possible encourage them to build a Labour College in this country.

Other African Governments are thinking of this task, and I think it would be a good thing if the worker were made to know much about his surroundings—the economy of the country; how much he can earn; how much we can afford to pay; how to raise money; how to give

[MR MBAH]

and take ; how to negotiate with the employer ; how to be reasonable and how to be unreasonable with Government. How can they know all these things if we refuse to give them education ?

This failure on the part of the Government has given room to many unionists to try to obtain opportunities from elsewhere for furthering their education, regardless of the consequences. I believe that the Government can arrest this trend if there is a bold attempt on their part to encourage trade union education.

I want to take this opportunity also to pay tribute to the Government for the excellent arrangement they made for the African Regional Conference of the I.L.O. Members may be interested to know that the first African Regional Conference of the I.L.O. was held in this very hall and that our able Minister of Labour was unanimously elected Chairman of that Conference. He performed his duties as Chairman with credit and, in the course of the Conference, various delegates paid tribute to Nigeria. I was happy to note also that they had no cause to complain. This is the sort of thing we expect from the Government.

The other point is about the Labour Department itself. An hon. Member on the Opposition side said that the Minister of Labour occupies the worst office accommodation in the whole of the Federation. This is a disgrace to the Government. His office is no better than a workshop, and I think that this does not give credit to this country, particularly if a visitor from abroad chances to go there and see the Minister of Labour in such surroundings. Even the staff of the Ministry of Labour are complaining. There are no promotion prospects for them. I must appeal to the Minister of Labour that while trying to save others he should also try to save himself.

Reference was made to the Labour Exchange, and one hon. Member was advocating for regional offices. I do not know what he meant by that, but I want to sound a note of warning before it is too late. I have heard from a reliable source that the Government of the Western Region is trying to break up the existing arrangement by forming a different labour policy outside the policy throughout the Federation. The Federal Minister of Labour must be very careful in this regard.

There is also a point I wish to make about library and publications. I want to suggest to the Minister of Labour and to the Attorney-General to make sure that all labour legislations, the Factory Ordinances and all such ordinance pertaining to labour questions should be brought to the notice of the trade unions. If possible copies should be distributed free to them. I say this because most of the trade unions do not possess copies of such ordinances, and there are occasions when employers of labour insist on quoting from ordinances which have been amended or else have become obsolete. The amazing thing is that in spite of the necessity of keeping abreast with labour legislation, it is often found that copies of these laws are never available. If one goes to the Government Printers to purchase them one is often told that they are out of stock. The result is that the trade unions are, for the most part, uninformed about the laws which govern their activities.

On the question of the Ministry's Library, may I say that some time ago I went into that library to try and find a book. After about two hours' search and efforts to get the staff of the Ministry to assist me, I still did not find this book ; nor did the staff know how to get this book. It is really a shame that the Department of Labour is not properly equipped with books on the various aspects of labour problems and the labour movement. I think that there is nothing more important than seeing that the Ministry is equipped with books from various countries and representing various schools of thought so that one may be able to draw from all these sources in making comparisons.

On the Labour Exchange, my friend on the other side also spoke. Already we are faced with problems of unemployment and there is no doubt that unemployment can become a big problem to the Government. One may feel that we can afford to tell secondary school or primary school leavers that there is no job for them. But seeing the implications of the Ashby Report which we have already accepted, it seems impossible that we can afford to say to the graduates who will be produced under this scheme simply that there is no job for them. I hope that we are not going to turn this country into one in which graduates are turned out only to become labourers.

The only way to solve this problem is to revive the old Labour Exchange in order to avoid corruption. Corruption is too rampant in this country. I am glad to find the new experiment being tried in Onitsha on the Niger Bridge project. Employment is carried out there through the Labour Exchange and workers have to register for employment and nobody takes money from them. If the Minister of Labour can do more of this he will have our co-operation.

I would not like to take up more time, for I realise that other Members are anxious to speak. May I end by asking the Government to take my suggestions in good faith. Above all, I wish to ask for their encouragement for both the employers and workers, for after all there is dignity in Labour.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I wish to thank hon. Members who have been outspoken in the debate. I notice that in one breadth they spoke in praise of my Ministry and in another they made suggestions for improvement.

As I have always told the House, the Ministry of Labour has not achieved its ultimate aim; we have never made any claim to perfection. Having said that I will now proceed to answer the points raised.

Let me start with a point which was very much stressed by Members; I will deal with it briefly. One hon. Member spoke of the absence of Labour Offices in certain towns. Presumably he was referring to towns in the Western Region. I would like to inform the hon. Member that there are Labour Offices in Abeokuta, Ibadan, Akure, Benin City, Sapele and Warri. The same thing applies to the Eastern Region. For the sake of interest I would like to mention here that there are in the Eastern Region Labour Offices at Enugu, Aba, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Onitsha and Abakaliki.

Turning to the Northern Region, we have Labour Offices at Kaduna, Zaria, Jos, Ilorin and one is being proposed for Bauchi.

Let me now deal with trade union education about which much has been said in this debate, and for which there is in the Supplementary Estimates a subvention of £3,000. In 1950, several trade union officials were awarded

scholarships for further training outside Nigeria. The aim was clearly to afford them the opportunity to broaden their outlook and to improve their knowledge of trade unionism. Facilities available to-day include courses and lectures organised by leading trade unionists. Facilities available include lectures organised by the British Trade Union Congress, Ruskin College, Oxford which was mentioned by one hon. Member. We have not closed the door to those places—visits to the Ministry of Labour and National Services, Trade Union Offices and various Industrial Establishments where our people can observe meetings between the employers' and workers' representatives.

There are many places outside Nigeria where scholarships have been awarded for our trade union officials. We receive these awards of scholarship fairly often and what this money is meant for is to allow trade union officials to take advantage of these scholarships. Whenever these scholarships are offered, they are offered with very thin strings: that is that the recipient has to pay his passage to and fro. So this money will be used by the Government to send our trade union officials overseas to broaden their outlook and to improve their knowledge of official education on labour matters.

Another point which hon. Members have made is in connection with the Youth Employment Exchange. According to our law—(and I know that Members who are knowledgeable on trade union matters know this), it is not compulsory for anybody to register with the Exchange. The present law makes it optional; that is, anyone who likes may report at the local Labour Exchange for recruitment.

This matter is now before my Regional Colleagues and within the next month or two we shall be seriously considering the question of making use of the Labour Exchanges more generally. This Government is not satisfied with the use both Government and Mercantile Departments are making of Labour Exchanges. We are not going to fight this issue alone in the Federal Capital: Members know that the policy of the Ministry of Labour is to encourage discussion with my Colleagues in the Regions before anything is embarked upon that will tend to promote labour interest in Nigeria. This is an item on the Agenda that we are going to discuss soon.

[MINISTER OF LABOUR]

I must say, however, in fairness to my Regional Colleagues, that they too are not satisfied with the very scanty use being made of the Labour Exchange. Offenders in this instance are both the Government and Mercantile employers of labour. They are really to blame and I am sure that if they will make more use of these Exchanges, there will be less risk of bribery and corruption in the employment of workers.

That is not the only point. We are also embarking on a scheme by which we shall have an accurate statistics of the number of unemployed people in Nigeria. It is difficult at the moment to know this figure. But if the Exchanges are made use of as much as possible, we shall be able to come here and answer your questions more accurately. Now that the suggestion has come from this hon. House, I think we will have the blessings of hon. Members if it is decided in the end that a law should be piloted by me towards the attainment of that objective. (*Several hon. Members : We will ; we will.*)

As regards the question of accommodation for the Ministry, I would like to thank hon. Members very much. However, I have to tell them that I have not heard any complaint or grumbling from the members of my staff about accommodation. I think, however, that they have the right to complain to Members of this hon. House. Somebody mentioned that it was an old military house. That is true, for I served as a soldier in the building myself, and probably the reason why I am not feeling the need for a change now is that it helps me to revive old memories of my army days !

I would like to inform this House that I, as well as my Colleagues in the Council of Ministers, am very anxious to see that better accommodation is provided for all the Ministers who are now occupying temporary buildings all over the Federation. As hon. Members are aware, a new 26-storey building is now going up—I do not know what my hon. Friend the Minister of Lagos Affairs will weigh—and a flat has already been earmarked for the Ministry of Labour.

An hon. Member : That is promotion for you !

The Minister of Labour : Yes, but personally I do not want to jump over the head of my very good friends, the labourers of this country, and that is why my ambition is really not high.

£32,560 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour—agreed to.

HEAD 53.—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Question proposed, That £61,250 for Head 53—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : in congratulating the Minister on nationalising the Nigerian Shipping Lines, I have to remind him that a lot remains to be done in the Ministry. At the moment, there is nothing like the Nigerian Air Force. When we remember that this is the age of rockets, sputniks, and supersonics, we will appreciate that the absence of a Nigerian Air Force does no credit to this country.

We know the great importance of Nigeria, not only among the West African States but in the whole of the continent. Having regard to this importance, something should be done in the nature of providing the country with a well equipped Air Force, manned also by Nigerians. In doing this, there must be a vigorous campaign to enlist the interest of Nigerian graduates who will, in due course, be coming out from the universities.

Some of us who have been privileged to visit the United Kingdom know the great use that is made of graduates in the Royal Air Force, and we know the important part that the Royal Air Force plays both in the civil and military life of that country.

A question was put to the Minister of Defence sometime ago about what steps he was taking to provide Nigeria with a well-equipped Air Force and he said that he went to Ethiopia and India to study the workings of the Air Force in those countries. We all know that Ethiopia and India are not the best countries to visit in order to learn how to provide Nigeria with an up-to-date Air Force. We should go to places like Britain—we know the strength of its Air Force—Russia and the United States of America, if we want to get something tangible for Nigeria.

Finally, the Minister, when speaking about vehicles, specifically referred to *Pontiacs*. We all know that the condition of our waterways is deplorable.

At Onitsha, for example, one has to queue for many hours before one can get one's car across the River Niger. Apart from that, the waterboats themselves sometimes disappoint many people who want to cross from Asaba to Onitsha. Sometimes, vehicles get involved in accidents, and if the Minister's *Pontiac* happens to be involved in an accident with one of these waterboats, there is no doubt that he will never be able to cross to the other side.

L. Alhaji Daura (Maska) : I rise to move to reduce the expenditure under this head.

Whilst I appreciate the efforts of the Minister of Transport and Aviation, I would like to take this opportunity to present before the Minister two or three petitions.

The first of these petitions is to ask the Minister to provide gates on the railway lines between Funtua and Gusau. There is in this place only a stretch of about 150 yards, and yet there are no less than four crossings. The first one is the one which constitutes a great danger, as Funtua is a rapidly-developing commercial centre. This is an important question, as at this place accidents are very common, claiming lives and property, and I appeal to the hon. Minister to see to it that gates are provided so as to guard the public safety.

The second petition is to ask the Federal Government to abolish the railway motors operating in Funtua, Gusau, Zaria and Nguru. These branches of the railway motors are not operating in the best interests of the local people. These originated a long time ago when there was very little privately-owned transport. Now there are many transport-owners in these places and the use of these railway motors by the Federal Government seems to hamper the development of privately-owned transport.

I know it is the declared policy of the Federal Government to encourage local traders, businessmen and transporters. Well, here is a good opportunity for the Federal Government to demonstrate its policy by abolishing the

Nigerian Railway motors so as to give room for private transport owners who are now forming themselves into combines. If, however, the Federal Government thinks that the goods to be transported in this area are so much as to necessitate the use of these railway motors, then I strongly advise the Government to extend the railway lines from these points which are already railway heads, to the areas from where these goods come as is the case with the Bornu Railway Extension.

Another petition, Mr Chairman, is to ask the Minister to include Katsina in the daily flights of the Nigerian Airways, there is already an airport in Katsina, but it appears that the Federal Government has wasted money by constructing an aerodrome and yet it does not put it to use.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : On a point of information. Several hon. Members of the Opposition have spoken, while those on this side have not had a chance to speak.

The Chairman : Order ! Order ! Those who have so far spoken are Mr Muojeke, Alhaji Daura and now Mr Olaore. Mr Muojeke has given a Notice of Amendment. I had to call him first, and so did Alhaji Daura on the other side. Well, I thought I would give the opportunity to the other side, the Opposition side, so that speakers will be widely distributed.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) : Speaking on this head—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—I see provision here for Victoria Beach: anti erosion measures.

Some time ago on the Floor of this House I drew the attention of the Minister of Transport to the fact that Victoria Beach was being washed away by the terrible onslaught of the sea. He told me that arrangements had been made to have a proper plant which would remedy this situation, and as a matter of fact this was done. Sand was pumped to the beaches but it was washed away again. The last time I was at the place I saw that some pegs had been put there to prevent the sea encroaching further, but that was a waste of time, because it seem to me that the sea will wash away those pegs also. In fact, most of the fisherman inhabiting the villages around the beach have already been driven away by the flood.

[MR OLAORE]

What I would suggest to the Minister of Transport is this: There are countries where similar problems have been encountered, and these problems have been adequately solved. One of these countries is Holland. I feel that we should invite the water experts from that country to visit Victoria Beach and try to solve this problem for us, because I do not think that the pumping plant is going to be effective as all the sand that has been pumped can be washed away again by the sea in one day.

We should solve this problem once for all, so that Victoria Beach can be fit for holiday makers. Undoubtedly it is a very popular holiday resort, and the people will be very grateful to the Federal Government for this.

Now I would like to say something about the Railway Corporation. It is just a simple advice to the Minister of Transport and Aviation. I see that in the past some people have been invited from outside to advise the Government on the Railway. I do not think we need to go outside Nigeria to find out what is wrong with the Corporation. The Minister agreed with me that at one time, at least during the war years, there was an economic boom for the railway—everybody was using the railway at that time, and most of the produce from the North and South were carried by rail. Most of the produce from the North was being carried by these rail trucks, but as soon as the railway faced competition from the roads it started to decline.

What I would suggest is that, since we are having this road competition, it will be necessary, during the groundnut season, that some part of the huge tonnage of groundnuts in the pyramids in the North be reserved for railway transportation. I think, if that is done the railway will be able to pay some of its huge debts it is now owing. I feel that the Bornu railway extension will not be adversely affected by this road competition. Efforts should be made to see that this gigantic enterprise pays its way, otherwise the £20 million loan used to finance it will not be worthwhile.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): The hon. Member who is speaking is supposed to be supporting the Amendment under sub-head 132. I think he is speaking out of order.

The Chairman: Yes, thank you very much. I think the hon. Member should speak to the point.

Mr Olaore: Well, I have said something already about the railway and also about the Victoria Beach. I hope the Government will take my advice and do something about it.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West): I rise to support the allocation of £61,250 as supplementary estimate under this Head, but I have a few words of advice to give to the Minister of Transport and Aviation.

The first is that there are gigantic economic projects for this country which could not be insulated from the transport and aviation system of this country. To strike a sound economic balance, the gigantic economic programmes must in fact be supported by an efficient transport system. That is to say, there would be an economic lapse if the transport system in the country is inadequate to meet the demand that would be made on it by such economic programmes.

In this respect, I would suggest that emphasis should be placed not only on the projected railway extension, but also on road transport. I think hon. Members will agree with me that road transport in this country is very very poor indeed. The Minister could do a lot to improve upon it.

It would not be unreasonable if the Minister were to contemplate taking over internal mail service in the country. The internal mail service in the country at the moment is in the hands of an expatriate company, and nothing stops this Government from floating a public company, either alone or jointly with indigenous enterprisers, to take over this part of our economic activity.

I would like to say something also about the ports. There is so much emphasis on Lagos and Port Harcourt ports. This is as it should be. But it should be appreciated that from the trend of events in this country to-day there is a projected fourth Region in the Federation—the Mid-West Region—

The Chairman: Order, order. We are now discussing sub-head 132—Victoria Beach. I would like to remind hon. Members that they should confine their speeches to items of expenditure in the Draft Estimates in order to save the time of the House.

Mr Aghahowa: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I was, in fact, trying to develop my argument and extend it further than Victoria Beach.

I was saying that the Escravos Bar is bathed by the Atlantic ocean just in the same way as the Victoria Beach in Lagos, and that whatever plans we have in order to develop the Victoria Beach should also apply to the Escravos Bar. So I would suggest to the Minister to consider improving Gelegele port on the Escravos Bar.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Oyewole (Ibadan South West) : I wish to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport and Aviation to the way promotions are made in the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Mr Chairman : Will the Member for Ibadan South West (*Mr Oyewole*) please speak louder.

Mr Oyewole : I am saying that the manner in which promotions in the Nigerian Railway Corporation are made is very bad. Members of the staff of the Railway always complain that there is a lot of partiality in giving promotions to them. Junior people are always promoted in supersession of the more senior ones who have been working there for very many years. It is for this reason that I appeal to the Minister to see that promotions in the Nigerian Railway are made in a fair and impartial way.

Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North) : it is most encouraging to see that a supplementary provision for a sum of £50,000 has been made for the Victoria Beach anti-erosion measures. This is a digression from the usual superstitious method of killing rams in order to appease the angry waves ! This measure, we hope, will help to check this erosion.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : This Bar Beach erosion has been giving us a lot of worries. I wonder if the Chairman would accept a Motion calling for the removal of the Headquarters of Nigeria from Lagos to the Provinces ?

Mr Chairman : I would not.

Mr Odebunmi : While on this erosion, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Transport and Aviation to consider the advisability of doing something to stop the erosion which always occurs at the Western Avenue which, incidentally, is the place where it actually begins.

Furthermore, I mentioned something about a pool of water on Lafenwa-Abeokuta bridge. We have to find possible ways and means of getting rid of this water as well.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation should also do something about another place between Ikeja and Agege which is often so badly eroded that the traffic between Lagos and the provinces is completely paralysed.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (hon. R. A. Njoku) : I would like to reply very briefly to some of the points that have been made by the various Members who have spoken.

Before I do that, I would like to announce that if the Supplementary Appropriation Bill goes through the Senate tomorrow, I propose to hold a little ceremony which will mark the take-over by the Nigerian Government of the shares originally held by the Elder Dempsters. As from tomorrow, therefore, the Nigerian National Lines will be wholly Nigerian-owned, and then we can embark on a new scheme of expansion.

The hon. Member for Awka South (*Mr Muojeke*) was talking about Nigerian Air Force. I believe he now realises that this matter is the responsibility of my hon. Colleague the Minister of Defence and should not have been raised under this Head.

He also spoke about water and ferry crossing at Onitsha. The ferry service at Onitsha has been provided with one of the most up-to-date ferries in the country. It is unfortunate that from time to time when the level of water goes very low it is not very easy for that particular ferry to pass and, recently, there was some damage done to it, but steps were taken immediately to put things right.

I think we are doing our best as regards the ferry service between Asaba and Onitsha and, what is more, as Members know, Government wants, as soon as possible, to put an end to ferry services there and to move the ferries over to some other places, like Calabar. Government is embarking on the building of a modern bridge to link Asaba with Onitsha.

The hon. Member for Maska (*Alhaji Daura*) spoke about a railway level crossing in his constituency. I would like to remind him that we have a special Railway Level Crossings

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

Committee which considers all applications for the establishment of level crossings. In all cases where a railway line crosses a road, it is not in the best interest of the public to put a gate, and that is why all the factors of a particular area have to be considered very carefully before a decision is made. I would assure him that the particular instance which he has mentioned will be fully investigated.

He has also spoken about a motor transport service by the Railway. The Nigerian Railway Corporation has to provide its own motor transport at certain rail heads in order to facilitate movement of passengers, especially of goods, to these rail heads and I am quite sure that the Nigerian Railway Corporation will only be too pleased if it finds that these road transport or motor transport services can be given by the local people, because this aspect of the operation of the Corporation is not a very profitable one.

He also mentioned the question of the aerodrome at Katsina. Some of these aerodromes are not used regularly by the D.C. 3's which operate on schedule services, and that is because most of the traffic offerings are not sufficient to warrant regular services between Lagos or Port Harcourt or Kaduna or Enugu and these places. That is also why I have embarked on the policy of encouraging private operators with smaller aircraft, which can take three, four, five or six people, to fly to these aerodromes in order to help us generate more traffic for the bigger planes and, as soon as such traffic offers itself, then the bigger planes will fly to these aerodromes.

I now come to the important point that has been raised, and that is in relation to the Victoria Beach. The erosion at the Victoria Beach is a very great problem not only to the Island of Lagos, but also to the Port of Lagos. But it is a very technical matter. As Members who have given it study may know, there is a literal drift of sand from the South-West to the South-East. Now, this would cause sand banks at the harbour mouth, and in order to avoid these, it was necessary to build two moulds—which are the stone bridges you find there if you visit the Beach. These two moulds prevent the sand from closing upon the mouth of the ports so that ships can come in. But then they have the other effect of stopping the literal drift of sand from reaching

the Victoria Beach and Kuramo Beach. That is also why there is no natural replacement of the sand that has eroded away. What we have been trying to do is to supply this sand which is carried away.

As one Member has already mentioned, we have many years ago, invited experts from Holland. These experts have studied the problem; they visited the Victoria Beach and have constructed in Holland a model of Lagos Harbour as well as of the Victoria and Kuramo Beaches. It is as a result of their study by watching the action of the waves which they have artificially generated in this model. Two years ago I visited this model in Holland. They have been able to advise us as to the best method of fighting the erosion at the Victoria Beach. All the studies have shown that the only way to fight the erosion is to pump sand to the east of the East Mould so that the lateral drift will carry this sand along Victoria Beach and Kuramo Beach.

It was in an attempt to carry out this advice that we have erected a static pumping plant which hon. Members will see near the East Mould. Sand is pumped into this plant from barges and goes through a long pipe which discharges sand and water at the other end, that is to the east of the East Mould. I believe that some Members have seen this operation going on. This sand which is deposited is carried by the drift, that is the flow of the water along Victoria Beach and also along Kuramo Beach.

We have found that quite a large quantity of sand is required to replace the eroded area. We are told that about 750,000 cubic yards of sand are required per annum. Now we are asking for this extra provision in order to enable this quantity of sand to be pumped. As a matter of fact, I have decided that we should exceed this quantity which is regarded as the safety margin, and my determination is to see that one million cubic yards of sand should be pumped up to the Beach every year. That should be able to cover the wastage and to have a reserve.

I want to assure hon. Members that everything possible is being done. As a matter of fact, when I visit the United Kingdom I will visit a hydrological laboratory in order to see whether there can be any other way of fighting this erosion.

We have asked the experts from Holland also to study the question of constructing a shorter mould at intervals along Victoria Beach and Kuramo Beach, and to have this strengthened behind by a wall so that a promenade could be constructed so that people can walk along the Beach with greater comfort. As time goes on, I shall be studying the result of this experiment. I want to assure the House that I will do everything possible to make sure that this erosion which takes place annually in Victoria Beach is completely put under control.

The other point made about the Nigerian Railway Corporation, I think, is just beside the point.

Another hon. Gentleman mentioned the flood along a trunk road. This is not the responsibility of my Ministry. I think this should be mentioned to the Ministry of Works and Survey.

I feel that these are the points I should make on this particular Head of the Estimates.

Question put and agreed to.

£61,250 for Head 53—*Ministry of Transport and Aviation—agreed to.*

HEAD 59.—JUDICIAL

Question proposed, That £860 for Head 59—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North): Once again, I have to congratulate the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice on the excellent work he is trying to do in the administration of justice in Lagos.

Hitherto, our courts in Lagos have been working under very adverse conditions. The Deputy Sheriff used to be an officer of the Nigerian Police and he was in charge of the Bailiff. These Bailiffs serve the summons and the proceeding of the court. Experience have shown that in the past Bailiffs were either negligent or corrupt. Instances were not wanting where parties to an accident went to court; one party went with its witnesses; the case was listed; lawyer and witnesses came from all over the country and sometimes even from overseas; the case was called and it was found that an important witness was not in court, and of this the case could not go on. Why? Because he was not served with a subpoena which was properly issued some two or three months ago.

The bailiffs were very negligent and the courts could not do much about it because the Deputy Sheriff was not an officer of the court. He was not under the control of an officer of the court. But now that the Deputy Sheriff is an officer of the court, we hope that he will work actively as his other colleagues in the courts who are trying to see that law is well administered in this country.

Finally, we do hope that the Minister of Justice from time to time will look through our laws and bring progressive amendments like this to this House, which I am sure will enjoy the support not only of the Members of the Government Bench but also of Members of the Opposition.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £10. I am moving the reduction of this Head because the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has failed to listen to the complaints and petitions given to him by the Aba Branch of the Nigeria Bar Association during his last tour of the Eastern Region. The building of the Aba High Court is an old native—

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Point of Order. The building of courts in the Eastern Region is purely regional.

The Chairman: Order, order. The question is on Deputy Sheriff, that is all. Will the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) please come to the point.

Mr Okoronkwo: Coming back to the Lagos Courts, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Justice to take immediate steps to see that Sheriffs discharge their duties properly.

M. Inusa, Wakilin Masaka (Gaya North): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Judiciary. One finds that in courts in this country there are some lawyers who come to the courts to cause confusion. I think lawyers ought to be helpful to the Magistrates in reaching a just verdict.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North): Point of Order. It seems that the Member for Gaya North (*M. Inusa*) is talking about Sheriffs in the Northern Region and not Sheriffs in Lagos.

The Chairman : It was not clear to me whether he was talking of Judicial responsibilities in the Regions or in the Federal Territory. I am sorry it is very difficult yet for me to decide which way.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : The Sheriff of the television is better known than the Sheriff of the Supreme Court here !

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : We must congratulate the Minister of Justice on bringing about the appointment of a Deputy Sheriff who has to execute judgments and be in charge of service of all legal processes in Lagos.

At the same time, I must, with all the emphasis at my command, say that now that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice is in charge, the plight of Magistrates should be looked into. It is about time—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : There is only one item under this Head—that is, Deputy Sheriff. The discussion of Magistrates is, therefore, outside its scope. It is irrelevant.

The Chairman : Order, order. Mr Ajibola.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : This Head is under "Judiciary". It does not mean that we should talk about Sheriff only. Anything under "Judiciary" could be discussed. Therefore, Mr Ogunsanya is in order in discussing anything about Judiciary.

The Chairman : Order. The idea is that the various heads of expenditure can be fully debated if we are in the Budget Session. But as it is supplementary expenditure, we should consider only the provisions in the Estimates which, in this case, is the "Deputy Sheriff."

Mr Ogunsanya : This is noted, Mr Chairman. But I am happy at one thing, that at least Members of the Opposition have disagreed with themselves.

The Deputy Sheriff has to enforce orders made both by Judges and by Magistrates. That is why I said that the man who executes orders should be looked after (and that is what the Minister of Justice has done) and that the man who makes the order must not be allowed

to starve. That is the point I am making. I know that my learned Friend, the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is amphibious—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : The fact as to whether I am amphibious or not is not under this Head. The Minister of Justice wants £860 from this House in order to pay one Deputy Sheriff.

The Chairman : Everyone knows that the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is not amphibious.

Mr Ogunsanya : My hon. Friend, the Member for Degema is about 45 years old now and he lives almost all the time on water. That is why I say he is an amphibian.

£860 is quite ample for the Deputy Sheriff and I am sure my learned Friend, the Attorney-General, will remember the Magistrates.

£860 for Head 59—Judicial—agreed to.

HEAD 62—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

£1,700,000 for Head 62—Contributions to the Development Fund—agreed to.

Second Schedule agreed to.

HEAD 101—REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE CONTINGENCIES FUND

£22,175 for Head 40, sub-head 5—Increases in Disability Pensions—agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1-3 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES HEAD 601—LOANS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 601—Loans—be approved.

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

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : I think we would be prepared to give the Minister this £100,000, but I think slum is not properly cleared in Lagos. Still, there are too many

slums in this Capital city. If we want to make Lagos a worthwhile capital, I think the slum clearance must be more vigorously pursued. Isale-Eko is still very bad indeed. It is worse than any backward town I know in the provinces I hope the Minister of Lagos Affairs would have to expedite things and make Lagos a really first-class city.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES—LOANS

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred Thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

The Minister of Labour (hon. J. M. Johnson): By command of His Excellency the Governor-General, I move to insert the following new item:—

Sub-head 33 Item 04 National Provident Fund: interest free loan for purchase of office accommodation—£100,000.

In rising to move this Motion, I should like to invite the attention of hon. Members to part of the speech I made on the 7th of April, 1961, introducing the Bill for the National Provident Fund. On that occasion I stated that the exact date on which we could start the Fund depended on many factors, one of which was the acquisition of suitable building. I added also that the earliest date on which I could start was the 1st of October, 1961. Now we have been able to get the building site and this will make it possible for us to operate the Fund and to start on the date I stated when I was introducing the Bill. If the operation of the Fund is to commence on the 1st of October, it is imperative that we should acquire this property.

So, I beg to move that this House approves the loan of £100,000 to the National Provident Fund and that the Minister of Finance be authorised to sign the Development Fund Special Warrant for the loans.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): I have not much to say but to thank the Minister who moved this Motion asking for this loan. I am very happy that the Minister has done everything possible to see that this Provident Fund is started on the date he promised us in this

House. I must say again what I have said before that he should not only see that the Fund is operated but that it is properly managed.

We on the Opposition Bench in this House do ask that this loan be approved without any further discussion.

Question put and agreed to, That Sub-head 33 Item 04 National Provident Fund: interest free loan for purchase of office accommodation—£100,000 be inserted.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): Speaking on the specific item—Central Lagos Slum Clearance—the government of the Federation is to be congratulated for voting the extra £100,000. But we are entitled to know and observe how the money voted in the past and in the present is utilised.

There are a number of anomalies in the way the money is administered by the Board responsible, which is the Lagos Executive Development Board. I say with respect that it would have been otherwise if the members of the Board had been responsible but the machinery is so defective that certain officers of the L.E.D.B. are given unfettered powers to to pay out Public Funds the way they like and in very suspicious circumstances. There is no clear cut basis for assessing compensations. We shall not sit in this House and see that the money voted by the House is not properly administered by the prominent officials of the L.E.D.B. I know the hon. Minister will be quite willing to see things done properly.

The Estate Department of the L.E.D.B. is in the public eye an eyesore. Quite recently there have been instances of adverse comments in the Lagos High Court—and the L.E.D.B. is well aware of this fact—on the way Government money is being paid out by these officers. There was a very striking case of compensation assessed to be £10,000 which was overnight inflated to £21,000. I understand that in the L.E.D.B. right now some investigations are being carried out. The whole of this Estate Department has to be looked into. The present Head of that Department and his immediate fellow expatriate officers have a lot to look into.

There are a number of schemes in the Lagos Slum Clearance Scheme and the allocation of plots which are being done by the officials of

[MR OGUNSANYA]
the L.E.D.B. Well, the appropriate Committee of the Board takes over the administration and I say that is all right because there is sufficient scrutiny. I think we have a parallel in the United Kingdom. Under the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947, there are certain graded scales for the payment of compensations. It is stated that each area has a particular scale for the payment of compensation. But there is no system in the way the Central Lagos Slum Clearance compensations are paid.

Sometime ago it was possible for some of us to detect that a lot of monies have been paid out as *ex-gratia* payments without the persons to whom they were paid being identified. This led, of course, to one officer of the L.E.D.B. being sacked. But then there are a number of such cases. The Estate Department needs a lot of over-hauling. And we know one or two officers of that L.E.D.B. who have left the Department, remained somewhere in Lagos and it will not be out of place, especially when the persons I am referring to are non-Nigerians, to look into the circumstances of the wealth which they amassed within a short time.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred Thousand pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES—HEAD 603—
PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I want to pin down my speech to Sub-head 26, Items 18 and 20. The first item is about Frontier Posts; Eastern Nigeria Border. If there is anything that this Government should do that

will check either the exit or the influx of people who are not desired in this country or goods which ought not to have come into this country, but do come in through the back door, it should be done. I come from an area noted for smuggling, but due to certain circumstances I would not mind. Why do we live along the river? By nature we live where we can get what we want. Unfortunately the Minister of Transport and Aviation has not provided us with transport along the rivers in our area.

Recently I heard that my friend, Mr Foncha, or whoever it is in the Cameroons, has trespassed on Calabar land to build a frontier post. I understood that he liked the area. I now wish to ask the Government to go there and check this. It is ridiculous that those who refused to remain with us have travelled about 24 miles across the border into our land to build a frontier post. I will point out that if this is true, and if it is not checked early, law and order will break down in that area.

The Chairman : I am afraid the hon. Member for Enyong South is not speaking on the point. He should confine his speech to construction, but not to policy.

Mr Ekanem : At the moment construction is confined to Mamfe area. Construction should not be carried out along the boundary only. It should be extended to the creeks. We cannot check the illegal entry of Spanish goods into this country in one post plus another one in Maiduguri in the North. We should also construct some along the creeks. One should be constructed along Cross River; and one also along Opobo River. These are the points where illegal trade is carried on.

We need money in this country for development purposes. Any goods seized should not be destroyed. They should be sold and money realised from them should be used in developing the backward areas. They should be used in developing the areas where those goods were seized. They should be used in developing Calabar as a whole.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the Minister of State responsible for Police Affairs (*Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju*) who told me this morning that a Police post will be constructed at Itu in Enyong Division. I will convey this to my people.

I do not intend to use the time of the House any longer, but I want to ask the Government to do everything in its power to see that these frontiers are properly guarded so that people will carry on legal trading.

I want to repeat that the Government should take immediate action to check this serious, though denied, allegation of Cameroons' infiltration into our territory. It is a serious thing for an alien to build his own frontier in any part of Nigeria, and he tries to deny such an allegation. Government should find out the true position.

I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I am afraid I should be asked for explanation if I did not say a word or two on this item, Head 603, sub-head 32, item 03, which seeks approval for the sum of £38,000. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister responsible for this to the fact that my constituency will certainly not object to additional provision being made to meet increased labour costs and minor additions to requirements such as separate lounge, laundry and ironing room for the girls' dormitory at the Federal Training Centre at Kaduna. I would, however, say that it is delightful for the people to enjoy these things.

I would at the same time request that people be trained to carry out postal services in my constituency. It will certainly improve the deplorable postal situation. In Maiduguri, for instance, it takes about 18 months, in fact, to be precise, two years to get telephone installed when a person applies for it. This is so, not because the people there are inefficient, but because there are not sufficient people to do the work. Postal Services in my area are very poor. There is no surface mail between Kano and Maiduguri, and there is only a weekly service between Jos and Maiduguri. This is most inadequate. We definitely want improvement in these services.

I want to say just a few words on the training of girls in the Northern Region.

The Chairman : The hon. Member for Kaga Marghi has spoken at length out of point. He should discuss the capital expenditure on this Head, but not the services to be rendered.

Shettima Monguno : Thank you for the correction, Mr Chairman. But Head 603, sub-head 32, item 03 seeks provision for building and equipping dormitories for the convenience of people who will be trained there. I will not object to building and equipping those places. I am not saying that I do not like the idea. What I am saying is that if people are going to be trained under this condition we should certainly expect better services from them. This is what I have been trying to emphasize.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : Under this Head we have so many thousands of pounds for the building of staff quarters for the Nigerian Police in various parts of the country. But it is a disgrace to see the Provincial Police Office in Owerri Province. It is not fit to be called an Office; it is just a hut. While I am not trying to be parochial, I should recall that it is the declared policy of this Government to distribute development projects evenly in all parts of the country.

I saw the Minister of State in charge of Police matters this morning and I hope he is here now. I hope that Owerri will be recognised as one of the largest provinces in Nigeria and suitable Police Headquarters built there. I would like to emphasise this point very much because Owerri is one of the oldest centres of administration in the country and the people have made their contributions. As one of the heaviest palm oil producing areas, they have given their money towards the development of many parts of the Federation. Now that we are ruling ourselves, these people should not be forgotten.

I said at the beginning that I do not want to be parochial but it is in the interest of the Government itself that such things should be pointed out. The staff quarters of the Nigeria Police in Owerri are also an eyesore. Buildings built with mud blocks, with poor roof sheetings that have lasted over 50 years are still there. We ride along the roads in Lagos, we see the improvements that are being made to the accommodation of Civil Servants. We in Owerri want to press it home. I remember when the hon. the Prime Minister was on tour he told my constituents how we were firing him on the Floor of the House when as a matter of fact we kept our mouths shut. I hope

[MR UKEAGBU]

that this point will be noted and that an assurance will be given to us by the Government that the headquarters of the Nigeria Police in the Province will be improved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Eight Hundred and Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES—HEAD 605
OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Six hundred pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I have it in Command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move the following new item under Sub-head 01 Item 14 W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Limited: purchase of shares—£895,000.

In moving this Motion, I would like to inform hon. Members that the Federal Government has decided that the time has come to replace the present fleet of DC 3 aircraft with more modern, more powerful and more comfortable aircraft.

For some time now, I have been under pressure both from the travelling public and from hon. Members of this House to introduce more modern aircraft on to Nigerian Airways' internal air services. Although the DC 3 aircraft is a reliable aircraft, as we have known from experience, which can be operated economically on Nigerian services, it is undeniably obsolescent and is developing a certain degree of passenger resistance.

The travelling public wants a more modern, faster and more comfortable aircraft. This fact is recognised by Nigerian Airways, and after considering route and engineering studies

by the Company's Consultants, the Board has recommended to me and I have approved that the Company should purchase a fleet of modern pressurised turbo-prop aircraft carrying between 32 and 40 passengers. The cost of the purchase of this fleet, with spares and technical equipment, will probably be in the order of £1½m.

For the efficient operation of aircraft, it is essential to have an efficient engineering base. The engineering base and equipment as Members will have noticed, which we have presently at Ikeja, with which the present fleet of DC 3 is maintained, are becoming obsolete and inadequate. The Company proposes to build a new engineering base at Ikeja to meet the needs of the new fleet which will soon be ordered and this will cost approximately £650,000.

I regard it as highly desirable that the building of a new engineering base should be put in hand immediately so that it can be ready to receive the new aircraft when they are ready for delivery. At the same time, in order to ensure reasonably early delivery of the new aircraft, it is necessary for the Company to place an order now, and for this purpose an initial payment is required at the time that the order is placed.

The sum, therefore, of £895,000 which I am now moving should be included in the Supplementary Capital Estimates, is designed to provide for the initial payment on the order of these aircraft, and also for the major part of the work of constructing the new engineering base. The Company intends also that some of the funds should be applied to the advance training of its staff in familiarising itself with the new aircraft.

Hon. Members will remember that the commercial partners in the venture, Messrs Elder Dempster Lines Limited and B.O.A.C., agreed to withdraw from the Company earlier this year, and that the Company is now under the sole control of the Federal Government. The Company has an authorised capital of £6m.

When the Company was first formed it was agreed with the commercial partners, that the Federal Government's initial share; of the equity should take the form of physical assets, such as aircraft, buildings and so on while the commercial partners would subscribe cash in

a ratio of 49:51 of the value of the assets contributed by the Federal Government. It was intended that the commercial partners' subscription, which would have amounted to about £1.304m. should be utilised for the purpose of purchasing new aircraft. Now that the commercial partners' capital is no longer available, it is necessary for the Federal Government to make a further subscription to the equity capital itself. The £895,000 which is being provided for in the Supplementary Budget will, therefore, be utilised for the purchase by the Federal Government of a further holding of shares in the Company, and the Company will put the money to the use that I have indicated.

I would not wish the House to think that the provision of a replacement fleet for the internal services and the construction of an engineering base are the only plans that I have in mind for the Nigerian Airways. This is not the case. Active steps are already being taken to put in hand training schemes which will lead to the ultimate Nigerianisation of the Company in all spheres of its operations. At the same time, studies are being carried out of new aircrafts for our international services and of new routes on which I hope that the Company will operate in the future. These other plans will, I hope, come to fruition during the next planning period.

Experience in other airlines has, however, shown that successful international services are best based on a sound and healthy system of internal services. I therefore regard the replacement of the internal fleet and the construction of an engineering base as an essential preliminary for my overall plans for the expansion of the Nigerian Airways. For these reasons I want the Nigerian Airways to be able to go ahead with placing the necessary orders for the aircraft and contracts for the construction work as soon as possible.

I am sure that the provision of funds that I now seek will have the support of all Members on all sides of the House.

I beg to move.

Dr K. Ezera (Bende East): I rise to support this Amendment and to say that this House is impressed by the Minister's enunciation of the policy in his Corporation.

But I would like to add that we have heard so much of aircrafts but the Minister has just told us at the tail end of his speech that his Pilots are being trained. I would like to see, some day, when the Prime Minister of this country will be flown in a D.C. Aircraft owned by the Federal Government by a Nigerian Pilot and by Nigerian crews, landing either in the London Airport or in New York Airport; when the Prime Minister will walk out, and the pilots jumping out with the bright Nigerian smiles in their faces. It is not enough to buy aircrafts, old and new; we should also take into account the question of the Pilot.

The other point I would like to make in this connection is in regard to the Hostesses. I have not been to the Airport to see the Hostesses myself, but I have seen quite a number of their pictures. I do hope that in the selection of such Hostesses, beautiful Nigerian girls would be selected, because they represent what Nigerians look like when they go to London or New York. We do not want girl friends of anybody to be pushed in. Whether they are ugly is immaterial. They are Nigerian girls. We are proud of them and we want them to be our hostesses.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Amendment.

Chief Akin-Olugbade (Egba East): This is a welcome move on the part of the Minister of Transport and Aviation.

My information about the intention of the Federal Government to purchase new aircrafts is not a pleasant one. We all know that most of the money we use for capital development comes from loans raised either internally or from abroad. But my information is that when the Government started to think of changing the D.C. 3 and putting into use new aircrafts offers came from different parts of the world, but I understand—I am open to correction—that a certain foreign Company operating in this country which specialises in hotels and sale of textiles applied to offer sales as middleman between the Government and certain manufacturers in Europe. The result is that the Government is being urged now to buy inferior types of aircraft at higher costs.

I would urge upon the Minister to look carefully into this. I know that he is not the

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

one who is going to negotiate for the sale of this aircraft, but if that information is correct, I would like him to go into it carefully and see that the money which we borrow and spend on Capital Expenditure is judiciously spent.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : I want to deal briefly with only Item 12—£522,500 for Federal Government aircraft. When this was announced sometime ago, it shook the consciences of some people in this country. The Prime Minister is going to have a private aircraft at a cost of £522,500 from the Nigerian taxpayer's money. I am sure that most people who think the same way as I do will not see the necessity for this aircraft. We have the West African Airways Corporation and the Shell BP, and just now an Amendment has been moved and we are going to buy an aircraft. I do not see the reason why the Prime Minister cannot make use of one of the airplanes in the W.A.A.C.

The Minister of Finance : I do not want my hon. Friend the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) to mislead this House. The fact is that the plane is that of the Federal Government as put down in the Paper which the hon. Member is holding, and I repeat, not the Prime Minister's plane.

Mr Briggs : If it is time to reply I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance can reply.

The Minister of Finance : But you are misleading the House !

Mr Briggs : I do not see why a special plane should be bought for the Federal Government. We are the sacred custodians of the money of the public. I do not see what urgent business the Federal Government or the Prime Minister will transact with a special plane when there is the West African Airways Corporation.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : On a point of Order ! My hon. Friend the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) should tell us how much the helicopters his party used in 1959 cost ?

Mr Briggs : The only reply is that the helicopter belongs to the Action Group and not the tax payers, but this particular one is from the taxpayers' money. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order ! These interruptions waste the time of the House.

Mr Briggs : They do not want to hear unpleasant truth. I am sure the Prime Minister or any of his Ministers can always transact any urgent business all over the world by means of telephone or any aircraft that is being used by the West African Airways Corporation.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : There is nothing like Prime Minister on the Paper and the hon. Gentleman is only misleading this hon. House.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : On a point of Order ! I think there must be a line of demarcation—a sort of no man's land—between party politics and national business.

An hon. Member : That is the voice of wisdom.

And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day, to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the business under discussion.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES— OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Six Hundred pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1961-62, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, approved (as amended).

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES—CAPITAL : POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand and Thirty pounds to cover excess expenditure under Capital : Posts and Telegraphs—Unallocated Stores Account for the year 1958-59, approved.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES—CAPITAL : POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Expenditure from the Development Fund of Sixty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Three pounds to cover excess expenditure under Capital : Posts and Telegraphs—Unallocated Stores Account for the year 1959-60, approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aba Automatic Exchange

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I rise to demand a categorical statement from the Minister of Communications about Aba Automatic Telephone Exchange which was destroyed by fire in 1959 and about which nothing has been done up to date. It is amazing that no attempt has been made to get this important social service institution reconstructed.

I would like the Minister to state his plans to get the work of reconstruction commenced as soon as possible. The people of Aba are very anxious to have this exchange functioning. It was thought, when the building was destroyed, that the contracting firm would have tried to reconstruct it immediately but nothing has been done so far. I now demand a statement from the Minister.

The Minister of Communications (The Hon. Olu. Akinfosile): As a result of the disastrous fire at Aba Telephone Exchange, which represented a major setback in our Development Programme, the following additional expenditure became necessary: Repairs to the building amounted to £25,000; new transmission equipment—£17,500; new automatic exchange equipment—£45,000.

It has proved difficult to find the necessary monies to meet these costs, because all available funds had been already committed under the existing development programme. However, money has been found to meet the cost of the rehabilitation of the building under the new transmission equipment. Funds for the automatic equipment, exchange equipment have not yet been found, and the cost of these will probably have to be charged against the next phase of the Development Programme.

The position, Sir, is that the Aba Exchange was at the time of the disaster already taken over by the Ministry of Communications, and therefore the insurance policy taken out by the contractors could not cover the results of this fire. The Government as a matter of policy does not insure its assets. In the circumstances, I regret that all that can be done is to await the construction of a new automatic exchange and the expenditure of £45,000 against the next Development Programme.

I do want to say that already we have put in additional facilities to ensure that any waiting list at Aba can be attended to, so that at the

moment the Aba community is suffering no setback in their communications, except to the extent that they do not yet enjoy the facility of an automatic exchange.

Mining Industry

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu): I wish the hon. Minister of Mines and Power to make a statement on the question of the African miners in Plateau Province. There is a current accusation by the Association of African Miners in that Province that certain expatriates in the Headquarters of the Ministry are working against the interests of African miners—that they discriminate against them in order to kill the indigenous African mining enterprise. In view of the fact that this accusation is a serious one, I want the hon. Minister to say what is his attitude. While it is in the interests of everyone that both indigenous and expatriate miners should be encouraged, no certain effort should be made by any expatriate servants to kill the initiative, ability and enterprise of the African indigenous miners who are at present doing their best to compete effectively in the field of mining industry.

I must in conclusion commend at least the Minister's progressive, nationalistic and spectacular efforts in the mining industry.

The Minister of Mines and Power (The Hon. Mallam Maitama Sule): This is not the first time I have heard this allegation. Indeed, I had wanted to reply to it when the allegation was first made, but I thought I should wait for a more appropriate opportunity, and I think there cannot be a better opportunity than this, when Parliament is assembled.

It has always been the policy of my Ministry to encourage Nigerians in the mining field, for after all it would be a great pity, and I would be failing in my duty, if I encouraged expatriate mining companies to the detriment of my own people.

My duty and responsibility is first and foremost my people, and I do not think I am doing anything unusual—indeed I am following the pattern of history, for it has always been the policy for every country to protect and promote its own interests. If, therefore, every other country can do it, I see no reason why we in Nigeria should not do it. Pursuant to this

[MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]
policy, therefore, of encouraging my fellow-Nigerians in the mining industry, I have made it a point of duty each time I am in Jos on tour to get in touch with the African miners—in fact before I see or speak to the Chamber of Mines. I do this in order to find out what the relationship between the more wealthy expatriate mining industries and their counterpart, the African miners, is; how cordial or otherwise it is; and also to discuss with them ways and means of helping them to compete on favourable terms with them. I must say that our discussions with them have always been frank, cordial and very brotherly, and I do appreciate their attitudes towards this and the way they are always ready to accept my humble suggestions.

There are two things, however, which have always featured in our discussions with them: one is the question of trying to be honest and sincere in order to create a good impression of the Nigerian businessman abroad; the other concerns the creation of an atmosphere in which all of them will have confidence in one another and will place trust and have respect for one another. To this effect I must say they do try to come together to present a united front. But it is not enough to do that. I think they must try to form big companies, big combines, so that they may have bigger capital than they would have individually, so as to be in a strong position to compete with expatriate firms. At one stage I made it quite clear to them that if they could convince me by coming together and putting their heads together, and putting aside all private interests party affections and prejudices—*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

The Minister of Mines and Power: Now, if they could convince me by coming together to form companies, I did promise them that I would not hesitate to explore the possibility of getting some financial assistance for them from the Government.

Quite recently, in order to improve the mining industry—which incidentally is now paying very well—I decided, and this is what has brought about the whole question, that all mining companies, expatriate and Nigerian alike, should resume employing Section 36 Managers as they used to before the tin restriction. It was stopped because of the tin restriction and the adverse effect it had on the industry and miners. Now that there is no longer any such restriction, and the price of tin is growing, I feel that it is unfortunate that our poor Nigerians who should continue to work as Section 36 managers, should be deprived of their means of livelihood. It is my decision to this effect that has caused this outcry.

I think, Sir, it is my duty to protect, not only the Nigerian miners, but also the Nigerians working on the mines. It may interest the House to know that I have received representations from both the Nigerian miners and Nigerian Section 36 managers, most of whom incidentally have been out of jobs since the last restriction, and it was after careful consideration that I decided accordingly, thus supporting the Section 36 managers who had been out of work for quite a long time and refusing to accept the arguments of the African miners.

Finally, I would like to appeal and to preach to my hon. Members to stop witch-hunting and to do the obvious thing—to come together and form companies, and thereby promote unity and understanding among themselves. Sir, unity and understanding, both of which are necessary in our everyday lives, in business or in politics, are the characteristics of the culture of the Nigerian, and in this respect I venture to say that they are also indispensable to the fertilising of the soil of peace and tranquility, wealth and prosperity. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order! Already it is six o'clock, and the House stands adjourned.

Adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Friday, 1st September, 1961

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

TREASURY BILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the Treasury Bills Ordinance, 1959, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to the publication of obscene matter; to provide for the protection of literature; and to strengthen the law concerning pornography, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS
(HARMFUL PUBLICATIONS) BILL

Bill for an Act to prevent the dissemination of certain pictorial publications harmful to children and young persons, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution by making other provision for the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Management Ordinance and for other purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the first time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL

Bill for an Act to provide for Insurance Business by the registration of Insurers and for other purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL

Bill for an Act to provide for Marine Insurance and to prohibit gambling on lots by maritime perils, presented by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

STAMP DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the Stamp Duties Ordinance, presented by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Presented as follows:

Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 52 of the House of Representatives, I Dennis Osadebay, the Acting Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria, hereby certify that the introduction of the Bill briefly entitled as in the Schedule hereto is a matter of urgency precluding the publication thereof as prescribed in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 40.

BANKING ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill for an Act to amend the Banking Ordinance, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day*.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND
ORDERS OF THE DAYASSETS VESTED IN THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY

The Minister of Finance: I beg to move that inasmuch as the Administrator of German Enemy Property will, in the course of the next few months, direct the Custodian of Enemy Property to transfer to the Government of the Federation in accordance with section 7 of the Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance, 1957, the balance of the proceeds of German Enemy Property held by him.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

(1) The Governments of the Federation shall, after such direction has been made, pay to the Governments hereinafter named, such sums as will, together with the sums paid in accordance with the resolutions of the House passed on the 17th of March, 1958, and on the 29th April, 1960, result in the Governments hereinafter named, receiving the following proportions of the total proceeds of German Enemy Property :—

(i) The Government of the Northern Region 13/90ths.

(ii) The Government of the Eastern Region 10/90ths.

(iii) The Government of the Western Region 10/90ths.

(iv) The Government of the Southern Cameroons 10/90ths.

Such sums paid in accordance with the above to be applied in such manner as the receiving Government may determine to projects, whether new or existing, for the furtherance of the development and welfare of their peoples.

(2) The balance of the funds directed to be transferred shall be retained by the Government of the Federation to the intent that 47/90ths of the total proceeds shall be so retained. This amount shall be applied to the benefit of the people of Nigeria as a whole by way of the Economic Programme of the Government of the Federation.

I beg to move.

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

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I have a few questions which I would like to ask. The first is, what is the total sum of money involved? The second is, why does the Northern Region get 13/90ths, the Eastern Region 10/90ths, the Western Region 10/90ths, and the Southern Cameroons the same proportion, 10/90ths? I think I should know the reason for this apportionment.

Furthermore, what happens to the balance? The proportions that go to the Regional Governments and the Southern Cameroons total 43/90ths. In any event I would like to know the reason for these proportions.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, As in the terms of the Motion.

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF
SOUTH AFRICA BILL

Bill presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, and read the First time, on the 31st August, 1961; Second Reading *deferred* till November Meeting.

NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, and read the First time, this day; Second Reading *deferred* till November Meeting.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSIONS BILL

Bill presented by the Minister of Establishments, and read the First time, on the 25th August, 1961; Second Reading *deferred* till November Meeting.

BANKING ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Banking Ordinance be read a Second time.

This Bill provides for two amendments. The first relates to the appointment of Assistant Banking Examiners. The second is to fill the gap that has been found in the law relating to the procedure to be followed when a bank's licence is revoked.

The first amendment, as I have said, is intended to enable the Federal Government to appoint Assistant Banking Examiners. When the Banking Ordinance was framed, it was provided that a Banking Examiner should be appointed to examine periodically under conditions of secrecy the books and affairs of each and every licensed bank. The main purpose of appointing a Banking Examiner and providing for the examination of banks' affairs is to protect the public by ensuring that the provisions of our Banking legislation are fully observed, and that appropriate standards of efficiency and integrity are maintained. It has also been the aim of the Federal Government to enable help and advice to be given to banks. The object, of course, is not merely to harry the banks or attempt to uncover minor flaws.

Federal Parliament Debates

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[Banking Ordinance

1 SEPTEMBER 1961

(Amendment) Bill]

2700

The present Banking Examiner is an expatriate on a five-year contract term. I consider that the time has now come when an Assistant Banking Examiner should be appointed to learn the job in the office of the Banking Examiner with a view to replacing him eventually. I have in mind that the post should be filled by a Nigerian. I am sure this amendment will commend itself to this House. Apart from the fact that the amendment will help to strengthen the affairs of the Banks, it is also a further attempt on our part to demonstrate practically the policy of the Federal Government to bring about the rapid Nigerianisation of all important posts in the Federal Public Service.

I now turn to the second part of this Bill. Under section 14 of the Banking Ordinance, the Governor-General in Council is empowered to direct me in certain circumstances to make an order revoking the licence of a bank and requiring its business in Nigeria to be wound up. This is a course of action which may be pursued after an examination has shown that the licensed bank is carrying on its business in a manner detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors or has insufficient assets to cover its liabilities to the public or it is contravening the Banking Ordinance.

However, at the moment the law does not make provision to ensure that the interests of the depositors, creditors and shareholders of a bank whose licence has been revoked are adequately protected. This is a gap which this amendment seeks to fill by requiring such a bank within 14 days of its licence being revoked to apply to a High Court for an order, winding up the bank under supervision of the Court. But if the bank fails to apply within the time prescribed, then the Minister of Finance may so apply to the High Court, and, in the meantime, may appoint the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator who shall have the powers conferred by the Companies' Ordinance and be deemed to have been appointed a provisional liquidator by the High Court. The provisional liquidator can then take charge of the bank's affairs preparatory to calling the statutory meetings and doing other things for the appointment of a liquidator of the bank.

This amendment to the law is long overdue. I am sure it will commend itself to this hon. House.

I beg to move.

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

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : The Banking Ordinance gives power to the Minister of Finance and the Government generally to direct and guide the activities of bankers. Bankers are trustees of the public and I think that it is a good thing that the Government should be able to give general guidance to these banks with a view to helping them in their operations.

I welcome the Bill but the few points I want to make are for the guidance of the Minister himself.

Banking is an essential aspect of the country's economy and by the strength of our banking, our economy will be judged by the outside world; by the integrity of our banking, our economy will be judged from the outside. If the Minister should employ the Banking Ordinance as well as the amendment which he is about to introduce in a way that will strengthen our banks and not destroy them, in a way that is constructive and not destructive, and in a way that will give to the outside world the impression of good economic stability and sound banking in this country perhaps all will be well. I think that these points cannot be over-stated.

I am not insinuating it but I think people will appreciate exactly what I mean when I say that the provision of the Banking Ordinance should not be used to satisfy private aims, should not be used to satisfy political aims, but the interest of this country. It does not matter to what political party we belong, the interest of this country requires that we ourselves should speak of ourselves to the people outside. If we with our own hands destroy what we have built, we are destroying the economy of this country and we are doing this country a great harm.

I beg to support.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I rise to support this Bill. I have no doubt as regards the ability of the Minister to look after the interest of this country and particularly the matter of banking. I think one of the most important divisions of his Ministry is Banking, because as the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) has rightly said, it is probably the real channel of our economic stability. If banks are not on their proper legs, foreign investors and the people of this country will suffer a lot.

[MR AKINJIDE]

It appears to me opportune that the Minister has decided to increase the number of examiners because in the past, banks committed a lot of hideous atrocities and I say hideous atrocities deliberately because it took them over a long time before things were discovered. There have been instances where banks have run their business contrary to the provisions of the Banking Ordinance over a period of six months and twelve months before they are discovered and even after discovery, quick actions are not taken.

Now, if we have a sufficient number of examiners, I do not see why the business of banks should not be probed into and their accounts examined monthly or even thrice monthly. We have witnessed in this country a period of South Sea bubble in matters of banking and we hope that that period will not be repeated again.

When that South Sea bubble happened sometime ago, thousands and thousands of innocent people suffered and thousands and thousands of pounds were lost. Banks should not be allowed to be used as a prop or for the economic interest of political parties. It will be a sad day when political parties cannot be formed in this country or cannot be put on proper basis unless they are backed by a financial company like a bank. It appears to me that in many cases, many banks are giving out their loans and their economic power to back political parties without corresponding collaterals.

In this respect, I think the Ministry of Finance should have some amount of blame to share. If the Ministry of Finance discovers that any banking house is making mistakes and is messing up in a particular manner, he has the powers either to prosecute the culprits (the Minister of Finance should not wait for anybody) or to seize the licence of the bank in question. If the Minister acts in the interest of the people of this country and in the interest of the economy of this country no matter whose ox is gored and no matter whose interests are involved, he will have the support of this House.

Furthermore, I want to touch the question of foreign banks. I do not know to what extent the Minister of Finance has control over foreign banks. These foreign banks have their roots overseas, some of them in France, some of them in London with their branches here.

Not only do they have their roots overseas, they also have their capital. To what extent is the Ministry of Finance effective in checking the activities of these banks? These are some of the matters which I think the Minister should look into.

Section 3 (2) of this Bill provides that the Minister will apply to the High Court if the banks fail to apply within fourteen days. I think the Minister of Finance should be pinned down to a time limit within which he should apply to the High Court. It is all right that the Minister can apply to a liquidator to look after the interest of the banks in the meantime but if an application is not made to the High Court within a reasonable time and the affairs of the bank wound up, the creditors would be held in tremendous suspense and they will not be able to know what will be their dividend and their ratio and whatever will be their share in the liquidation.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; committed to a Committee of the whole House and immediately considered in Committee.

BANKING ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

TREASURY BILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Treasury Bills Ordinance be read a Second time. I should not like to speak at length on this Bill because it is a simple and straightforward Bill. Hon. Members will recall that at the last Budget Session, an Act amending section 3 of the Treasury Bills Ordinance was passed into law. The object of that Bill was to increase the limit of the principal sums represented by Treasury Bills outstanding at any time from ten to twenty per cent of the estimated revenue of the Federal Government. The purpose of this new Bill is to enable the Federal Government to lend part of the proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills as short term loans to Regional Governments who might wish to take advantage of this short term borrowing in anticipation of the collection of their revenues.

Already the Federal Government is making very good use of the proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills. Apart from the fact that we are trying to build up here in Nigeria an effective money market, the proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills will enable us to even out fluctuations in our recurrent budget and we are most anxious to extend this facility to the Regional Governments who have expressed their desire to have this type of short term finance. I need hardly say that the Federal Government is, as usual, willing to co-operate and assist Regional Governments on matters of this nature. The proceeds of the issues of Treasury Bills will represent an additional source of finance to Regional Governments.

As this is not a controversial matter, I am sure that all Members of the House will welcome this Bill as it helps to strengthen the financial resources of the Governments of the Federation.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; committed to a Committee of the Whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

TREASURY BILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

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

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance: I beg to move that a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Management Ordinance and for other purposes connected therewith be read a Second time. This Bill seeks to rectify some defects which have come to light in the application of the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Ordinance (No. 55 of 1958).

The first amendment relates to section 124 and it intends to provide for a general limitation of one year for the repayment of Customs and

Excise duties and fees overpaid. This will widen the scope of the section which at present does not cover all the types of duties and fees which are ordinarily overpaid.

Section 136 of the Ordinance makes a licensed customs agent liable as if he were the proprietor but it does not prescribe the period during which such liability shall continue. It is essential in the interest of both the agent and the Board of Customs and Excise that the penalties to be prescribed are clearly stated and Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to provide for limitation of one year.

One of the items which is ordinarily included in the value of goods which are liable at *ad valorem* rates of duty is the cost of insurance. When goods are not insured it has been the practice to include in the value of duty a notional amount estimated to cover the cost of insurance, and Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to rectify the omission in the Ordinance of an authority for the Board of Customs and Excise to include such a notional amount.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Usman Sarki): I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance be read a Second time. Notice has been given on many occasions for Motions to introduce such an amendment. These Motions have come from different sides of the House and I am confident that this Bill will be welcome to all.

I will make it clear that by introducing this Bill we mean no disrespect at all. In the United Kingdom the Queen's Birthday is not celebrated as a public holiday, the occasion is only marked by a parade.

At present there are eleven public holidays in Nigeria, which is reasonable to the point of generosity. The substitution of Independence Day and the deletion of Queen's Birthday will

[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

therefore mean that the number of public holidays will remain unchanged. So that the public holidays thereafter in Nigeria will be New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Independence Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Eid-El-Fitri, Eid-El-Kabir and Eid-El-Malud.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) : I beg to second.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : I rise to support the Bill. We have always said that there are too many holidays in this country and we wonder what time we have to work. I think the time is overdue when we should not only do away with the Queen's Birthday holiday but do away as well with the C.M.Gs, K.B.Es and such other titles.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : I support the Second Reading of this Bill. As some others have already said, the abolition of this particular holiday is long overdue and therefore the Bill is very welcome.

It is said that we have already far too many public holidays. I only wish to say, that while this may be true I do not think we have accepted so far the principle obtaining in other parts of the world that the average worker is entitled to two weeks' holiday with pay in one year. If it exists at all, it is purely voluntary. In the majority of cases the workers of this country are not entitled to holidays and I think it is a good way of getting round it if we have these public holidays.

No doubt people like to observe special days and I see nothing wrong in that. If only people will increase their productivity, I am sure that will make up for the days lost. It would be a very dull world indeed if there were no celebrations. And as the last speaker said, I do hope the Government, realising that we are sovereign and can legislate for ourselves in some of these things, will look into the continued acceptance of foreign honours by citizens of this country.

Foreign titles awarded before independence can be understood and explained but now that we are independent, although it might be fascinating, I do not see how it is logical to continue to accept foreign honours. After

all, I cannot imagine the President of the United States conferring a title on a British citizen—

The Minister of Internal Affairs : That is completely irrelevant.

Mr Speaker : We are not debating titles. Will the hon. Member please speak to the point, that is public holidays.

Mr Akwiwu : I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker. May I then conclude by saying that now that we have thought it fit to abolish this public holiday we might also think of abolishing the foreign titles awarded on that day.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : This Bill is not controversial but there are one or two remarks I would like to make. I think we are having too many public holidays in this country. There are eleven of them and in the Eastern and Western Regions with the Youths Day in addition, that makes thirteen days in a year. I think we must all work hard for the prosperity of this country.

The second remark I want to make is about the snobbishness of some of these religious organisations. On any Muslim holiday some of these Christian missionary schools and organisations do not close their schools.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozi*) please go to his seat.

Mr Briggs : On any Moslem holiday the Christian offices and schools open for business. Similarly, Moslems open their institutions and business houses on any Christian holiday. I think this sort of thing is very wrong. For example, Moslems open their shops on Sundays. I think the Minister will see to it that public holidays will be compulsorily observed in the whole Federation. It will be meaningless if the Government introduces a holiday and some people fail to observe it.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I rise to support the Second reading of this Bill. It is most welcome and I am sure that it will be passed without difficulty. I only want to make the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) realise that Moslems do observe Christian holidays. Our schools are not opened on Christmas days. On the contrary, Christians do not observe Moslem holidays. They open their schools on Fridays.

Another thing I want to add is this, I hope that the holiday to mark the first anniversary of our independence should not only be marked in the Federal Territory of Lagos but also in all the Regions. This is important.

I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central): This is a welcome Bill which everyone should support. It is very ridiculous indeed to see that we are still observing the Queen's birthday and take pride in certain foreign honours even now that we are independent. I am sure that this Bill when passed will be able to curb these things.

One aspect of the Bill which one will have to quarrel with is that it applies to the Federal territory of Lagos alone. I had thought that considering the fact that the Federal Parliament is the "father parliaments" in Nigeria, it would be able to legislate for the country as a whole in matters of this nature. This question of first anniversary of our independence is something that is nation-wide and this Bill ought to apply to all the Federation. This Parliament should not pass this Bill in favour of the people in Lagos alone leaving the Regional Houses to do the same for their own people. That is my own contribution to this Bill, and I support it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BILL : CONSIDERED
IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): I beg to move that, in Clause 1, the words "Federal territory of Lagos" be deleted and the words "Federation of Nigeria" be there inserted.

Independence observation is not a matter which concerns those in the Federal territory of Lagos alone, but it equally affects the whole Federation. If the 1st of October is to be observed as a public holiday, I see no reason why it will not also be observed as such in the Regions. The Federal Parliament can legislate on behalf of the Regions in this regard since it is likely that no Regional House of Assembly will meet before the 1st of October.

As it now stands, 1st of October will be observed as a holiday in Lagos while those people in the Regions will be in their offices.

I think this is very wrong and I hope the hon. Minister will consider accepting this Amendment for reasons I have already given.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : really sympathise with the hon. Member for Enyong South who has moved an Amendment to the Bill which I have just introduced. But I am afraid, his Amendment cannot be accepted since this House has no power under the Constitution to legislate for the Regions in matters of this kind. This Parliament can only legislate for Lagos on matters of policy which are on the concurrent list. So, this Parliament cannot legislate for the whole country as far as this Bill on public holidays is concerned.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : The hon. Minister has said that the subject of public holidays is on the concurrent list. If this is so, this Parliament has the power to enact the law for the whole country. For instance, Labour law is in the concurrent list and this Parliament has enacted a law which operates throughout this country.

As I said, if public holiday is in the concurrent list it is the duty of this Parliament to enact this law for the whole country. Perhaps the Attorney-General will enlighten this House better on this.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I quite agree with the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*). I am not sure that this item is on the concurrent list. But if the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs is right in saying that this item is on the concurrent list then all we have to do is to have consultations with the Governments of the Regions and agree on a draft Bill which will be of Federal application. So, I submit that the Minister should be magnanimous enough to accept this amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

Chief Ayo Rosiji : I think there is a matter of principle involved in the legislation in respect of holidays. We are trying to forge

[CHIEF AYO ROSIJI]

the nation and I feel that it is proper that the Federal Government should legislate any steps concerning holidays, which are of fundamental importance, from a religious and national point of view, for the whole country. Then, the Regions may legislate to add one or two more holidays to celebrate events which are of importance to the various Regions. I think that is the way it should be.

The legislation would be passed this morning reducing the number of holidays which we used to have, but I think that the addition, the very important addition, the most important addition to my mind, is that of Independence Day. We should guard jealously our rights and our position in this country, we should guard them very jealously; if we abdicate our leadership, we will just go to the dogs.

The legislation on Independence Day is a national matter, and the only Parliament that is national is this Parliament. It should be this Parliament that should legislate for Independence Day. Suppose any Region does not want to legislate for Independence Day—does that mean that Independence Day does not exist for that Region? This Parliament is the one to legislate for such a day. The Minister has made a mistake—we all have to make mistakes; but I think they should go back and bring another Amendment to this House to legislate for Independence Day for the whole country—it should not be done by Regions. It is wrong for it to be done by Regions—it should be done by this Parliament.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CAPITAL SENTENCE
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

The provision of this Bill is straightforward, because it seeks to amend the existing procedure in cases of murder, where an accused person has been found guilty of murder and sentenced to death or where an accused person has been found guilty and sent to prison and is asking for pardon.

Before the Independence Constitution of 1960 the procedure laid down was as in the Criminal Procedure Ordinance and the body dealing with these matters was the Privy

Council. Under the Constitution, sections 94, 95 and 96, new provisions have been made and it is necessary for us to bring the existing procedure into line with the Constitutional provision.

This Bill has served to make provisions in this respect, and I do not want to involve hon. Members in the technicalities of the provisions, but the net effect of this Bill is merely to repeal the existing procedure of the Criminal Ordinance and at the same time to do away with the necessity for a warrant of execution, because already no execution is carried out without the order of the Court.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Education : I beg to second.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : I rise to support this Bill, which is not contentious at all, and it is one of those Bills which seeks to moralise our laws in this country. I am not advocating at the moment the abolition of capital punishment in this country, but I would advocate that the laws of capital punishment in this country should be brought into line with those of England as they are at the moment.

For the past half-century or so, our laws of capital punishment have been more or less the same as those of England, but recently—I think within the last three or five years—the British Parliament has amended the laws on capital punishment; wherever you have a case of murder, where somebody is committed for murder, in certain cases he would be sent to jail instead of being hanged.

I would appeal to the Minister of Justice to take this into account and see whether the laws of England as they are now could be adopted by this country, because I do not think that it is in every case of murder that the murderer should be hanged.

I am not unaware of the provisions of sections 94 and 95 of the Constitution whereby the prerogative of mercy could be granted, but even then, I would submit that it is not enough because we are living in a country where political passion is very high, and at the moment as I understand the position, the Regional Governments have the right of the prerogative of mercy in cases of murder, even if the appeal comes from the Regional High Court to the Federal Supreme Court and the appeal is

dismissed by the Federal Supreme Court, they still have to go back to the Regional Government to seek pardon or the prerogative of mercy, as the case may be.

I think that the hon. the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should have consultations with his colleagues in the Regions, and a common grant should be drawn whereby these particular degree of murder could be arrived at and legislation could be brought in that respect.

I beg to support.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central): In supporting this Bill, I refer to the circumstances attending the execution of people who are sentenced to death. We know that at times the execution is attended with such pomp and pageantry, as if it was a matter for rejoicing and merriment. For example, when Chief Nnwiboko was executed in 1959 it was so publicised that one would imagine it was a thing for national rejoicing and merriment. In some countries, criminal executions are carried out in complete silence and secrecy, because after all, these things are nothing to be proud of.

In supporting the sentiments of the last speaker, I think it is high time the Government did something to examine the possibilities of trying to find out whether at this stage of our development it is still necessary to exercise capital punishment. I do not see why capital punishment cannot be abolished in this country. It has been abolished in many civilised countries, it has been abolished at least in many Scandinavian countries.

It is not as if the people of European countries saw the light of day before Nigerians, so I do not see why we in this country should retain capital punishment. The fact is that, if other countries find it convenient to abolish capital punishment why can we not abolish it in Nigeria? I would suggest that if it cannot be abolished now, the Government should examine the possibility of limiting the execution of capital punishment. It should find out those that should not be executed because they are insane although the court finds them guilty of murder. It will be accepted that even if a man was guilty, in certain extenuating circumstances he could not be hanged.

These are the matters which I beg the Government to look into in order to find the

ways and means of either abolishing capital punishment entirely or creating decrees for criminals as is done in other civilised countries.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): I rise to support the Amendment to this Bill but I disagree with the Member for Awka Central, *Mr Muojeke*, who is advocating the abolition of capital punishment. I am of the opinion that these criminals should be executed in the public places in order to teach others a lesson because the rate of killing in this country is very alarming.

I appeal to the Minister of Justice to see that whenever a person is convicted for murder the arrangement should be made to see that the man or woman is executed in the town where the offence was committed. This arrangement will enable those who intend to take up such a practice to stop.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CAPITAL SENTENCE
(AMENDMENT) BILL: CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(CITATION AND APPLICATION)

Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi (Ilesha Urban): I am going to suggest that the Minister of Justice should advise the Governor-General, in this case to try, as much as possible, to be very liberal. I am not advocating that capital punishment should be abolished in this country but it appears that the exercise of this Prerogative has not been made use of as much as necessary.

The Minister of Justice: On a point of information. I do not advise the Governor-General. The Council for the Prerogative of Mercy, consisting of six people, advises the Governor-General under the chairmanship of the Minister of Defence.

The Chairman: Order, the Member for Ilesha Urban (*Mr Ogunbiyi*) is not speaking on the Clause which is merely "citation and application". If he wants to speak on the citation or whether it should be applicable to the Federal territory or not, then he can speak on the Clause, otherwise he cannot.

Clause 1—(CITATION AND APPLICATION)—
ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 2-5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time.—(The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice).

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : I fully support this Bill but I would like to add to what others have said on this particular matter.

I would like to say that whilst capital punishment lasts in this country the form in which it is executed is that of hanging, and some people have said that it should be done in public. But the reason for the increase of murders must be attributed to the public hanging because the psychological effect of public hanging on people who have some criminal tendency to kill increases when this is done in their presence.

Secondly, the method that the executioners use is appalling in some cases. I have had an occasion to ask a few questions about the training which is given to hangmen before they begin to do their duties. It is necessary to make sure that the hangmen know that they are required to hang and not to strangulate.

Mr Speaker : Order, I wish to remind hon. Members that during the *Third Reading* Members should not take the opportunity to make speeches that they should have made during the *Second Reading*. During the *Third Reading*, only the technical points of the Bill are dealt with. If there are any errors of any omissions, Members can speak on them, otherwise speeches that are made on the *Third Reading* are, at present, mostly those that should have been made during the *Second Reading*.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

SEDITIONS MEETINGS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice : I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to prohibit certain meetings in the Federal Territory during Sittings of either House of Parliament be read a Second time.

Hon. Members will recall the sad event that took place during the last Meeting of Parliament in November 1960, when this honorable House was invaded by a number of people including students and others and M.P.'s were man-handled. In view of that incident, the Government has considered it necessary to make sure that in future there is no recurrence of such an incident. I think all of us will agree that it will be a sad day for this country when public affairs cannot be transacted in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. I think the Bill will be passed to cover this situation very adequately without limiting the liberty of movement of any individual.

In the turbulent days that followed the battle of Waterloo in England, there were very many people who felt that certain things were not being done properly by Parliament in England and riotous meetings were held to the disturbance of Parliamentary business. It was then found necessary to enact a law similar to the Bill which we are now considering.

An hon. Member : How many years ago ?

The Minister of Justice : That was in 1817 and it is still in operation in England to-day. That Act restricted the holding of any meeting within one mile of the Houses of Parliament and that is precisely what we have done in this Bill.

If hon. Members will try to make some calculations, they will discover that one mile is not a large radius to ask for. Hon. Members will know that for instance once round the Racecourse, I am told, is six furlongs and 20 yards and a radius of one mile from this House will not extend to Tinubu Square. In any case we feel that this protection is necessary for the Members of the Government as much as for the Members of the Opposition.

This is not a sectional piece of legislation. It is intended to protect Parliament and Parliamentarians during the days that Parliament will be sitting. It does not apply on other days and in other circumstances. If hon. Members will look at the provision of this Bill closely and if they really will consider the necessity for enacting the Bill, I am sure they will have no hesitation in supporting the Bill. I am sure also that all those who set any score by civilised values will support this Bill.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: I beg to second.

Mr W. O. Briggs: Under normal circumstances, every reasonable person would support this Bill, but we appreciate that in our history things are not normal as for instance where somebody who commits an offence and is sentenced to imprisonment. If that person happens to be an N.C.N.C. supporter, it is declared that law and order has broken down in a particular Region. At a time like that one would not say that things are normal.

The Bill excludes only meetings of religious, scientific or charitable purpose. This is not good enough. Take for instance a place like the King's College which is very nearby here. If a group of students have a meeting, I think as the Bill now stands, they will be punishable under this Bill. My suggestion is that the word "Public" should be inserted. It should be a question of all public meetings being banned and not just any meeting at all, excluding only just religious, charitable or scientific meetings.

I think the aim of the Bill should be to ban public meetings that would tend to disturb the peace of the public or the peace of the meetings of Parliament.

With this few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): In supporting this Bill I feel it is not controversial and it is fair to both sides of the House. In point of fact, it tends not only to safeguard the good name of this Parliament, but also to safeguard the lives of the Members of this Parliament.

I think we remember quite clearly the recent happening sometime ago when some students came as far as to this Parliament to disturb the Members and it appeared to be a riot and if the Police did not come so quickly, the whole thing could have degenerated to a very dangerous riot. I feel then that a Bill like this would help to curb such acts by irresponsibles recruited to come here and disturb a meeting of this House.

In fact, there is a tendency that when a meeting of Parliament is on, some thugs are recruited by the Action Group, sent by lorries to come and carry placards around Parliament Buildings and to disturb the proceedings of this House. This is a very good Bill and the best side of it is that it allows for a restriction

to any organised party or people more than 50 in number to come within a radius of one mile of the Parliament Buildings. Any procession of more than 50 people is regarded as illegal if they come within a mile of this House.

The worst of these incidents is that even students in the country are now in the habit of having private meetings to come and disturb Meetings of Parliament and sometimes they travel from different parts of the Region only to assemble here when Parliament is meeting. I feel this Bill will help to maintain order in and around this Parliament.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): I must say that this Bill is most timely. I was a victim during the last demonstration staged by students who instead of demonstrating peacefully, found their way not only to the premises of the Parliament but right up to almost all the rooms in the Parliament Building. We happened to be holding a meeting and that Meeting was naturally disturbed.

I have never experienced a tear gas smoke because I have never been a trouble maker nor do I advocate for it. It was only when those students refused to co-operate or to take advice from the Police and found their way into Parliament Buildings that we fell victim to such a thing, a nasty thing like the tear gas. I was myself an active participant in a demonstration staged in Edinburgh two years ago but we demonstrated peacefully.

I was a student myself and I joined my fellow students in demonstrating against the imprisonment of an African nationalist, not even a Nigerian. It was a peaceful demonstration, Sir, and nothing happened. We did not molest any Member of Parliament; we did not disobey law; we did not show any sign of hooliganism but we demonstrated peacefully and we made ourselves felt without resorting to any act of shame or hooliganism.

There are many ways and means by which students or any member of the public in this country could make themselves felt without resorting to acts of hooliganism or lawlessness and without taking the law into their own hands.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South): I rise to support this Bill but I have some com-

[OBA OLADIRAN]

ments to add. The previous speakers have raised certain points to support their arguments, but I will have to call the attention of Members of this Parliament to an incident that happened sometime last year when the Minister of Information (*hon. T. O. S. Benson*) won his appeal case in the Federal Supreme Court. You will remember, Sir, that the Minister himself, accompanied by N.C.N.C. Front Benchers and hooligans paraded from the Court right down to the premises of this Parliament. I think that the students who participated in the demonstration might have copied the example of the NCNCers.

We on this side support this Bill and I have to thank the Prime Minister for bringing pressure to bear on the NCNCers to reason together in bringing the Bill to this Parliament and in so doing, they will not repeat what has happened.

I beg to support.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): Much as I am not opposed to this Bill, I merely want to remind the House that peaceful demonstration is one of the rights of free men in a democratic society. It is better to allow people to express their feelings in public rather than babble their resentment. Regarding the incident of last time when the students came from Ibadan, I think the blame should be put on the Police because if we have real Intelligence Service of the Police and if we can rely on the security of this country as we have been told from time to time, I do not see why this should happen.

There was no prior indication that such a demonstration was taking place whereby measures could have been taken to prevent it. It all happened like that and it was after the boys entered the premises that Police resorted to tear gas and for the first time in my life, I encountered tear gas. I know that many of the Members had to run away and some even had to hide in some corners. We should blame the Police squarely for what happened on that day because they ought to have known what was likely to happen and if lives were lost on that day I am sure Police could have been held responsible.

The Attorney-General should do well to introduce another Bill here to enable trade union meetings to be held in the Regions without obtaining police permit. This has been

abolished in Lagos but it still obtains in the Regions. We still have to obtain permits before we can hold meetings to discuss ordinary things like wages and conditions of service for workers. It should be abolished throughout the country.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North): This is a very good Bill but there are certain points against it. To begin with, I do not know what constitutes a seditious meeting. When two or three people gather together they may be considered to be doing something contrary to the law but when another ten people are gathered together, they are not considered to be holding seditious meeting.

There is one saying that when a chief's son is killed by a bear, the bear should be destroyed but when a poor man's son is killed by a bear, the bear has done a good job. When certain people who belong to the Government or a recognised party hold a meeting, it may not be regarded as seditious but when certain people who do not see eye to eye with the Government hold a meeting, that is regarded as seditious and they will be arrested. I think that this Bill should apply to all irrespective of party affiliation.

I have to suggest that policemen should always be posted here to safeguard the interest of Members. It is not enough to refuse public demonstrations as these may be held privately and demonstrators can enter their premises at any time.

I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): I must say that this Bill receives my warmest support. I say so because without the Bill, there will be much trouble in this country. When all is said and done, what we want here is peace. It does not matter what party one belongs to, the aim of everyone before coming here is that we want peace and for this reason alone, I fully support this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; committed to a Committee of the whole House and immediately considered in Committee.

SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SHORT TITLE, ETC.)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(MEETINGS TO BE DEEMED SEDITIOUS).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I think that everybody will agree with me that any Act of Parliament that has the effect of restricting any of the fundamental human rights which we have in our constitution should itself be very much restricted. I do not mean that, according to the constitution, in circumstances in which it is necessary for the preservation of law and order that certain rights which we have under the constitution should not be restricted. But whenever that restriction is about to be put on we must all be very vigilant and see to it that the very minimum of our right is not taken away.

Now this Bill talks of meetings generally, both private and public meetings. I think it is very wrong indeed that there should be any restriction whatever placed on private meetings. I can understand restricting public meetings to which the public is at large entitled to be present, but when somebody is holding a private meeting in his house there should be no restriction put on him. In any event that type of restriction is unnecessary to achieve the purpose which the Government seeks to achieve in this Bill.

My amendment is that the word "public" be inserted after the word "no" in line 6 of Clause 2. This amendment will have the effect of restricting the Bill only to public meetings. I think, Sir, that it is conceivable that people who live around the House of Parliament may be having private meetings in their houses, maybe family meetings. Will they have to go to the Government to ask permission to hold a family meeting. In any event most of them will not know anything about this law and any man who wants to be conscientious about his job will go snooping around people's houses within a mile radius of this place to find out whether or not anyone was holding a meeting for whatever purpose. That is my amendment, Mr Chairman.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I rise to oppose this amendment. Now, this amendment, if accepted, would defeat the real aim of this Bill. The argument of my learned Friend, Chief Rosiji, appears very plausible and high sounding but I would refer him to Section 2 of the Bill which excludes a meeting of up to fifty people.

I cannot imagine a family meeting which could be more than fifty people. Furthermore, Sir, as soon as this amendment is accepted the whole purpose of the Bill is defeated completely and it will be as good as not passing the Bill into law at all.

The office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and that of the Attorney-General are held by responsible people. If they are satisfied from their case file and on the evidence before them that a meeting which is being held is a *bona fide* meeting of the say the Yoruba State Union or the Ibo State Union or the Ibibio State Union or an ordinary family meeting, I am sure such a case will never go to court. I think, Mr Chairman, we should not impute improper motives and we should repose some confidence in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney-General.

I cannot imagine a situation, Mr Chairman, whereby the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney-General will direct that a sports meeting of 100 or 200 people gathered at the Race Course should be prosecuted under the provisions of this law. Such a situation can only be found in fascist states, and I happen to say that we are not in a fascist state here. I oppose the Amendment and it should be rejected.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : I think the argument of my learned Friend completely misses the issue. What is more, Sir, a law should be specific. It is the mischief of public meetings that—(Interruption).

An hon. Member : I would not like the lawyers to turn this House into a law court. They should not refer to each other as "my learned Friend", but as "my hon. Friend".

Mr Dosunmu : What the hon. gentleman said was that since it is not expressly written in the law that private meetings are prohibited, private meetings can be held. That is not sound. If the mischief which this Bill seeks to prevent is a public meeting that would disturb the meetings of this House, the law should be specific and say so. It is not open to my hon. and learned Friend to read into the law what is not there. And the argument of my hon. and learned friend, Chief Rosiji, that the Bill should be restricted

[Mr DOSUNMU]

to purely public meetings becomes stronger by the fact that the law itself lays down the number of persons that could constitute an illegal meeting.

I do not know what obtains in Ibadan where the hon. Akinjide comes from, but I know that in Lagos there are families membership of which runs to 100 or more. So, strictly on the face of the law, it is open to the Crown to prosecute a family meeting being held just about 200 yards away from the precincts of this Parliament and attended by 100 members of the family or more. I do not think my learned and hon. Friend is right in saying that the hon. Attorney-General will always be so magnanimous and the Director of Public Prosecutions would be so graciously disposed not to prosecute where somebody has run against the law.

As I have been saying, this law seeks to interfere with the fundamental human rights of individuals—the right to move freely and the right to hold meetings. As against that too this Assembly has to be protected. So, where people hold private meetings, the law should clearly exclude such meetings from the gamut of the law. I think it is loose to word this law as it is, namely, to affect any meeting of any kind.

The Amendment ought to be accepted to amend this laxity in the law. If we are prohibiting public meetings, let us say so bluntly. We should not say that we will not construe private to mean public. Public is distinctly clear from private.

Shettima Alli Monguno : I am totally opposed to the Amendment proposed for it will mean a total defeat of the purpose for which the Bill is being introduced. In addition, I would like to say that fundamental human rights should not be interpreted to mean lawlessness, hooliganism and disrespect for constituted authorities as practised by the Action Group.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : I did not expect that this debate would degenerate into party-political struggles as my hon. Friends are trying to make it. This is a matter which concerns all of us. It does not matter which political party one belongs to. Perhaps if I give a few examples my hon. Friends will appreciate the seriousness of this matter.

I do not know if hon. Members realise that a meeting in Kings College while we are sitting in this House contravenes this law. If about 50 or more students sit together and listen to a lecture being delivered in the Kings College they contravene this law. There have been many complaints about making private meetings unlawful in different parts of the Regions. Some of us here have had experiences of it. People holding meetings in their own houses have been arrested for unlawful assembly. This type of thing is bad.

I want to say further that when the Minister of Justice was moving the Second Reading of this Bill he gave the example of the incident that took place here last year. I now want to tell him that that incident did not arise out of private meetings. It arose out of public meetings. Why must the Bill cover private meetings? What advantage can we derive from it? People who want to disrupt this House will not meet privately. They will hold their meeting in a place like the Race Course, in open places where the public can join them and make their action more effective. Therefore, I wish that this amendment will be accepted because the Bill as it is, is obnoxious. If it is not amended as I have suggested it may be regretted later.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) : I do not know why the Opposition is scared by this Clause. It seems that it had been their intention to hold private meetings when the House is in Session. Personally, I oppose this Amendment strongly because it will serve no useful purpose if accepted. What I want to add is that the law should be observed to the letter so that the Opposition will not make a mountain out of a molehill. Both private and public meetings should be stopped to safeguard the life of Members. I quite agree that it concerns all of us and if it does I do not see any reason why the Opposition should make any noise about it. It is something that every hon. Member should support.

Question put and negatived.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : I beg to move that in Clause 2, line 7, "a radius of one mile" be deleted and "within the precincts of the House" be there inserted.

This Amendment also arises out of the principle that the limitation of the liberty of the

people should not go wider than is strictly necessary. If Members of Parliament are afraid of being attacked, and they do not want people to come in here and attack them, or to hold plenary meetings from where they can come and attack them, I think they ought to limit this type of law to the area in which the Houses of Parliament are situated. To take this to one mile radius which goes beyond Tinubu Square round to Bar Beach, and if this House adds to it what it has just passed, that is, that it does not matter whether it is a private or a public meeting, the Parliament will be making things completely uncomfortable to the people of this country. What are we to make law that nobody can hold a meeting when the House is sitting? Are we Lord God Almighty?

I think it is absolutely wrong to enact a law prohibiting people from holding a meeting, whether private or public, within a radius of a mile of this Parliament building. I know what the Government is afraid of, and I am sure they can prevent that with a legislation which can be less strict than this.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : The mover of the Amendment, Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) has again endeavoured to play on the principle of free movement and the fundamental human rights. I would say, with all due respect, that the fundamental human rights are not absolute right; they are a qualified right and subject to the right and freedom of others, particularly to the overall interest and safety of the country.

With your leave, Mr Chairman, I want to refer to section 25 of this so-called fundamental human rights. It goes: "Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons and, in particular, he may form or belong to trade unions and other associations for the protection of his interest. . . . Nothing in this section shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society".

Chief Rosiji : I did not say in this House that we cannot make a law restricting the liberty of the citizen; I only said that we ought to make sure that whatever restriction we make is the minimum required for the purpose. Therefore there is no need for the hon. Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) to cite all these things.

Mr Akinjide : What I was seeking to say is that apart from the Amendment being nebulous there is even no way of deciding what is meant by the expression "precincts". Is it fifty yards or twenty-five yards? If that is the case the result will be that if the Amendment is accepted each Magistrate will have to apply his own measure in determining what is intended. One person may decide that it is fifty yards and another may say that it is in fact seventy-five yards.

Fundamental human rights provide that no law should be repugnant if it is in the interest of public order and morality and so on; and I say that anything which seeks to protect Parliament is in the interest of public order. I can understand the interest of the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*), he lives within half a mile of this Chamber and maybe he would like to hold a political meeting when the House is sitting. I do not wish to impute any motives; but even in England where things are more highly organised and developed there are commercial houses and other institutions around Westminster, yet their law is the same in this respect and prohibit meetings within a mile.

I therefore think that we should leave this question to the good sense of the people who are called upon to administer the law.

Question put and negatived.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : I beg to move.

In clause 2, line 14, to leave out "charitable or scientific".

The reason for this Amendment is that if anybody looks at line 14 he will find that the only word which seems reasonable there is the word "religious". There could be an endless list of other words. For instance when you have the words "charitable and scientific" there one could continue and add "sporting, philosophical, literary, artistic, educational" and so on and so forth. All these groups appear to have peaceful purposes and if we include some of them then there is no reason why we should leave out the others. If the others are not included then we should delete this one.

I have no quarrel with the inclusion of the word "religious", but the expression "charitable and scientific" can be used as a disguise for other purposes. Any group of people

[MR ORONSAYE]

could pretend to be holding a charitable or scientific meeting. Even Guy Fawkes who was responsible for the Gun Powder Plot at Westminster could have pleaded on being caught that he was holding a scientific meeting, for he was practising with explosives.

I beg to move.

Question put and negatived.

Chief Rosiji : I beg to move—

In clause 2, line 14, to leave out the first "or" and after "scientific" insert "or sporting".

The Amendment is the opposite of the first one, namely that I want us to make it possible for sporting activities to take place within a mile of the House, and I think that purpose should be obvious to the House. There is the race course opposite us and a football field very near behind. If people play cricket or football, it is a meeting and they cannot play it. If children go out there to romp about or there is a horse race meeting, neither can take place.

I think that the House should not make as mockery of itself and there is no need to say that these instances will not be prohibited. If we know that we are not going to bother these people when they do these things then we should specifically exempt them. But if we do not exempt them, but merely say that the Police will use their discretion, what is the point in making the law? What is the use of having something in the law which you do not intend to enforce? I think it would be making a mockery of the law and of Parliament.

In view of that, I beg to move.

Mr Oronsanye : I oppose the Amendment. It is precisely for that reason that I moved my own previous Amendment, that is to say, for the reason that any number of words could be added. Since my Amendment was rejected, no other word should be added. I therefore oppose the Amendment.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : I think that the object of the Bill which is before the House has been defeated. All the Amendments which were proposed came from both sides of the House, and all of them were rejected. The time has come for the Minister of Justice to

appreciate what is public opinion and accept the inclusion of the word proposed, otherwise the law would appear ridiculous.

We agree with the Minister of Justice in proposing a law to protect Parliament when its work is going on. We certainly cannot go with him to the extent that the measures by which the protection will be achieved become harmful to the public. The Minister of Justice will be well advised to realise that he is Minister of Justice and not *Minister of Injustice*, and he must not do injustice to us here. If he does not accept this Amendment he will find that he is making himself the enemy of the people.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—(PENALTY FOR CONVENING, ETC., SEDITIOUS MEETINGS).

The Minister of Justice : I beg to move—

In Clause 3 (2), line 2, to leave out "the Law Officers." and insert "a Law Officer."

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

Question, That those words be there added, put and agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported with Amendment.

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

Mr L. J. Dosunmu : This is a very unpopular Bill. There were a few Amendments sponsored from both sides of the House. Apart from the fact that they were not accepted, there was no attempt to explain the reasons to the House. Instead what we get is silence.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

ACTS AUTHENTICATION BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice : I beg to move That the Bill be now read a Second time.

Hon. Members may be aware that the present method of authenticating our Bills is cumbersome and a little out of date. If Members look at any of the existing Ordinances or Acts of Parliament they will see on the face

of each that there is first an insertion showing the Governor-General's assent as having been signified. Also at the end they will find that the Clerk of the Parliament signs certifying that the Bill has been assented to.

Last April, I introduced a Bill to clear up a bit of the face of future Acts of Parliament, and this Bill seeks to complete that process by introducing a new system of getting our Bills on the Statute Book, which we call *Assent by Commission*. This will mean that when Bills pass through Parliament, under the direction of the Speaker the Bill will go to the Governor-General for signature. After the signature and the Public Seal of the Federation have been affixed, the Bill will become law.

I think that Members will agree that this new procedure will make our future laws look more like those of an independent country. I therefore beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; committed to a Committee of the whole House and immediately considered in Committee.

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : I just want to make one suggestion, namely that immediately a Bill receives Royal assent or becomes law, if possible, within a week of the Bill receiving such assent copies should be sent to the Chief Justices of the West, the North and the East, and also to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos. I think that it will go a long way to assist the administration of justice.

Mr A. F. Odulana : The point I wish to make is that this is one of those Bills that received the support of all sides of the House. If this is a good Bill and we all supported it, I would like to ask that in future when we put forward Amendments the Minister of Justice should consider them.

The Minister of Justice : I think that I really ought to say a few words about the point being pursued by hon. Members. The hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) seems

to forget that I was not forcing the Bill down anybody's throat. It was the majority of Members that supported the passage of the Bill, and if the Amendments had been accepted by the House I would have fallen in line with the decision of the House. I never said a word against the Amendments.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice : I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

This is, I think, a very necessary Bill at this time, and I am sure that those who have had something to do with criminal justice in this country and those who are anxious for a really healthy state of affairs to exist among our people will support this Bill wholeheartedly.

The Police have in the past few months brought a number of pornographic publications to my attention. We looked into the provisions of the law which are to be found in the English Obscene Publications Act of 1857, as well as in section 232 of the Schedule to our Criminal Code, and we found that these provisions are not adequate to help the Police to get hold of literature that is calculated to deprave morals in this country.

It is therefore an entirely new Bill which I think is as up to date as can be wished for our conditions as proposed here. I believe that hon. Members will have their attention specially directed to section 4 in which an attempt has been made to define what amounts to obscenity in this context. Section 3 and section 4 should be read together for this purpose.

No country has been able to devise an entirely perfect definition of what constitutes obscenity and all we have tried to do is to give an indication of what kind of matter should be so regarded when the Police are forbidding booksellers from selling literature that contains obscene matter, or when the courts are called upon to deal with these cases in the normal process.

I beg to move.

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

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : I think that this is a very opportune Bill, and in supporting it I have just a few observations to make. The first is in connection with the test of obscenity.

The Bill says in section 3 (2)—

“The provisions of this section shall extend to any article of two or more distinct items the effect of any one of which is such as to tend to deprive and corrupt; but nothing in this section shall apply to exhibitions in private houses to which the public are not admitted or to anything done in the course of television or sound broadcasting.”

This particular section tends to defeat the purpose of the Bill. Experience tells us that television and broadcasting are very powerful avenues for this type of offence. In fact one can remember stories of children—one of them occurs to me at this moment—of children who, after watching television in one room in their parents' houses go out and hang themselves. This is an instance of what actually happened.

It is very easy to corrupt or deprave through broadcasting and television, and I ask the Minister of Justice to consider whether he should not remove that particular section of clause 3.

The other point I would like to raise concerns clause 4 (2) which says—

“A person shall not be convicted of an offence against this section if he proves that he had not examined the article in respect of which he is charged and had no reasonable cause to suspect that it was such that his publication of it would make him liable to be convicted of an offence against this section.”

I firmly submit, Sir, that this section appears to me as a lay man, to negate what I used to understand that ignorance of the law is no defence. It is easy for people to plead ignorance when charged under this law. I think that such a provision is rather too much of a loop-hole for offenders and should not, therefore, be allowed to stay.

One other little point concerns section 6 (2)—

“It is hereby declared that the opinion of experts as to the literary, artistic, scientific or other merits of an article may be admitted in any proceedings under this Act either to establish or to negative the said ground.”

Who are the experts? It is very easy for a misguided person to constitute himself into an expert and adjudicate on the artistic aspect of a publication. An expert in literature is perhaps not necessarily an expert in photography. Therefore I think that the word “expert” should be defined so that it is made absolutely clear what meaning is attached to the expression, “expert”.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema) : According to the tone of this Bill there will be various situations which are bound to arise. For example, if I order a book for my personal enjoyment—

An hon. Member : What kind of books does the hon. Member for Degema enjoy?

Mr Briggs : All sorts of books. If I order such a book, as I was saying, I will not come under this law because I have not distributed it. But if I put it in my bookshelf or library and somebody borrows it, then I have committed an offence because I have distributed it. On the other hand if I have a television set and it is showing an obscene film; if about twenty or thirty people gather in my parlour or in my house to watch it, I have not committed an offence.

May I point out that television and broadcasting are one of the most powerful means of disseminating news and information—indeed anything good or evil. To exclude television and broadcasting would mean to stultify the very law which we are seeking to put on its proper footing.

Another point is that to exclude from punishment the person into whose hands an obscene publication is brought is an evil. Both the person who distributes and the person to whom it is distributed should come under the law because if there is nobody to whom to distribute the book, then there will be no distribution. I ask the Minister of Justice to take this into consideration.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) : I support the Bill which we have been expecting for a long time. There are many obscene

publications on sale throughout the Federation and such books should be confiscated by the Police whenever they are found. They are doing a lot of harm to our boys and girls by corrupting their immature minds. In view of this, I beg to support.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I have only one observation to make on this Bill, and that is in connection with section 5 (1)—

“Subject to the provisions of this Act, if a magistrate is satisfied by information on oath that there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that articles deemed to be obscene for the purposes of this Act, are, or are from time to time, kept for publication for gain in any premises or any stall or vehicle in the Federal territory the magistrate may issue a warrant”

My contention here is that we all know that publishers—and in fact anybody at all—must have enemies. One’s enemy may go and plant an obscene matter in one’s stall or vehicle or house. In such cases it is the enemy who turns round to tell the Police that he has cause to believe that such a publication is being hidden away at a given place. There is nothing to prevent a victim of such an evil mind from being convicted, and I therefore ask the Minister to look for a safeguard from this provision.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; committed to a Committee of the whole House and immediately considered in Committee.

OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

Clause 3—(TEST OF OBSCENITY)

Mr W. Briggs : May I refer to clause 3 (1)—

“An article shall be deemed to be obscene for the purposes of this Act if its effect taken as a whole is such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it.”

This section does not properly define what is an obscene publication. Any definition of crime should give a possible accused a

clear impression of what constitutes guilt. Someone must know that what he is doing is wrong to be properly convicted. It is not sufficient to say—“taking all the relevant circumstances into account”.

The Attorney-General himself will understand what I mean when I say that before somebody is found guilty there must be proof that he has *mens rea*, that is a guilty mind, otherwise he cannot be considered guilty in any court of law. He must first of all have a guilty intent. Therefore I suggest that there should be a proper definition inserted under clause 3 (1).

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West) : I wish to raise a point under section 3 (2). The law says that broadcasting and television should be more or less excluded from the media that would come under this law. Members have stressed that these two media are most powerful for the purpose of disseminating information. We think that they should be included, unless the Minister can explain to the satisfaction of the House that they should be excluded.

I am not saying that a man who tunes into his television set and sees an obscene show should be penalised, but the people responsible for broadcasting and screening such shows should be called to question. We would very much like to hear from the Minister what his reason is.

The Minister of Justice : I think there are Boards of Censorship, Federal as well as Regional. We do not want to make this Bill so strict as to restrict the judgment of those boards. What they pass as good to be shown should be left to their discretion.

The point raised by Mr Briggs. As I said in my introductory speech, no country, not even the United States, or the United Kingdom or the Soviet Union, has succeeded in devising a perfect definition of obscene publications. The best we can do is as set out in the section, which is the closest we can go to apprehending criminals and purveyors of pornographic literature.

Clause 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Clause 4—PROHIBITION OF PUBLICATION OF
OBSCENE MATTER*

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : Clause 4 of the Bill says that no prosecution for an offence against this section shall be commenced more than two years after the

[MR AYENI]

commission of the offence. In other words, we have a period of about two years during which to prosecute and after that whether the man is convicted or not it will stop there and the publication and distribution of it will continue. I think the Attorney-General should examine this particular clause and see that nobody is exempted from being prosecuted because he pleads ignorance.

Clauses 4-7—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

And it being 11 45 a.m. Mr Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3), interrupted the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Armed Robbers in Ikom

Mr P. I. Ejukwa (Ikom): Recently armed robbers have been roaming Ikom Division and depriving people of their property. For some time now these notorious men have been concentrating their infamous activities in a certain clan called Abanayom which is about forty miles from Ikom the nearest police station. Most of the teachers there have been deprived of their meagre property and money. Farmers have also been deprived of whatever they have got.

About two weeks ago a patient was told at gun point to surrender all the money he had and he did but in an attempt to resist he was badly cut on the head and was rushed to hospital. In fact this has been attributed to the many unemployed and able-bodied people in that area who roam about, and some of those fellows who settled in the Cameroons and smuggle goods across the border. I should be grateful if the Prime Minister could make a statement on this so as to allay the fears of the people.

The Prime Minister: It is not a question of the Prime Minister making a statement to allay the fears of the people in Ikom. The hon. Member asked for my permission to raise this matter and I allowed him to do so in order to tell him here that I will look into the matter. At the same time I would like to say these are things which are more or less common on

frontiers. You usually find armed robbers raiding from the villages in the one territory into the territory of another.

I think the hon. Member has not gone as far as to say that law and order has broken down in the area. This sort of thing always happens on frontiers and I think the answer will be to increase police patrols and to ask the police to be more vigilant. But I want to assure the hon. Member that I will get the Police in Ikom to look into this and to see that the situation is remedied.

All Nigeria Peoples' Conference

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I ask the hon. the Prime Minister to make a statement on the All Nigeria Peoples' Conference held recently, I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for appointing Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, a nationalistic, pushful and versatile politician, as his Personal Adviser on African Affairs. It shows that the Prime Minister himself is a man with foresight and alive to his responsibilities on African Affairs.

There is no doubt that the recent All-Nigeria Peoples' Conference is a marvellous achievement and a credit to the Prime Minister, his Personal Adviser and to the Federal Government. It is in consonance with the Prime Minister's philosophy of life that charity begins at home and that once there is internal stability in Nigeria all matters like African Affairs will be tackled with equanimity. It is also a remarkable attempt in that it shows that in African Affairs Nigeria is going to demonstrate originality and creative ability.

With these humble remarks, I wish the hon. the Prime Minister would make a statement on firstly his views on the efforts of his Personal Adviser to solve the multifarious and variegated problems that beset the African continent to-day and secondly his views of the criticisms levelled on certain aspects of the recommendations of the All Nigeria Peoples Conference. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Prime Minister: I am asked by the hon. Member to make a statement on the activities of my Personal Adviser on African Affairs and also on the All-Nigeria Peoples' Conference. Now, if the Prime Minister should make statements on all matters, I think all the time of the House will be taken up by the Prime Minister's statements.

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Well, I am glad to know that people feel that is a good thing to have appointed Dr Mbadiwe as my Adviser on African Affairs—(*Interruptions*) I think even my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, congratulated me on that appointment.

I think the importance of the All-Nigeria Peoples' Conference was that it gave a very good cross-section of the people of this country the opportunity to express their views on the problems of Africa. Also I think the Federal Government should be congratulated for leaving its doors open for any critics who feel like criticising Government policy.

We have nothing to hide in our policy as far as Africa is concerned. We always welcome

criticisms and we only want to invite people to come and express their views because those views will be of great help to us in carrying out our responsibilities.

I am afraid that I have not had time to study the reports of that conference, their recommendations and so on. I am afraid too that I am not now in a position to make a statement on the conference.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 12 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 2nd September, 1961

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Prime Minister : On Tuesday last, the following Motions were passed by this House. I will read them. "*Resolved*, That this House views with grave concern the appointment by the Government of Western Nigeria of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police since such appointment interferes with the executive authority of the Federation." The second Motion reads—"That this House views with concern the repeated allegations about the grave state of law and order in Western Nigeria and desires the Federal Government to look into them and to report to the House in due course." I now wish to make a statement on these matters.

Numerous complaints have been made to me in the last few months concerning the state of law and order in Western Nigeria. These complaints can be summarised as oppression of political opposition by the Action Group, resulting in a total breakdown of law and order throughout the Region. Generally speaking, the complaints fall into one or more of the following categories.

Discrimination against political opponents and their supporters in the matter of tax assessment.

Use of the customary courts to suppress political opposition.

Use of the Local Government Police and Local Council Officers to arrest political opponents on minor and/or trumped-up charges.

Intimidation in varying degrees of opponents of the Action Group.

Lack of action and lack of impartiality by members of the Nigeria Police.

I have discussed this matter with the Premier of Western Nigeria and hope to have further discussions with him, while I will also in the near future call a meeting of the Police Council to discuss these problems.

While appreciating the genuine sense of grievance under which opponents of the Action Group are labouring in Western Nigeria, it can only do harm to the reputation of this country if exaggerated reports alleging a total breakdown of law and order in the Region and a state of terror existing there are made. If a person is genuinely in fear of his life, then the obvious solution is to report the fact to the Nigeria Police and request protective measures.

I have been informed by the Inspector-General that only very recently have complaints been made either to him or to the Regional Commissioner personally on this matter. It is, I feel, most important that aggrieved persons should make their complaints to the Police on the spot rather than come to Lagos to see either me or the Inspector-General or others. I think this channel should only be used when the persons feel aggrieved at the action or lack of action taken by the officer on the spot.

The House would wish to be informed of the arrangements made for the appointment of the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police. From 1956 to March 1961, the method of appointment of an officer to fill the post of Superintendent-General, Local Government Police Forces, Western Region, was that the Inspector-General of Police suggested the name of a serving Nigeria Police Officer to the Western Region Government to fill this post. In the three cases of officers who held this post prior to March 1961, the Western Regional Government accepted this nomination.

In January of this year the Western Regional Government intimated that it wished to appoint a substantive holder to the post of Superintendent-General and asked the Commissioner of Police for his views on the suitability of a retired Nigerian Officer who had applied for the post. The Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Inspector-General, recommended that person for the post. The Commissioner of Police went on to recommend that section 19 (1) of the Local Government Police Law should be invoked—

The Minister of Finance : May I ask the Rt. hon. Gentleman if it was invoked ?

The Prime Minister : It was not. This section, if invoked, brings the Local Government Police Forces under the control of the Commissioner of Police.

The new Superintendent-General was appointed in March 1961, but a decision of the Commissioner's recommendation to invoke section 19 (1) of Local Government Police Law was deferred, as the Government wished the proposal to be examined by the Law Offices before taking such a step.

Prior to June 1961 the then Provincial Forces of the Local Government Police were commanded by officers of the Nigeria Police, but discussion had previously taken place concerning the appointment of local officers to command these forces, as it was considered that the time had come for this action to be taken. Accordingly, in June 1961, local officers were appointed to command the provincial forces in Ibadan, Ondo, Abeokuta and Oshogbo. Nigeria Police Officers would still command the Local Government Forces in Benin and Ijebu-Ode.

During the course of the debate on Tuesday, the hon. Member for Ishan East (*Chief Enahoro*) stated that the creation of a post of Superintendent-General, Local Government Police, was not a new thing, and that the Local Government Police Law, which is the authority for the creation of the post, had been in existence since 1955. It is my opinion however that our Constitution clearly supersedes that law. Section 97 (7) of the Constitution reads as follows:—

"Nothing in this section shall prevent the legislature of a Region from making provision for the maintenance by any native authority or Local Government authority established for a province or any part of a province, of a police force for employment within that province."

To me that makes it clear that the only Police Forces a Regional Government may create are Local Provincial Forces, and any action, including co-ordination of effort or indeed of training, which tends to bring the forces under direct regional governmental control is, in my opinion, a move contrary to the spirit and the intention of the Constitution. Any such co-ordination as may be required should, in my opinion, be the duty of the Federal Police Force, for which I am responsible to Parliament.

As far as central control is concerned, the basic difference between the Native Authority Police Forces in the North and the Local Government Police Forces in the West is that in the North a serving Nigeria Police Officer fills the duty post of Adviser, Native Authority Police Forces. This officer advises the Commissioner of Police who, in turn, advises the Regional Government. The operative word is "advise"—it is neither control nor direction. The Native Authority Police Adviser is not a Regional Government appointee, nor is he seconded to the Regional Government. He is an integral part of the Nigeria Police establishment in the Northern Region. In the West, the post of Superintendent-General is a regional appointment and when Nigeria Police Officers filled the post they were seconded to the Regional Government. The Regional Government reimbursed the Federal Government for their salaries, allowances, *et cetera*, but these emoluments did not appear in the regional estimates. Since the appointment of the new Superintendent-General, the post is shown in the regional estimates.

I now want to say something about the Nigeria Police. Complaints have been made against them and generally I am satisfied that they are doing their best to carry out their duties, often under provocation and in difficult circumstances, conscientiously and impartially. As far as lack of impartiality is concerned, there may well be some members of the Nigeria Police who show bias in the course of their official duties, but I am convinced that they are a minute minority and that the vast majority are trying to do a difficult job in a spirit of impartiality.

Whenever the Inspector-General or any of his officers receives specific complaints, an inquiry takes place. But as often as not, these complaints are of a very general nature against a particular individual, and nothing could be more calculated to destroy the morale or efficiency of the Force if a disciplinary action was taken against Nigeria Police personnel in the absence of full details of their alleged dereliction of duty.

I therefore appeal to hon. Members of this House and to the public to support the Nigeria Police, and I ask them to show tolerance to men, the majority of whom are doing a difficult job as well as they can.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance : The Foreign Affairs debate, published in the *Order Paper*, will continue this morning up to 11.45 a.m. when the sitting of the House will be suspended until 7 p.m. The Bills shown on the *Order Paper* will then be considered.

It was the intention of my Colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, that the debate on Foreign Affairs should last for two days, that is, to-day Saturday and Monday. But after discussions I find that some hon. Members feel that it might well be that speakers on this debate may exhaust their reserve to-day.

I am in the hands of the House, however and if it is the desire of the House that that debate should be concluded to-day then the House could adjourn *sine die* to-day otherwise the Government is quite prepared that the debate should continue till Monday when the House will adjourn *sine die*.

NOTICE OF MOTION**Business of the House**

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That the Proceedings on Government Business other than the Debate on the Foreign Policy of the Government be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), and such Business shall be taken at the following times :—

- (a) from 11.45 a.m. till 1 p.m., and
- (b) from 7 p.m. onwards.

As I have said in my Business Statement to the House, we have certain Bills left over and since we had allocated two days for the debate on Foreign Affairs it is only necessary that we should devote to-day to the full debate, that is from now till 11.45 a.m. when the Business of the House will be interrupted, and then deal with the Bills on the *Order Paper*. In order to finish these Bills and to enable Monday to be given fully to the conclusion of the debate on Foreign Affairs, it will be essential to dispose of these Bills to-day so that on Monday we can have a full day to debate Foreign Affairs.

I think that this is a reasonable arrangement subject to the proviso which I have earlier on put to the House, namely, that if it is the wish of the House to finish and go home to-day they

are entitled to do so. On the other hand if they are not prepared to do so then I am in the hands of hon. Members. I beg to move.

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

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : I am opposing this Motion. When the Minister of Finance gave us the impression that we would have two days to debate the Motion on Foreign Affairs it was an agreed proposition. Now, as it were, we are not only being brought down to one day, we are indeed being restricted to under two hours' debate on Foreign Affairs. Nobody knows for how long the Minister of Foreign Affairs is going to read his paper. It seems, therefore, that the whole thing is going to be rushed through. There is only just one week for us to stay, and there is no reason why we cannot wait ; there is no reason why we have to hurry through this business.

Earlier this week when we opposed this type of motion on night sittings, we gave the reason that night sittings should only be necessary if there was so much work being done that we had a heavy arrear of work to be cleared. But just now it appears that there is nothing of that kind. Besides, some time earlier this week when the Leader of the House gave us an idea of the work that was to be done, we gave him our advice with the result that much of the work was done properly, and there is no need for this hurry.

The debate on the Foreign Affairs, I am quite sure will need more than two hours, and certainly more than the little under two hours that has been allotted for it by the Leader of the House. I think we ought to have the whole of Monday to continue the debate. In view of that, I beg to oppose the Motion.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : It does seem as if the Motion moved by the Leader of the House is being misunderstood. What I gathered from the Motion was that the normal working day of this House be devoted to the Foreign Affairs debate and then at the end of the normal working hours of this House, we go on to some other business of the Government and the Foreign Affairs debate should continue on Monday. That is what the Leader of the House has said.

I do not think that he is departing at all from the undertaking already given to this House. I think that all he has done is to appeal to Members that if by 11.45 a.m. no Member wishes to speak then, of course, it will be accepted that the debate on Foreign Affairs is closed. And if that is the case, on the conclusion of the Bills for to-day, it will mean that the House will be adjourned.

As it is, on Saturdays normal business is interrupted at 11.45 a.m. and we have not heard the Minister of Foreign Affairs yet. May be by the time he finishes, Members might start thinking again as to whether this debate will not go on on Monday. Therefore, I think that we ought to accept the Business Statement so far and give our co-operation by saving time.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Unless we want to be taught anew, this Motion should not be passed. If this Motion is passed, unless there is a substantial Motion to rescind the decision taken it will be improper to accept what the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivwu*) has just stated.

The point is that to-day is Saturday and Members will not forget that everybody likes Saturday night. We on the Opposition Side of the House are quite prepared to remain here the whole of next week, because we have been saying that we should not rush the business of this House. The debate on Foreign Affairs should be given two full days, as was first stated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the Floor of this House. This will make it possible for everybody to be given, as far as possible, a chance to say something on our foreign policy.

I am sure that this Motion is designed to muzzle us so that we cannot speak our minds. I have no apology to offer to anyone. If there is any tricky question in this country to-day it is Foreign Affairs. I feel sure that even the Minister of Foreign Affairs will agree that his Motion is very important. And I am certain, knowing him as I do, that he is going to take more than two hours to move his Motion. And what time would be left for us to debate the Motion?

I oppose this Motion on behalf of this side of the House and on behalf of every conscientious person in this House.

Alhaji Daura (Maska): I see that the business of the House has been scheduled to start from 7 p.m. onwards. I do not think there will be a quorum because every one of us here would like to have dinner before coming here. Why not push the time forward 8 p.m. or 9 p.m.?

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I am inclined to support the hon. Member for Maska. If we are meeting from 11.45 a.m. till 1 p.m., and since we had been given the undertaking previously that the Foreign Policy debate would take two days, why can we not use the whole of to-day, close at the normal time and then come back and use the whole of Monday in full, rather than doing it half way to-day, starting from 7 p.m. onwards and then coming back again to devote the whole of Monday to the debate on this Motion? I appeal seriously to the Leader of the House to consider this matter.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): May I make a suggestion which will meet us half way, in line with that of the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*). We on this side of the House have just seen the text of the Motion by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We are tabling an Amendment and I think that it will meet our wishes if we can reach an agreement to take up this Motion on Monday and spend the remaining two hours of to-day on these three or four Bills.

The Minister of Finance: This is a democratic Government where law and order prevail. We have seen that the suggestion made by my hon. Friend, the Member for Ishan East, (*Chief Enahoro*) appeals to all sides of the House and the suggestion is thus accepted by the Government. We feel that we should give the whole of this morning to the debate on the Bills on the *Order Paper*. There will be no Sitting to-night and Members will only come here on Monday morning, and for the whole day hear and debate the Foreign Policy

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

ORDERS OF THE DAY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (HARMFUL PUBLICATIONS) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance: I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

This Bill seeks to ascribe a standard to harmful publications likely to corrupt children

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

and young persons and to impose penalties on the distribution of such works where they are likely to fall into the hands of juveniles and young persons.

Juvenile delinquency in this country should be a matter of grave concern to all reasonable people and any measures designed to prevent this would certainly be a step in the right direction. This Bill, therefore, is a simple and straight forward one which seeks to assist the Government to have other possibilities of checking the excesses of our juveniles.

I commend the Bill to all Sides of this House and I beg to move.

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

Chief A. Enahoro : We have no objection to the principle of this Bill. There is only one point which I hope will be brought to the notice of the Minister of Justice, and that is the saving provision which I am informed applies in these matters overseas. It is not sufficient to say that a publication portrays a commission of crime; the degree of violence and cruelty which it intends to establish must be shown.

I think that this is a very important question because practically everything shown on television or films falls within this category. I think therefore that if the Government will give consideration to an Amendment to that effect, we would support this Bill.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : In supporting the Bill, I have to say something about its scope. The Bill covers children and young persons and in the definition a young person is a person who is up to or above the age of 17 and up to but not more than the age of 19 years.

We see now that between the age of 18 and 19 years, a person is eligible to be conferred with a university degree. The hall-mark of university education is an unrestricted intellectual liberty. An undergraduate can read anything provided it is printed. It is for him to form his own opinion about what he has read. If this Bill is made to apply to persons of this age, it means that he is not entitled to this sort of university intellectual liberty.

I therefore appeal very strongly to the Minister of Justice to see that the Bill is

concerned with those children and young persons who are below the age of 17 and should not extend to young people up to or above the age of 19 years.

Moreover, no attempt whatsoever has been made to define the meaning of the word "corrupt" in the Bill. It seems that the whole ingredient of this Bill is the word "corrupt" and we have no guide in the Bill as to the meaning of the word. The meaning of the word corruption is purely a subjective matter. What is considered corrupt in one man's point of view may not be corrupt in the eyes of another. I think that in order to make this Bill do the work for which it is intended, an attempt should be made to define the word "corrupt" so as to guide the court and the children and young persons for whom the Bill is designed.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) : This Bill is a welcome addition to many useful Bills which reflect credit to whoever is responsible for their preparation and presentation. Because our children and young persons are the pillars of tomorrow, nothing should be considered too great to be done to safeguard their interests and to ensure their good upbringing.

Nowadays, there are many ways in which children are led astray, by reading all books and papers, by enjoying bad films at the cinema and at the television. It is indisputable that bad impressions remain indelible on the minds of young children, so it is a good idea that anything harmful to the children's future should be under great vigilance.

The great difficulty that occurs to my mind is how to combat the evils involved. Printing is as common a trade as trading in *garri* or palm oil. The Federal Government should ensure that publications of all kinds are censored and that those that are imported from foreign countries are banned or collected together and destroyed.

I beg to support.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : I think that the Bill in itself is quite good, but I just want to draw the attention of the Minister responsible to Clause 4 (2) of the Bill. It reads :

"It shall be a defence for any person charged under this section to prove that he

had not examined the contents of the book or magazine and had no reasonable cause to suspect that the book magazine was one to which this Act applies”.

I think we are making a law and at the same time leaving a loophole. If book importer imports any book, he must have known in the first instance what the book he wants to sell contains. It is not enough to say that because he does not know the contents of the book, therefore he should not be prosecuted. I think that this should be looked into and, if possible, struck out from the Bill.

I beg to support this Bill.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West): I support the Bill. I agree with the views of my hon. Friend, the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) when he spoke earlier about the specific meaning attached to the word “corrupt”. Ordinarily, the word is innocuous, but the interpretation that can be given to it in the Court will rest upon the whims and caprices of the particular magistrate taking the case. To leave the meaning so elastic leaves much to be desired, as far as this Bill is concerned.

Further, I would say that section 2, subsection 2 of the Act states that the Act applies to any book or magazine which is of a kind likely to fall into the hands of children or young persons. Let us examine that minutely. At least I am above the age intended to be protected by this Act. In my library, I may have at least books which in the ordinary meaning might be considered harmful to children. If my child goes to my library and lays hands on one of these books, would it be said that it is likely to have fallen into the hands of the child? This section of the Bill is so loosely worded that one really does not know where it ends. I would like the Minister to look into this matter very seriously.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Hon. M. T. Mbu): I would not have bothered to reply because this Bill is simply complementary to a Bill which was passed by this House yesterday. The *Obscene Publications Act* which was passed yesterday would be of no effect without this one. That is why this Bill is introduced at all.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*), made a point which

I think I must comment upon, and that is in respect of section 4, subsection 2. This provides for a defence in the case where a person who distributes books but has himself no sufficient degree of literacy. This is very common in Lagos for instance where there are many book sellers. Most of them are not educated enough to know what these things constitute, and if they were to be prosecuted simply because they distributed these books, they would have a poor defence indeed. The provision in question is therefore made to assist those who may not know what they are distributing, and I think that it is a very good thing indeed.

The other question is about the definition of the word “corrupt”. I understand that in most legal systems, it has not been fairly easy to define what really constitutes corruption, and I think it should be left to the Court to give the interpretation it desires.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS
(HARMFUL PUBLICATIONS) BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(INTERPRETATION)—

Chief A. Enahoro : In the course of the debate on the Second Reading, I suggested that the Minister might give an assurance that where, in the case of magazines published for young persons, it is eventually proved that justice triumphs over disorder; that will be sufficient for the requirements of the Bill. I suggest therefore, that this matter should be taken up by the appropriate Ministry otherwise one will find that all these books sold in the main stores—boys annuals, cowboy magazines and so on—will all be infringing this section of the Bill.

The law overseas does not merely stand as it is here but there is a provision that in so far as it is shown, eventually, that truth or law, or the police triumphs over the evil-doer, then the publication is not regarded, taken by and large, as corrupting the young persons.

Clauses 2 to 5 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for insurance business by the registration of insurance and for the purposes connected therewith be now read a Second time.

The need for legislation to regulate the activities of insurance companies and underwriters and to protect the interests of the public has been recognised for some time. At the present moment, anyone is free to set up in business as an insurer, to issue policies of insurance and to solicit business from the public. He does not require to have any capital or to be registered as an insurer unless it is his intention to issue policies under the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Ordinance.

The Bill now before the House seeks to remedy this defect in our legislation by requiring all insurers, including those already in business, to be incorporated as companies and to register with the Registrar of Insurance who will be an official of my Ministry. Applicants will have to satisfy the Registrar that they have an adequate margin of solvency and that they have a paid-up capital of not less than £50,000 if they are incorporated in, and are operating solely, within Nigeria.

The Registrar will also have to be satisfied, in the case of applicants carrying on life insurance business, that their liabilities under unexpired life, industrial and sinking fund policies do not exceed the amount of their life insurance funds. Registered insurers will have to submit annual returns of their business to the Registrar, and these documents will be available for inspection by the public.

The Bill specifically exempts any insurance business undertaken by a Regional Government within its own Region and by a friendly society set up without any share capital for the purpose of aiding its members or their dependants. It also provides for the exemption of persons or classes of persons or classes of business at the discretion of the Minister.

One most important provision of the Bill to which I should like to invite the attention of hon. Members is that contained in Clause

27A. This clause empowers the Minister to require any insurance company to invest a percentage of its profits in Nigeria.

The draft Bill has been circulated to Regional Governments who are generally in agreement with its provisions.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Education : I beg to second.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : I would first of all point out to the Minister that there is no Clause 27A in the Bill and that he should correct that.

This Bill, in the view of this side of the House, is non-contentious. If there is anything the Government can do to safeguard the interests of the public in the hands of unscrupulous people who may wish to become rich quickly by incorporating non-existent or non-registered insurance companies, we on this side of the House will always support it.

I wish that the Bill dealt specifically with motor vehicle insurance. Every Member of this House has a motor vehicle. We have seen the other day here, when a certain Bill was being debated, that it takes more than twelve months for the insured person to be indemnified by the insurance companies, which shows that any such insurance company has no money. We welcome the minimum capital requirement stipulated by the Minister for incorporating and registering insurance companies, but I would have wished the amount to be increased.

Again, the Government of this country is now purchasing its own ships, and care should be taken, in purchasing these ships, that we do not buy very old ones. I hope it is not the intention of the Bill to make the insurer of the ships run at a loss.

I would not speak much on this Bill, for, as I have said before, this Bill is non-contentious. Those people who may wish to oppose the Bill only do so because they wish to be heard in this House or because even those on the side of the Government do not like the Government. In this case we do not criticise the Bill but we only wish that the capital of £50,000 required for companies incorporated outside Nigeria should be increased to £100,000 and that for companies incorporated within Nigeria it should be increased to £50,000. This would mean that when there is an accident the insured person may be quickly attended to.

At present it takes too long a time to indemnify people. I remember that I had an accident in Lagos last year. Very many letters had to be written to the insurance company, but this did not help until we came here for the August meeting last year when they were able to pay me.

On behalf of this side of the House, I support the Bill.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : On a point of explanation, there is a paragraph 27A as can be seen from the Bill.

And the paragraph reads as follows :—

“The Minister may if he thinks fit and notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, require any insurance company to invest in Nigeria a percentage of the profits of the insurance company accruing in respect of its business in Nigeria, and not exceeding 3 per cent in any financial year of the insurance company.”

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Ibadan South East) : I support this Bill. I think it is really a move in the right direction. However, it can only be a move in the right direction if the Minister uses his powers under this Bill to help the Nigerian insurance companies which are now coming out by leaps and bounds.

We all know that the establishment of insurance companies is one of the ways by which the capital of a country can be stabilised and unbridled spending in the society preserved. If a person takes out a life insurance policy for a period of years, for that period, money or capital which could have been frittered away on luxuries will be saved.

But what happens to this money which is being saved? The Minister has just referred us to section 27A of this Bill which gives him discretionary power of asking these companies to invest so much in this country. I think that that is another move in the right direction. As I understand it, insurance companies are one of the wealthiest conserves in a country, particularly those in Europe and even in this country. Companies like the Royal Exchange Assurance, New African Insurance Company, and so on, have a lot of money. But instead of investing their surplus capital in this country it is being invested in such foreign places like England,

Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and so on. In the final analysis, therefore, the aim of establishing insurance companies in this country is defeated.

I would, therefore, ask the hon. Minister to make a really exhaustive use of the powers conferred on him by section 27A and direct these companies to invest their money in this country. After all, the money they have made comes from the pockets of the people of this country. Why should the money be exported and invested abroad? It is inimical to our interest. Already the Marketing Boards of this country, and various government agencies have a lot of reserves in England. It is not a move in favour of our economy for foreign insurance companies in this country to continue exporting their capital overseas.

Further, I think that this Bill does not go far enough in regard to the control of insurance companies. There should be a more stringent move. We all know the rate at which cars are being bought in this country. There are thousands of cars on the roads, and each of them has got to be insured. Happily enough, the Government of the Eastern Region has established its own insurance company.

I do not know the limitations that government attaches to car insurance. The Government of the Western Region, *via* one of the corporations, has established its own insurance company. I would ask the Federal Government to establish an insurance company also. It is necessary to have this.

Some time ago, when our currency notes were being conveyed from Liverpool to Lagos, thousands of pounds were spent to insure them. We all know, of course, that nothing could have happened to those notes. But we had to insure them so as to be on the safe side. The premium went to the insurance company which issued the policy covering the currency notes. I have no doubt that the money was paid to the headquarters of the company after a few weeks of its collection †

We would like the Minister of Commerce and Industry to encourage the insurance companies which are established by the Regional Governments. They come within the provisions of this Bill, and it will be the duty of the Federal Government to encourage them as far as possible. There are still some other indigenous insurance companies, such as African Alliance

[MR AKINJIDE]

Insurance Company which deals solely in life insurance. It is the first indigenous insurance company to deal solely in the life insurance business. I understand that the business of this company is growing by leaps and bounds, and I also understand that it has a link with a German company. Now, if the Federal Government encourages this company and gives it its utmost co-operation, this company can break its tie with the German concern. The Federal Government can even buy up the shares of that foreign company so that this life assurance company will be in partnership with the Federal Government.

Some time ago, as a result of the outcry of Members of this House, this Government established a Parliamentary Committee to look into the motor insurance business. I regret to say that nothing has been heard from this Committee. Personally, I have never seen the report of the Committee. I have only read something relating to it in one of the newspapers. A certain section of the press managed to get that from where I do not know.

As I said, I support the Bill and I hope that in the course of the next three years the Government will make a more radical law which will be to the disfavour of foreign insurance companies but to the favour of indigenous insurance companies.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West): I am very happy to note that Nigerians are taking an active part in the insurance business. I hope that in due course the Minister will see to it that this important aspect of our economy is controlled wholly by Nigerians. In short, I would like many insurance companies to be nationalised.

I have always had a very strong reason for suggesting that most insurance companies be nationalised. I bought a car sometime last year and I carried out a comprehensive insurance on it with £79. After just a week, a reckless driver hit my car where my driver packed it. I was not there and my driver was not there either. I reported this incident to the insurance company which requested me to pay the cost of repairs and whatever I spent would be refunded to me later.

I did this, but some months later, I received a letter from the insurance company telling me that nothing would be refunded to me since

my driver had just got his driving licence, and had no experience yet. I was naturally surprised at the behaviour of the insurance company. Unfortunately, I did not report the incident to the Police who could have intervened.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Is the hon. Member for Jos North West seeking personal redress through the House, or addressing the House on the Bill?

M. Isandu: Despite all my attempts, nothing was done.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Will the hon. Gentleman please leave his personal experience alone and speak on the Bill?

M. Isandu: I would like the hon. Minister to take appropriate steps to control insurance companies as is provided by section 27A which he has read to us. I beg to support.

Mr A. Akomolafe: One would wish to cast one's mind back to the bank boom and the consequent bubbles of the forties, and in consequence to say that this Bill is a very welcome one. For now that insurance is becoming the order of the day, now that the setting up of insurance companies is becoming the order of the day in this country, and many people are engaging in the profitable business, it is absolutely essential that the position of the insured should be made secure.

Looking back as I said to the banking boom, there is a good number of people who have not been trained to engage in this business, and I should think that the Government would need to ensure that the people who are engaging in insurance business have the necessary and requisite training to ensure that the business is carried out in the best interests of the insured. I wish to mention—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (M. Usman Angulu Ahmed): On a point of order, a Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him.

Mr Akomolafe: As I was saying before I was interrupted by an uninformed Member, much as I consider it of great importance that the insured should be protected, I rather think that the margin of solvency, especially for indigenous insurance companies, is a bit extravagant. If you, or I, decided to engage

in the insurance business, we would not find it as easy, as the expatriates would, to raise say, £20,000. If, on the other hand, we had the backing of a reputable bank who would give us all the necessary credit, it would be quite easy for our business to flourish. If the Minister does not feel that this margin of solvency can be removed completely, then I think that in the case of indigenous insurance companies it could be reduced further still, so as to make it possible for our indigenous people to carry out the business.

As the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*), has said, the expatriates have all the money to promote the business, and they take all the profits out of this country, whereas our indigenous people would put the profits into this country, but are barred from carrying on the business because of that great sum required to fulfill the margin of solvency. The result is that much of the business will still be mainly in the hands of expatriates, due to the provision in this clause of the Bill. If the Minister really means to encourage indigenous enterprise in this country, then it will be his duty, if he does not want to remove completely the clause concerning the margin of solvency for indigenous insurers, to considerably reduce the sum to, say, £5,000, plus a guarantee by a reputable bank of a further margin of about £10,000. That would make it easier for Nigerians to carry on insurance business.

The third thing I want to mention is that the varying conditions of premiums which many of these insurance companies charge are arbitrary. If they were merely competitive that would be all right, but a good many of them are arbitrary. Some of them are unrealizable and they are often put in to tantalise the prospective insured. I think that this is a serious situation, and that this law ought to make a provision, as someone has suggested, for a margin of premiums to be charged so that everybody will be assured that the premiums charged are within a certain range, that can be easily covered.

My final and fourth point is that I think that there should be a provision for inspection of the business of the insurance companies—not for the purpose of picking holes, but to give them the benefit of advice which will encourage their business.

With this, I beg to support.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : This Bill is a welcome Bill, and one which we have long awaited.

In the first place, we have many insurance companies operating in the country. Some of them are good insurance companies, and some of them are unscrupulous ones. It is said under Clause 7 (c) "that the applicant being a body corporate operating outside of the Federation is duly constituted under the laws of the country in which the head office of the applicant is situated, and that the paid up capital is not less than £50,000..." My contention here is that £50,000 is so small that—(*Interruptions.*)

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! I think that is a remark which might be more appropriately made at the Committee Stage.

Mr Elenwa : I think that the Minister should be very careful before registering any of these insurance companies, as far as their policy is concerned. Before any of them is registered the Minister should scrutinise the policy of these insurance companies, because so many of them may say one thing to the Minister and at a later date practise something completely different.

I think that most of us in this House have had our own experiences as far as these insurance companies are concerned. For example somebody has mentioned to-day that he bought a car, and about a week or two later this car happened to be involved in an accident and the insurance company was called in. It often happens that when they are called in in the case of an accident, they are not willing to settle claims and a car, which was purchased just a week or two previously, at a price of about £1,200, is reduced in value to about £800. The owner therefore has to spend about £400 extra to buy another car of the same value. That is why I think that the Minister should scrutinise the policies of these insurance companies before registering them.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; committed to a Committee of the whole House, and immediately considered in Committee.

INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL :
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Clause 6—(INSURANCE BUSINESS PROHIBITED
IN CERTAIN CASES)*

Shettima Ali Monguno : Clause 6 refers to the registration of insurance companies and I would totally agree with the Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) that the Minister of Commerce and Industry should consider the policies of those insurance companies registering for business. I must admit that I do not understand the policy at all. Certain expressions in the policy are beyond my understanding, hence I would need the protection of this Ministry.

It is true that certain insurance companies are unscrupulous ; they are all out to get money from the insured and they are very much unwilling, when and if an accident occurs, to meet the demand of the insured. I have experienced it and many others have experienced it too.

I hope that this appeal does not fall on deaf ears. I know that there was a cry in this House a few months ago that certain insurance companies have been operating in this country very unscrupulously and the Minister listened to this complaint very carefully and appointed a Commission. This action is, in fact, a favourable response to our complaint here a few months ago. Therefore, the Ministry certainly deserves a word of thanks.

Clause 6—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7—(REGISTRATION)

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : In clause 7 (c), I understand that the paid up capital of any of these bodies corporate operating outside Nigeria should not be less than ₦50,000 and those operating in Nigeria should not be less than ₦25,000. My contention here is that ₦50,000 is too small for any of these bodies corporate operating outside Nigeria. I am therefore suggesting that it should be ₦100,000 for those operating outside Nigeria and the amount for those operating in Nigeria should stand as it is.

Clause 7—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 8-15—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Clause 16—(PERIODICAL INVESTIGATION OF
INSURANCE BUSINESS)*

Mr O. C. Ememe : I would like to point out to the Minister that the periodical investigation of insurance companies is very important to the country because the Report of the Special Committee on Insurance shows that there is a lot of complaints all over the country about the actual practice of insurance business of these companies. Therefore it has become very necessary for the Minister to appoint somebody who is an expert in the field to conduct periodic investigations of the activities of these insurance companies with particular reference to the payment of premiums and compensations to people.

I would suggest that, in addition to these periodic investigations, the Government itself should create a channel through which people can easily communicate with the Minister and make their complaints if they are not satisfied with the legal course or if they have not got the money to pursue their cases in the court. I would also suggest, that the Minister should see to it that there is a *National Insurance Corporation* to compete effectively with these insurance companies, just as the Regional Governments are doing.

Clause 16—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 17-26—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Clause 27—(CLASSIFICATION OF INSURANCE
BUSINESS)*

Mr C. A. Odigbo : Clause 27A empowers the Minister to compel insurance companies to invest in Nigeria a part of their profits not exceeding 3 per cent in any financial year. I think that 3 per cent is a very small portion of the profits that insurance companies make in this country.

We are not unaware that insurance business is one of the biggest avenues through which the public save their money. I think that the real aim of compelling insurance to operate in the country is defeated by this limitation and I feel that the Minister should consider increasing the percentage so as to make it possible for more money to be invested in the economy of the country. If the Minister is not prepared to do that then we must have an effective *National Insurance Company* that would compete with the foreign ones.

Somebody has already mentioned that we should make conditions unfavourable for foreign insurance companies so that our local

companies may flourish. I think this is a Clause in which such a measure should be brought in. I hope that the Minister will consider that very seriously.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Members will appreciate that the whole idea is to make insurance companies invest in Nigeria amounts up to and not exceeding 3 per cent. But if people want to invest more on their own they can do so ; I do not think anything can stop them from doing so.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : We are saying that this law should be made with a bias and in order to encourage local insurance companies, to the disadvantage of foreign ones. This is the crux of the matter and the core of our financial problem. The issue is whether the money which is being received by these insurance companies should be invested in this country or sent overseas.

Another thing we have to consider is the word *profit*. Are the profits made by the insurance companies determined after directors have been paid? Are they determined after the money had been put into the general reserve or are these profits the gross income of the insurance companies after everything has been dealt with? These insurance companies have expert accountants who can work wonders with figures. The whole thing can be manoeuvred in such a way that it is virtually impossible for anything to be gained by this country.

If an insurance company is not ready to invest anything in this country, it can so arrange its Articles of Association that 3 per cent of their profits will be useless to this country. They should be made to invest about 25 per cent of their profits and if they do not agree with that, let them pack and go.

Insurance companies allow little or no capital to remain in this country. Most of the money they get is by way of premiums collected from their insured. When it comes to life insurance, how many people who insure their lives ever claim anything? These are some of the things that we have to take into consideration. My idea is that these laws, if they are of any financial interest, should be made with a Nigerian bias. We should not take measures which would aid foreign capital to our own detriment.

Mr E. C. Akwivu : I fully agree with the Members who have spoken on this matter and I think that what should really be done is to make a slight change in the wording of the Bill. Instead of saying "not exceeding 3 per cent", it should be not less than 3 per cent. By saying not exceeding 3 per cent we are really tying the hands of the Minister far too much. To be frank all that 3 per cent amounts to is £3 out of every £100. I think it will be more likely for the Minister to do the right thing and it will place him in a firmer position if it is merely altered to read "not less than 3 per cent", instead of "not exceeding 3 per cent."

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : While I agree with the interpretation given by the Minister, I feel that it should be made readily explicit to the ordinary man in the street. For this reason I would agree with the suggestion made by my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) that the word should be "not less than 3 per cent. If it is not less than 3 per cent, it will bind not only the insurance companies but also the Minister who would not go below 3 per cent.

I think that, subject to the agreement of the hon. Minister, the percentage should be increased to five. I am in insurance business myself and I have taken part in formulating the policy of insurance companies and establishing an insurance company. I feel we should make it rather compulsory for all the insurance companies operating in this country to invest a substantial proportion of their profits for the development of the country.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am very grateful to hon. Members for their very constructive suggestions. But if they are to look into section 43 of the Bill they will see that provision has been made to increase investments of the insurance companies' profits, under the direction of the Governor-General, who has a greater power than the Minister.

There is a limit of the Minister's power, but provision is made for a greater power, that of the Governor-General. I do not think therefore that anything more can be done about this matter.

Clause 27—Ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 28-40—Ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 41-45—Ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time.—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

Mr E. C. Akiwivu : I am very happy that this legislation has been brought before this House and we certainly give the Minister every backing at our command. However, I think it would go a very long way if he would take steps to reduce and, if possible, annihilate the fraudulent practice which is going on in this business.

Insurance companies would encourage a man to insure a vehicle they know is worthless at a very high value only to tell him when trouble arises that it is worthless. There should be a regulation for the proper assessment of the worth of a vehicle so that people do not go on paying heavy premiums simply because the insurance companies make them have a false impression of the amount of compensation to be paid.

The Minister should also make regulations to ensure that insurance companies no longer dilly-dally or engage in worthless and fruitless correspondence, raising people's hopes only to tie them down after ensuring that they have evaded the law.

For example, yesterday, we passed a law on Fatal Accidents. Insurance companies deliberately delay correspondence and say nothing conclusive until they are sure that action can no longer be taken in law, and that is when they come out with their open denial. There must be a regulation whereby an insurance company should make up its mind within three months or within six months on a claim coming before it.

There must be some method whereby at a time, a person is paying his money for insurance, he should be acquainted with the details of the conditions of the insurance. Many times, people were made to pay premiums and no attempts whatsoever are made to tell them what the conditions were; they simply got their money and issued a four-

paged insurance policy with prints that cannot even be read by the most learned persons. What obtains now is that, a man pays, thinking that he is covered for everything on earth only to discover when trouble comes that he is not covered in respect of anything. It is a great fraud to the general public.

Another point is about the insurance of goods coming from overseas. Many traders pay premiums to the insurance companies but when claims arise, either because the goods are damaged or get lost, one finds, on going through the insurance policy, that they are not covered in respect of anything at all. All that has happened is that money has been collected from them and the people who have insured the goods for them in England or elsewhere overseas do not care to consider what insurance means or what is covered. This is probably because most of the clearing houses overseas are themselves either participants in insurance business or agents. They are merely interested in the commission they collect with the result that one finds that in the case of a trader who has ordered goods like stock-fish or salt or whatever it is, worth about £5,000, the insurance company having collected about £300, do not bother to find out what are the goods insured or whether or not they are properly covered. This minor but clever intrigue and fraud on the part of the insurance companies must be stopped.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Muhammadu S. Umar (Katagum West) : I welcome this Bill. I have tabled a Motion urging the Government to nationalise all the insurance companies in this country but, unfortunately, the Motion has not come for debate. Nevertheless, this is a big step forward taken by the Government to that end and I only hope that bit by bit, the Government will have a greater say in these companies.

I would like the Government also, to set up a national insurance company which can compete with the foreign companies. The Eastern Region has taken a step forward in setting up their own company and I would love to see this Government follow that line.

I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : I have explained to the House that on the Third Reading, not much can be said. One can only deal with the

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technical points of the Bill. I allowed the hon. Member for Orlu South East, (*Mr Akwivou*), to speak for some time because he had been occupying the Chair for some time and had no time to take part in the debate on the Second Reading. I should therefore put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for Marine Insurance and to prohibit gambling on loss by maritime perils be now read a Second time.

This Bill, in effect, establishes a code of conduct for marine insurance in general and marine insurers in particular. It is based on the United Kingdom Marine Insurance Act of 1906 and the United Kingdom Marine Insurance (Gambling Policies) Act of 1909, neither of which are in force in Nigeria. The Act of 1906, however, repealed certain statutes of general application, some of which are in force in Nigeria. I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that this is unnecessarily complicated and that the time has now come for us to have our own legislation on marine insurance.

I do not think that the Bill is in any way controversial and I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Education : I beg to second.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : This Bill is very welcome, for the country is now independent. A good sum of money has been spent by this Government in purchasing secondhand ships. In fact, I never knew that this Bill would come up or I would have proved my allegation here that the ships we buy are all those that have been salvaged in England.

I am saying this to warn the citizens of this country because if anything happens to any of these ships which are useless in England but useful in Nigeria, they should not be surprised at all.

I am not prepared to disclose the source of my information. Members will remember that on the 23rd of July there was an accident in a

ship owned by this Government and on close examination of that ship it was discovered that a boiler which exploded was as old as you, Mr Speaker, can imagine. Therefore, I think that this Bill is very much welcome. We know that the ships we have bought are old ones and I know that the sum of £150,000 will be required to repair them. The underwriters may be able in a way, to indemnify our Government.

I am stressing the point that the fact that this Bill is going to be passed does not mean that the Government should order old and useless ships from the United Kingdom. We want new ships, not old ones—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna) : On a point of order. The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) seems to be the oldest person in this House and for that reason has no hair on his head, but he wants new things, new ships !

Mr Ekanem : We have an adage in my area which says "He that hates age dies young". Everybody prays to live to a ripe old age. I certainly would like to live to the age of Methuselah.

We should not buy old ships from America, or Portugal or India or more especially from Britain. We have the money, we want new ships so that the insurance company may not suffer. For the present we say we support this Bill because we know that the ships already owned by this Government are old and useless ships and they can be scrapped any time from now. I shall have something more to say when we come to the Committee stage of the Bill.

Mr L. N. Ezeani (Onitsha North) : I welcome this Bill. Although I know that insurance in general is run on a business basis, I feel that the marine insurance companies under this Act should be compelled to insure all incoming goods. We find that even though these incoming goods are insured, one finds it difficult to recover any damage or loss which may have occurred. The insurance companies are not interested in giving, they are only interested in taking away money from people.

An insurance agent can receive any amount of money on behalf of an insurance company, but when it comes to claims, even of one

[MR EZEANI]

shilling, the client finds it very difficult to get the money. Most of the traders who insure their goods under this Marine Insurance Act do so merely in compliance with the law and not because it is beneficial to them.

For instance, in Nigeria we pay the highest rate of premium in respect of breakable goods throughout the world. If the Minister does not believe this, let him investigate it. I am saying this with some authority. I do not know why this should be the case. Notwithstanding this heavy insurance duty paid, whenever any of the goods is broken and the consignee puts in a claim, the insurance company sends an agent to investigate. If one is fortunate to live in the same station as the agent, one pays him four or five guineas for the investigation. If the insurance agent does not live in the same place as the consignee, then in addition to the five guineas for the investigation he has to pay the lodging and travelling expenses of the insurance agent. What then is the benefit of the whole thing?

I know that the Government may not be in the same position because the Coastal Agency claims their goods for them and they are entitled to write off goods. But the average businessman is suffering because of these insurance companies. The insurance companies are not interested in paying money but in taking money and I think they should be compelled to do their duty. I know of a case where an agent investigated the claim of a consignee and agreed that his case was genuine. But for over one year the insurance company in the United Kingdom found it difficult to pay this money.

I am therefore asking the Minister to protect the businessmen of this country and compel the insurance companies to possess the spirit of "give and take", and not the spirit of "take" only.

Mr T. O. Oloyede (Ife-Ila): This House is now called upon to pass a Bill on Marine Insurance and it is the intention of this legislation to protect the interest of the insured. The point I want to make is in regard to the policy of insurance companies. In this respect I will call upon the Minister to see that the interest of the insured is always protected.

It is a regular practice of most insurance companies to amend their policy, and the

liability which they will bear after an accident has occurred. It is important that the Minister should make regulations from time to time on the policy which forms the basis of contract between the insured and the insurance company. He should also look into that regulation often so as to see that the interest of the insured is protected.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): The hon. Member for Ife-Ila (*Mr Oloyede*) used to be my neighbour here. I do not know why he has chosen to go over to the other side. I only understood that the Action Group bought him over.

Mr Speaker: That is not the business of the hon. Member for Asaba West.

Mr Oloyede: As I have said this Bill seeks to protect the interest of the insured. We have cases where insurance companies dodge when customers make claims. This is bad indeed. I am happy that when this Bill passes into law, and it becomes operative, the tricks of most insurance companies will cease.

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide: The hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, in his speech, admitted that this Bill is more or less a statement of the English law, the laws which were of general application to this country before 1900. Those laws are being reassembled and are now being re-enacted as our own laws. In fact, there is nothing bad in that. But in matters of this nature, particularly in matters which concern insurance, commerce and finance, we should be very careful in the way we substitute our own law for the English one.

Marine Insurance, or Marine Acts of England were made to suit British conditions. In England, the owners of ships are British, and the laws relating to shipping are made to suit British courts. In this country, it is different. About 95 per cent of the ships here are not owned by this country. And the insurance companies which issue out the marine insurance policy are not indigenous companies. That is the snag and, unless we are careful, we will find that although we make this law, it will be of little effect.

A question arises as to which insurance company insures the ships of Elder Dempster Lines, the Palm Lines, and even our own ships? I submit that although this Bill is high-sounding and appears good, in practice,

the Minister will find that it is not worth the paper on which it is written. I say this with a full sense of responsibility. It will be a different thing if we have an indigenous insurance company in this country where these companies should insure their ships.

Afterall, within the years during which we have been under British tutelage no ship has caught fire between Liverpool and Lagos and no ship has got damaged in the harbour or in the wharf of any of these towns. No policy has, therefore, ever been met by the insurance companies. The thing is that although these ships ply between Holland, England, Germany, United States of America and Lagos, trading on our own goods and making lots of money out of our own passengers, very little losses have ever been recorded. But the profits of insurance which they make out of these goods and passengers, go to foreign countries, not to us. That is one thing which the Minister should take into account.

Personally, I do not see the use of this law. We are even going to insure the ships which we took over from the Elder Dempster Lines quite recently with foreign insurance companies. Then of what use is this Bill which will soon be passed into law? The Government has not even got an insurance agent who can insure chattels for people who are travelling between Apapa wharf and overseas countries. In London, for instance, one can just pay a penny to insure one's chattels. Similarly in New York one can just pay, say one pound or two dollars at the airport to get an insurance policy. This is one of the ways of making money.

Money does not come to the coffers of the Government only by taxation. If the Minister of Commerce and Industry could make a serious appraisal of the situation and form a similar insurance company, I am sure a reasonable sum of money will be collected every year. This type of insurance can be made optional. It is obvious that not many will claim anything on this type of policy. The ship owners are very careful; they put experienced mariners on the ships, so that on the long run nothing can be lost.

I am happy to see section 11 of the Bill which makes provision for insurance. If the Government is afraid that it may land in some heavy losses, why not invoke the provisions of section

11 and reinsure 35 per cent of the whole thing so that at least some part of the profits will go to the foreign company while the remaining part will go to the Government? This is a financial matter which the Government should look into in detail. I therefore make this appeal to the hon. Minister. And if he wants more details on this point I can give them to him.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Rome was not built in a day. We are not here in order to protect other interests—we are interested in building Nigeria—we shall have our own shipping companies, we shall have our own insurance, the bulk of our property is controlled by our Marketing Boards controlled by our Government, and it is only right that we should make it possible for our people to get money and expand.

There was a time not long ago when Nigeria was a colony of Britain—a hundred years hence Britain may be a colony of Nigeria!

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : I wish to seize this opportunity to call on the Government to establish a Federal Insurance Company. I want to emphasise this point even though the hon. Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr R. O. A. Akinjide*) has already mentioned it, since marine insurance is such a big organisation and enterprise which will yield a good profit and revenue to the Government.

In view of the fact that indigenous companies are not able to embark upon marine insurance, or in fact any type of insurance, on their own, I think that the Government should undertake this. In some other parts of the world governments have undertaken to institute insurance companies and in that respect I think that the Insurance Company started by the Eastern Regional Government is already making progress—

M. Inusa Tudun Wada : Point of order. This statement should come in the Second Reading.

Mr Ogbalu : My main object is to emphasize this point : that the Federal Government will stand to gain by setting up this Federal Insurance Company which will cater, not only for marine insurance but for insurance of all kinds.

For instance, the Government has made it compulsory that lorry owners and civil servants will have to take out insurance—therefore the Government should step into this and consider the possibility of insuring their cars, and the loans which are being made to civil servants. It would be an easy thing to organise, because naturally civil servants wish to protect their cars—

Mr Speaker : Order ! This is marine insurance.

Mr Ogbalu : I was just making an illustration. Coming back to marine insurance—there are many ships to be catered for, and I suggest that the Federal Government should establish such insurance companies to serve our Navy—the force of our Navy will be increasing in magnitude and direction, and it would not be a difficult thing for us to establish insurance companies to cover their needs.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

STAMP DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL
Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Stamp Duties Ordinance be now read a Second time.

As Members are already aware, in Nigeria policies of marine insurance are exempt from duty under the Stamp Duties Ordinance. It is desirable that the stamp duty should be payable on marine insurance, and it is desired to protect the revenue by amendment of the Bill which provides for a stamp duty on policies of marine insurance for which there is no policies of marine insurance for which there is no provision in the Stamp Duties Ordinance. This Amendment has been necessitated by the introduction of the Marine Insurance Bill.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Education : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

STAMP DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4—(RATE OF DUTY ON MARINE INSURANCE)

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to move—

In line 13, page C484 after “Ordinance” insert “as replaced by the Resolution of the House of Representatives published as a Legal Notice in the Supplement to the *Official Gazette* of 1st April, 1961.”

Question put and agreed to.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to move—

In line 16, page C484, after “words” to insert “and”.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 4—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported with Amendment.

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

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide : The purpose of this Bill is to enable the Government to get more revenue. If that is so, then I think the Minister would have to go a step further, namely, to make sure that those ships which come regularly to our harbours also have their policies stamped in this country. Although they have taken out their policies of insurance abroad, it is necessary that these policies are also stamped in Nigeria otherwise the aim of this Bill would be completely defeated.

All that the ship owner has to do is to buy a ship abroad and take out his policy abroad and does not bother about stamping it here. But it would be better if the Minister goes a step further and says, “All right if you take out your policy abroad and have your flag of

convenience elsewhere and come to this country you have to pay our stamp duties". After all, how much is the stamp duty to people who are millionaires? Unless this step is taken the purpose of this Bill would be defeated.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Second-hand Clothing

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): I seek your permission to raise a point. I have just received a telegram and, in fact, there are about five or ten others in my pigeon hole. These telegrams come from my constituency in the Eastern Region and they concern the anxiety of people over the alleged news of the abolition of second-hand clothing.

I would like to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, who is a most able and dynamic Minister and who has the interest of the country at heart, to consider very seriously this issue. Many people in this country rely very much on the use of second-hand clothing. If the contention of the Government is that there are fraudulent practices involved in the sale of second-hand clothing, the remedy to it is not to ban or abolish it, but to seek out the fraudulent ones and bring them to book. But to abolish the entire system would be odd.

I would like to say that this hon. House is fully aware of the happenings in the hinterland of the country. During the independence celebrations, many foreign journalists came to this country and saw the showpiece of Lagos: the fine buildings, handsome youngmen and long cars. It was all right, but they were not interested. They went to the plateau of the Northern Region and the wilds of the Eastern Region where people were still naked. The only way for the Government to check and advance the course of progress is to allow the people who can never afford to buy fine clothing as the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has on, to buy these second-hand clothings at very moderate prices. I think it will help the progress of this country in many ways.

I agree that if there are fraudulent practices they should be checked. I am appealing to the Minister of Commerce and Industry who, as I have said before, is a most considerate Minister to think seriously on this issue of banning second-hand clothing. We strongly appeal to him to use his influence not to ban it.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: I have not said that we have banned second-hand clothing as yet. What I said was that with the increased industrialisation of the country and the production of more textile goods in Nigeria the time might not be far distant when the necessity for the importation of second-hand clothing would no longer arise. And until such a time, surely people can import secondhand-clothing.

Shell B.P.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah: I want to draw the attention of the House to a very serious situation at Owerri, which, if not properly handled, may lead to unpleasantness. I want to point out that Owerri, at the moment, is in a state of nervous tension bothering on economic strangulation following the regrettable exit of *Shell B.P.* after twenty-three years of its association with the people of that area. The story of Shell BP in this country is well known to most of us.

After twenty-three years stay in Owerri, the Company has decided to withdraw finally from that place and settle permanently in the Rivers Province with their headquarters in Port Harcourt. We cannot control the movement of this Company. They have their reasons for moving to Port Harcourt but the point is that all along we have been on friendly terms with them. The effect of the departure of this Company is a cause for great concern. In Owerri, trading is at a stand still and other businesses have been affected also. There are thousands of empty rooms to let but there are no people to take them. This transfer has affected the economy of the area.

I am speaking with the mandate of the three quarters of a million people of the Owerri Division who are adversely affected by this transfer. We have complained to all the Ministers who toured the Province. The Prime Minister and the Governor-General

[MR M̄BAH]

have also toured the area and heard our complaint. I am sure that but for our peaceful co-operation with that Company, I do not think the Government could have been in a position now to enjoy the boom from the oil industry by way of royalty which is being used for the development of the whole country and not only for the Owerri Province for that matter.

I would like to point out also that we came in contact with the Government in 1902 and we have neither a railway line, an airport nor a seaport and although in about 1922 there was a rail survey which the Government has abandoned.

Mr E. C. Akwivu : On a point of order ! Would the Minister declare Owerri a seaport ?

Mr Mbah : I know the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) is not serious because what I am talking about applies to him also as he happens to come from Owerri Province.

This is really a very sad situation because I believe that it is the duty of the Government, not only to seek the interest of itself, but also to protect the welfare of the individual. I am sure it is not the wish of the Government that the goodwill which the people of Owerri have for it should be destroyed by failure to help the people.

We have a well-developed camp and the property is worth about half a million pounds or over. The camp has a swimming pool and can accommodate either an institution of higher learning, or a branch of the Teaching Hospital or a university. What are we going to do with this well-developed camp when the Company goes away ?

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : I am afraid the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mba*) is dealing with a matter which is properly for the Eastern Regional Government. What further evidence do we require that law and order have broken down in Dr Okpara's Region ?

Dr Kalu Ezera : Law and order have not broken down in the Eastern Region, but only in the Western Region.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Let there be law and order here, please !

Mr Mbah : I am raising this matter because oil is a Federal subject and all the royalties had been going to the Federal Government. My appeal is that the Minister of Commerce and Industry in co-operation with the Eastern Nigeria Government, if possible, should find a suitable industry to replace *Shell B.P.* which has already left Owerri. This I think will go a long way to avert any serious economic disaster.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : In the first place, I would like to say that industrial development is a concurrent subject for which in this particular case both the Eastern Regional Government and the Federal Government would appear to be responsible.

On the question of expansion of industry in the Regions the Federal Government has always endeavoured not to trespass on Regional sovereignty and the Federal Government, therefore, limits itself to creating a sort of climate in which industries can develop. The creation of industry as such is therefore not dictated by the Federal Government, but it is invariably determined by economic factors and the availability of raw materials for the particular industry required.

While therefore the Federal Government is in sympathy with the people of Owerri for their loss of *Shell B.P.*, it is not the function of the Federal Government to compel any industry to move to Owerri or any part of the country for that matter unless such a move is considered economically feasible.

As regards the question of distress to the people of the area, as mentioned by the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) it is not clear whether in raising this matter he is speaking from facts or from sentiment. Sometimes he is very famous for his sentimentality.

Mr Mbah : I object to this remark.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I beg to withdraw same.

Owerri people are in a very good position to find employment in the growing industrial areas now springing up around Owerri ; for instance at Port Harcourt, Aba, Enugu and Onitsha. The loss to Owerri people in the departure of the *Shell B.P.* would appear to be social rather than economic.

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Fortunately, I have heard from reliable sources that negotiations are afoot between the Shell B.P. and another Oil Company for the purchase of this particular company. It is also understood that the Eastern Nigeria Government is interested in acquiring the Shell Company for use as a Technical Institute for which the site is admirable. Under these circumstances, I see no reason why Owerri

people should be economically or socially disturbed. And when one looks at the appearance of the hon. Member for Owerri North, one cannot see any signs of distress in him which he has referred to.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NIGERIA

Monday, 4th September, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PUBLIC WORKS

Upgrading of Trunk Roads

O.512. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he will convert the Trunk B road between Umuahia and Ikot Ekpen to Trunk A in view of the constant usage of the road by heavy vehicles.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : As the Minister informed the hon. Member last year, the Federal Government is considering its responsibilities for main roads during the next planning period, subject to the availability of finance. No firm undertaking in respect of any road can be given at the present stage.

Lagos-Ibadan Road

O.524. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he will improve the uneven surface of the causeway at mile 7 on the Lagos -Ibadan road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Continuous work is done on the embankment, but because of the exceptional depth of the swamp, settlement still occurs. Major and costly work is required which it is hoped to undertake as part of the reconstruction of the Maryland-Ikorodu section of Trunk Road A.1 in the next programme.

Trees on Road Sides

O.525. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will cause the trees along the Lagos-Ibadan road to be felled so as to prevent their being blown down across the road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There are numerous very large trees near this road. To do as the hon. Member suggests would necessitate clearing trees and entering land a

considerable distance back from the road. This would present legal and compensation difficulties and because of these, and the expense involved, it would not be feasible at present. Those trees which do constitute an immediate danger to traffic will, however, be felled.

FINANCE

Motor Vehicle Advances

O.526. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Finance whether he will consider re-introducing the system whereby Government grant advance direct to civil servants for the purpose of purchasing cars instead of the present system under which Government guarantee entitled officers for loans from Finance Corporations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The decision to stop granting advances for the purchase of motor cars was motivated by the desire to release for development purposes monies which were tied up on vehicle advances. The position now is that apart from making the Government monies previously tied up in these vehicle advances available to finance development projects, the present system of Government guaranteeing the advances is an indirect way of financing the advances from overseas resources. Before this decision, some £1.5 million was tied up in vehicle advances.

The Government is faced with the great problem of financing the next Economic Development projects now under preparation and it is difficult to anticipate that the greater part of the cost will be met internally. The need to finance these vehicle advances outside Government funds is even greater to-day than when the present arrangement was introduced last year.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Enforcement of Public Holidays

O.358. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Internal Affairs what steps he intends to take to enforce the Public Holidays Ordinance against Firms and employers of labour especially in Apapa.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : The question as to how far employers of labour honour

their contracts with staff in respect of public holidays is essentially a matter for my hon. Friend, the Minister of Labour. There are no penal provisions in the Public Holidays Ordinance. Although under section 5, it is provided that no person shall be compellable to do such acts on a declared public holiday which he will not be compellable to do on a Sunday, generally speaking, it is better to leave the enforcement of such rights to responsible trades unions.

Oshogbo Prison

O.539. Mr B. A. Adeyemo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, when another Prison will be built in Oshogbo in place of the one closed down in 1958, as promised by the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs : My Minister is currently discussing with Regional Ministers responsible for prisons the question of prison development, and responsibility for the same throughout Nigeria.

The hon. Member is no doubt aware that prisons are a matter of concurrent responsibility. I am unable to make a statement as to the future of Oshogbo at this stage, but will keep the matter in mind when the Conference of Ministers re-assembles early next month.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Sand for Glass Manufacture

O.327. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he is aware that rich sand deposit suitable for glass production abounds in Aba South; and what plan he has for exploiting this cheap natural resource for glass manufacture.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : It is well known that sand suitable for glass making is available in many parts of Nigeria but a source of cheap fuel is also necessary for glass manufacture.

The Federal Government, in association with the Eastern Nigeria Government, recently commissioned a firm of consultants to make an appraisal of two sites in Eastern Nigeria, one at Enugu and the other near Port Harcourt, with a view to establishing the most favourable location for a glass container manufacturing industry. This appraisal is now being studied.

The Minister has no plans at present for the exploitation of the sand deposits at Aba South.

Mr Ememe : Is the Minister aware that Aba South is neglected as far as location of industries is concerned?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The hon. Minister is not aware.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : Is the Minister aware that Calabar in the Eastern Region is neglected as far as these industries is concerned?

Bilateral Trade Agreements

O.542. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will state the countries with which Nigeria has entered into bilateral trade agreements before independence and since independence, and what are the purposes of those agreements.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Nigeria has not entered into any bilateral trade agreements with other countries either before or since independence. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

Prohibited Goods

O.543. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what types of goods may not be imported into Nigeria by Licensed Nigerian businessmen and trader.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : There is no system of licensing of Nigerian businessmen and traders.

If the hon. Member is referring to the issue of import licences, may I invite his attention to the six Open General Import Licences published in the Supplement to *Official Gazette* No. 69, Volume 46, dated 5th November, 1959, as Legal Notices 236-241 of 1959. Any Nigerian trader is free to import the goods specified in these licences from any of the countries named therein. Goods excepted from the licences cannot be imported except with the authority of a specific licence and applications for such licences are considered on their merits.

The only goods subject to absolute prohibition are those set out in the First Schedule of

the Imports Prohibition Order, 1959, published as Legal Notice No. 81 of 1959 in the Supplement to *Official Gazette* No. 21, Volume 46, dated 1st April, 1959.

Mr O. C. Ememe : Can the hon. Minister tell this House the basis for the issue of specific licences ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : If the hon. Member can only take time to go through the *Gazette* which I have just quoted he will find the answer to his question.

Russian and Chinese Goods

O.544. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many Nigerian businessmen and traders have licence to import goods from Russia and China and what type of goods are they licensed to import.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Three licences have been issued to Nigerian traders in 1961 for the importation of cotton fabrics, matches and samples from the U.S.S.R. 131 licences have been issued for the importation from China of a wide range of goods including tea, cotton and silk fabrics, window glass and domestic glassware, earthenware, enamelware, blankets, wire nails, bolts and nuts, clocks, toys and games, office supplies, sewing machines, footwear, towels and travel goods.

Nationalisation of Insurance Companies

O.547. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he will consider nationalising all the Insurance Companies operating in Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : No, Sir. The views of the Federal Government in regard to nationalisation are already known.

LEGAL AND JUDICIAL MATTERS

Revision of Laws

O.553. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, what efforts are being made to revise all the

laws passed when Nigeria was a dependent territory and which do not now accord with the present constitutional status of the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice : Both in the *Speech from the Throne* and in my Minister's address at the April meeting of Parliament and again a few weeks ago, Parliament and the country had been informed that a Law Revision Division has been set up in the Ministry of Justice to deal with law revision and research. Some of the results of the work being done can be seen in many of the Bills being published and introduced to Parliament from time to time.

Legal Aid

***O.556. Mr S. A. Yerokun** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice how many persons have received Legal Aid or applied for it since April 1961.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice : The Legal Aid and Advice Bill is now receiving the final consideration of the Regional Governments, and will be submitted to Parliament as soon as possible thereafter. The very limited form of legal aid already available in homicide cases continues to be given in the Federal Supreme Court.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Adjournment Sine Die

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : I beg to move, That this House, at its rising *This day*, do adjourn *sine die*.

Minister of State (Hon. J. C. Obande) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising *This day*, do adjourn *sine die*.

FOREIGN POLICY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : I beg to move —

That this hon. House reaffirms the Foreign Policy of the Federal Government as declared by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister and approved on the 20th August, 1960 by this honourable House and hereby declares its

approval of the Government's interpretation and conduct thereof, and congratulates the Government on its achievement in the international field since the independence of this country.

It is quite clear that this Motion, to be realistic and objective, must be based on the *Foreign Policy Statement* itself. For that purpose I asked the Information Department of the Ministry of Information to circulate once more the *White Paper* which was published after the debate, that is on the 20th August, to enable hon. Members to re-read that Statement and to try to appreciate what is stated in that Policy so as to be constructive, objective and realistic. It is not my intention to generate heat if possible; but in a debate like this some amount of heat will be generated, and I am sure it will not be the type of heat that will consume the generators!

It will be seen that the Motion is divided into three parts. The first asks this House to reaffirm the Government's Foreign Policy which was stated in August last year. The second part of the Motion asks this House to approve the manner in which the Government has interpreted this Policy and how the Government has conducted its external and foreign relations since the independence of this country, that is since Nigeria became independent on the 1st October and became a Member of the United Nations on the 7th of October last year. Nigeria is not yet one year old as an independent country. Thirdly, by this Motion the Government is asking this House to appreciate the achievements of this country—in less than one year—in the realm of international relations and in the conduct of relations between States in the International comity of nations.

If one examines the policy itself, one will see that there are three major considerations that were in the minds of those who drafted that policy, a policy which the House will be very generous in approving. First, any realistic policy of this Government must take into consideration the fact that Nigeria is an African State and that it is a Member of the African community and is very much and very closely and very intimately connected with all things that pertain to the African Continent.

It is said in public parlance that charity begins at home, and therefore any Nigerian Foreign Policy that does not take into consideration the peculiar position of Africa, is unrealistic. Thus any realistic examination of this Policy must consider the role Nigeria has played in the African scene since her independence in order to decide whether it is honourable or dishonourable, whether it is realistic and practicable.

In that statement too—I hope all hon. Members have read the statement, and I believe they have—we find that Nigeria takes the view that as a Member of that organisation, inter-racial inter-continental, and inter-governmental organisation called the Commonwealth, in the conduct of her foreign relations, due regard must be had to the obligations that flow from membership of that organisation.

Finally, when Nigeria became a Member of the United Nations, naturally she became a Member of the world community of states and membership of the United Nations also had its obligations, rights and privileges. Consequently any realistic consideration of the Foreign Policy of Nigeria must take into consideration her role in the United Nations as compared with the role of others who were there long before her. Therefore, realistic and comparative analysis of the achievements of Nigeria in terms of these two or three perspectives will determine whether Nigeria has been true to her policy or whether the policy which was stated is right and proper under the present circumstances.

Let me refresh the memories of hon. Members. In that policy statement which this House approved, it is stated that very particular attention—I have enumerated the salient points in relation to Africa—very particular attention will be devoted to adopting clear and practicable policies as regards Africa. Clear and practicable policies as regards Africa—not fatuous or sentimental policies or the type of policies that will soothe the nerves of people, policies that are just designed for propaganda purposes—but clear, practicable and realistic policies in the light of circumstances.

Secondly, Nigeria will assist any African country to find a solution to its problem and foster the growth of common understanding

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amongst all the nations and especially among the new nations of this Continent, the Continent of Africa. As I begin to analyse and expound these points, it will be left to this House to pass judgment whether we have conformed to these policies since Nigeria became independent, or whether we have fought shy of our responsibility in the African setting.

Thirdly, the determination to encourage the development of common ties between African States by the promotion of friendly appreciation of independent countries in Africa, by building upon cultural and economic links which already exist.

I do not think that anybody who reads the document and sees this point will say that there is something wrong with that.

Again, Nigeria will give all her attention in securing an agreed plan for inter-territorial communications, transport facilities, pooling of resources on higher education and scientific research. I do not think that any Member of this House will say that this is a wrong policy to adopt. Nigeria adopts a clear and practicable policy.

We all know that in the Berlin Conference of 1884-5 this Continent was broken up by imperialist powers. The Continent was divided up between European powers. The result is that we find ourselves in a continent where families have been broken up: a part under one jurisdiction and a section in another. Consequently, we have in Africa to-day some artificial boundaries that have been established most unrealistically; widely scattered tribal groups; family relations broken. Now, we know that this has lasted for quite a long time and that the normal urge, after independence, is to seek to bring together these people who have been separated for so long. But there is the question of linguistic, cultural and political differences that have been created in the course of these years; and any attempt to adopt such a policy now will result in chaos, misunderstanding, squabbling and ultimately bloodshed.

Therefore it has been stated in the *Policy Statement* that on the boundary question, the existing boundaries are to be respected in the interest of peace. Boundaries must be recognised unless the people or the states concerned decide on their own free will to merge or remove

such boundaries. I do not think that any reasonable Member of this House—and I believe all Members are reasonable—will say that Nigeria should go on a wild goose chase and begin an escapade that will result in dissipating energy and using our limited resources in amassing forces in order to bring about a situation when the proper exercise of commonsense could have produced exactly the same result.

The sixth point is mainly in relation to Africa. Nigeria opposes all attempts to bring about change, or to influence any African state, by force or by undue pressure or interference in the internal affairs of one African state by another, as this will result in unrest and harm to the overall plan for the future unity of the African Continent. We know that too well, and I do not want to mention names. But we know from practical experience in this country that there are certain African countries that have been trying to interfere in the internal affairs of this country. We know the conflicts existing in the trade unions and we know certain forces in various areas of our own country. There have been attempts to subvert the existing authority. We are not unaware of these things. We know also that there have been interference in other countries outside Nigeria.

Nigeria feels that although she is large in size, large in population and not badly off in resources, both natural and human resources, it is not right for any one country, by force or by pressure, to try to change a situation in another country. Let all grow up together in peace and tranquillity and so bring about a change that will be beneficial to the overall interests of the African continent as a whole. I do not think that anybody in this honourable House will be opposed to that policy.

The seventh point concerns the ideological war between the great powers. It is Nigeria's determination to bring African countries together, to prevent Africa from being involved in the ideological conflicts of the great powers and so becoming an area of crisis and world tension. We find that a country may say that she is a democratic state, another country may claim to be a socialist state, and still another country says that she is a communist state. But whether democracy, socialism or communism exists, the one thing that interests us is *Africanism*. We are Africans.

Hon. Members will recall that in 1947 a Nigerian Delegation, the representatives of Nigeria, went to seek freedom for this country. At that time, a Government that was supposed to be socialist was in power in the United Kingdom. It was the Socialist Colonial Secretary who learnt his colonial politics in the West African Students' Union, in the gathering of West African students, it was the same man who told them "Go home and co-operate". Co-operate with what? Co-operate with the same imperialist force that they were fighting at home. At that time, socialism stopped where their economic and imperialist interests began. And so we in this country have become suspicious of alien ideologies, particularly when these ideologies are not particularly relevant to our situation. After all our country has got its own tradition and its own culture, and the best we can learn from the Western world lies more in the fields of scientific and technological developments of the twentieth century.

In our society, we have something of which we can be proud. Psychologically and sociologically, we have something valuable, something other societies would like to emulate. It is our duty with our own independence to develop those basic qualities that are inherent in our society, qualities that had survived continuously since the beginning of time. I believe that recent anthropological discoveries dated the beginning of man in Africa at about 600,000 years ago; but the recent carbon date system which has been discovered in the United States of America, says that that date is wrong and that it is in fact 1,750,000 years ago. It all goes to show that human culture in Africa started a long time ago. Such a heritage should not just be thrown away because of economic and other factors which we want to pursue. Therefore, this ideological conflict of the great powers must be kept outside our continent by bringing African countries together, by our clinging together, and trying to develop our own culture. That is not what is popularly called Pan Africanism; Pan Africanism is a different concept and I happen to know a little bit about it.

The eighth point stipulated in this policy in respect of Africa is that Nigeria is committed to freedom from racial or religious discrimina-

tion and is opposed to all forms of imperialism, colonialism and exploitation of man by man and the Africans by aliens. In view of that it will be seen that as we stated categorically in the United Nations, Nigeria's independence is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. We are committed to the liberation of every square inch of African territory and, indeed, we say that it will not be beyond 1970 before every square inch of the African continent is free and independent. We have stated that publicly and we stand by it.

There are others who think that they can do this overnight but in the light of our own experience, there will be problems which must be tackled by a slow process. Our own Ministerial Government started in 1952. We saw the Constitutional problems that arose in this country, and we had to make certain changes in order to fight against the imperialistic forces that sought to obstruct our advance, creating difficulties in our well-established community. How much more when we have to deal with environments that have lost their traditions deliberately and people who have been more or less converted to black aliens?

That is as far as Africa goes and I have made eight points on the subject. Those are the eight basic points in relation to Africa, as contained in the Government's foreign policy.

In respect of the Commonwealth, I have only drawn up two major points. It is stated in that policy that Nigeria considers herself in no way subordinate to any member of the Commonwealth in respect of her domestic or external affairs. That is quite clear because that is consistent with the whole tenets of the Commonwealth. Secondly, while benefiting from the interchange of ideas and consultation between members of the Commonwealth, Nigeria is free to select those policies she considers to be most advantageous to her.

Within the fold of the Commonwealth we have Africa, Europe, America, Asia and Australasia; India, Ceylon, Canada, Great Britain, Ghana, Australia, New Zealand. All of them are represented in the Commonwealth and, therefore, all their experiences will be

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beneficial to us. However, while Nigeria should try to benefit by these experiences, she is not prepared for anybody to dictate to her. She will make use of those experiences that will be beneficial to her interests and most advantageous to her. I do not think anybody will say that this is wrong.

An obvious example is this. Nigeria as member of the Commonwealth, in co-operation with other members, was in a position to use her own force to join in pushing out South Africa as a member because she was persecuting people of African descent in the Union of South Africa. If Nigeria had not been a member the pushing out of South Africa might not have been realised; for it was the combined operation of forces from all angles which compelled South Africa, who had been a Member before us to leave and the vacuum created was filled by Nigeria because she is big enough to occupy both her place and that of South Africa.

Now, a major point to be taken into account when considering Nigeria's Foreign Policy is the membership of the United Nations and through the United Nations, the membership of the world community of independent states. It is stated in the White Paper that Nigeria is a very firm and strong believer in the principle of the United Nations as an instrument of peace. The United Nations Organisation was founded for the purpose of bringing about peace in the world. Nigeria wants to remain in peace because it is when there is peace that we can settle down to the development of our economic, moral, spiritual, mental and material resources for the betterment of our own people. It is only in respect of peace that Nigeria and the African continent can contribute to the whole cultural heritage of the world and, therefore, it is in our own interest and in the interest of the world that we should support the United Nations very strongly, and we have never hesitated in doing so.

Again, as a member of the world community of nations Nigeria is to remain in friendly terms with every nation which recognises and respects her sovereignty. The basic assumption is that anyone that recognises our sovereignty should respect it. It is not only a question of recognising it. If a nation recognises our sovereignty but does not respect it, how can we be friendly with such a nation?

If any country fails to recognise our sovereignty, if any nation keeps on inciting people to disaffection, engineering people to practise subversion, although we may not declare war against her, yet our attitude to such a country cannot be exactly what it would be in regard to a country that co-operates with us. Such a country does not honestly want to assist us.

Therefore, in accepting certain principles that must be adopted in this country, we cannot go on accepting things for the sake of acceptance. That is not practicable and it is not realistic. Nigeria will not blindly follow the lead of any one nation or any one state. Before we join anything, there must be a critical examination and a proper analysis of the situation and a further examination of every aspect of the problem as is within our knowledge and competence.

In other words, we must avoid avoidable mistakes. Once we have tried to act wisely, to the best of our ability, we can feel satisfied that we have tried to do our best and if anything is not in accordance with our requirements, and we reject it, we can be content that we have done our best. That is the policy that this Government is following in terms of its relations on the international sphere.

It is stated categorically that the policy of the Government for each occasion is to be selected with proper independent objectivity in Nigeria's national interests. Nigeria's policy at all times is to be founded on Nigeria's interests and will be consistent with the moral and democratic principles on which Nigeria's Constitution is based. We are not going to become automatons and we are not going to be controlled from remote areas.

This Government is founded on the soil of this country and, therefore, the determining factor at home must be, what is in Nigeria's interest. We reserve to ourselves the right at all times to determine what is Nigeria's interest and nobody else should do that. We cannot stay in Nigeria and allow somebody abroad to tell us abruptly: "This is Nigeria's interest". We cannot have that. And I am sure that all Members of this House will blame the Government if we sacrifice that initiative and allow somebody to tell us what is our interest. If we do that, then we are not independent. This Government has been

consistent in that policy and, when it comes to the question of the practical interpretation of that policy, I will refer to certain circumstances to show that we have not deviated in any way from the policy which I have been trying to analyse.

Fifthly and lastly—because I cannot spend the whole time in trying to analyse the policy itself particularly as I believe that hon. Members have read the document—the Federal Government will not associate itself, as a matter of routine, with any of the power blocs. The Government reserves her freedom of action at all times to determine every policy in the best interests of Nigeria. This Government will not associate itself as a matter of routine; that is what is called non-alignment.

I want to say categorically here that this Government is not neutral. Her policy is not one of neutrality. Let it be clear. We are not aligned to anybody, but we are not neutral. Neutrality means that we are cut off from everything and that we do not want to associate with anything at all! If for instance X produces a programme which is in accordance with our interest and we examine it and it suits our interest at a particular time, we will be with him at that time. But that is no guarantee that when he produces another thing which we think is not in our interest, that we will be with him. I want this to be made absolutely clear.

It is also no guarantee that we wish to follow anybody all the time. No matter what ideology anyone pursues he can count on us, but the determining factor is always: "Is this in the interest of Nigeria?" "Is this consistent with our policy?" It may be a country which we think is opposed to us that will bring a new and better programme and we will go that way. That is a policy of non-alignment. We are not neutral; how can we be neutral on matters pertaining to Africa? That is definitely impossible. Nigeria cannot be neutral on matters pertaining to Africa.

Therefore, having analysed these points to see the basic factors that govern the foreign policy of this Government, I will turn to the criticism of that policy. Judging from the Amendment which has been submitted by the acting Leader of the Opposition, the criticism has always been to the effect that it is not

dynamic enough, and it is most interesting to look forward to the argument which will be put forward here on that score. The Amendment says that the interpretation of our policy is not dynamic and is out of step with progressive opinion in Africa.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker, it would be wrong for the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations to speak on the Amendment which has not been moved. We have been listening to him in silence and we are not opposed to his making his points. However, the hon. Minister does not even know whether the hon. Member in whose name the Amendment is tabled is going to withdraw or not. I suggest that the present trend of his argument is out of order.

Mr Speaker: It is true that as the Amendment has not been moved, the hon. Minister cannot speak on it.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: I am not basing my argument essentially on this Amendment, although I made reference to it. As Minister of Foreign Affairs and someone who has been a Member of this House for some time, and who reads newspapers and listens to opinion from outside, I think that the general impression people give is that the Government's policy is not dynamic enough and is not in tune with progressive African opinion. I believe that it is this argument which has been canalised and put forward as an Amendment. Therefore it is not anything new.

Now, I think that the conduct of our foreign policy should be based on three departments: in relation to Africa; in relation to the Commonwealth; and in relation to international spheres. I want to tabulate certain incidents which have occurred since independence, and the part Nigeria has played in them.

First, this honourable House will remember that before independence, France exploded an atom bomb in the Sahara. I remember that I moved a Motion condemning that action and following that Motion, this House decided that if France repeated that action, we should take drastic steps against them. After independence, when this very Parliament was meeting, France did the same thing again. Whereas before independence, the Prime

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Minister had to consult the United Kingdom Government to make representations, when that second test took place, without any notification to the United Kingdom Government or anybody, this Government decided to break up diplomatic relations with France because their conduct was inimical to the interests of this country and the interests of the African Continent. I do not see how anybody can say that such a conduct is not dynamic enough. I remember that within forty-eight hours, the French representative was asked to leave this country and was hustled across the Dahomean border. If that is not dynamic, I do not know what that is.

In the United Nations, when we were discussing the question of disarmament and atomic tests, the Nigerian Delegation and representatives were in the forefront of those countries that brought up the resolution and supported the request that all sorts of tests must stop and this Government still stands by that.

Again, when the Government of the Soviet Union brought a resolution on the declaration of independence for colonial territories, some people opposed it just because the Soviet Union brought up that resolution, and others opposed it for different reasons. But Nigeria did not hesitate in joining forces with the Soviet Union, whether one agrees with one kind of ideology or not, in putting forward a resolution for the declaration of independence for colonial territories. That was in the interest of Nigeria and consistent with her policy regarding the liberation of every square inch of African territory. We did not hesitate in serving on the committee for the redrafting of that resolution, removing all that we considered to be the inflammable materials of the cold war that did not concern Africa and the colonial territories, and that was the resolution that was passed in the United Nations.

The United Kingdom Government and the United States Government abstained, but we were not concerned whether they voted or abstained. It was in the interest of Africa and it was in accordance with the policy of Nigeria and therefore we voted in favour of that. If that is not dynamic, I do not know what is dynamic.

There was also the question of Africa, the programme for the independence of Africa. I must say, with great respect to this House,

that when there was a clash between the mover of this Motion and the representative of the United States Government, we did not hesitate to tell them that we were not interested in verbiage, we were not interested in intellectual anaesthetics; that we were now concerned with realistic programmes, and that we wanted practical proposals. Although it hurts, those are simple truths.

Following that, when we were asked to exercise initiative, the mover of the motion was appointed Chairman of the Committee that produced the resolution which was supported by the twenty-five African States, in spite of an attempt by some Western powers to prevent some of the African States from signing that resolution. The mover of the motion himself took a very active part, together with the Nigerian delegation and other African delegations, to get all the African States together to sign that resolution—

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe): I wonder, Mr Speaker, whether the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs is speaking within his time limit according to the Standing Orders.

Mr Speaker: According to the Standing Orders, the Minister has forty-five minutes and he has not exhausted his time.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: As I was saying, Sir, we drafted that resolution and we got the twenty-five African States to sign it and all attempts to influence us one way or the other to prevent that resolution from going through failed. And, strangely enough, it was one of these countries that are supposed to be dynamic in Africa, when I was busy arguing about the Cameroons' plebiscite in the General Assembly and moved that consideration of that item should be suspended until the 15th Session, it was one of the most vocal African countries that withdrew this resolution behind my back! It was not Nigeria. I am saying this because it is one thing to say one thing and stand by it, and it is another thing to tell the world one thing and do another.

I now come to the question of Angola. I remember that when the question of Angola was being considered the Portuguese representative made a speech in the United Nations. Because it concerned Africa, the mover of this Motion had to press for our people in the Special Political Committee to be recalled to go to the General Assembly and make our

position clear. It was then that we declared that Nigeria can never accept the fiction that any square inch of African territory can, by any legal fiction, be considered to be an integral part of a metropolitan European country.

Portugal had argued that Angola was a Province of Portugal and therefore it was their internal affairs; but we made it absolutely clear that Nigeria does not accept that twist. We made it clear that Angola is an African territory and is part of Africa; that Portugal is part of Europe and that is all there is to it. That is the stand of this Government. If that is not dynamic, I do not know what is dynamic.

Now, we come to the question of *apartheid* in South Africa. It may well be that the Press of this country has not done enough service to the people of this country. Perhaps this debate will be useful in reminding them that their duty is not only in local politics but also in international politics. Consequently one would not blame the ordinary people of this country if the doings of the Government are not brought to their notice. Naturally the people will have legitimate complaints, but the blame should not be on the Government but rather on those who say they represent public opinion because their job is to get these facts and let the people know. That has not been done.

In the case of South Africa, I remember that as the Chairman of our delegation I framed a resolution which was signed, again by twenty-five African States. In spite of all the attempts by the Western powers and others to influence us to withdraw that resolution, we stood firm. I made a speech that turned the scales, with the result that the Western powers, instead of abstaining completely, had to support the Indian resolution which was not quite as strongly worded as the twenty-five power resolution. However the Indian resolution was passed. For our part we wanted sanctions imposed on South Africa, but the Indian resolution did not go as far as that. But there again, Nigeria played a leading role, and it is there on record. If that is not dynamic, I do not know what is.

On the question of South West Africa we played a leading role and we also made an important contribution to putting the case of South West Africa before the International Court of Justice. Nigeria, knowing that

she was not a member of the old League of Nations and that none of the other new African States was a member of the old League of Nations, supported Ethiopia and Liberia that were members of the League of Nations to take this case to the International Court of Justice. We are prepared to pay our own contribution in prosecuting that case.

Meanwhile we are pursuing it politically. Moreover, we have had in this very country leaders of African political opinion in South West Africa who have come here without making a noise about it. They have seen the Prime Minister and they have seen me. Nigeria has rendered assistance to them without blasting it on the pages of newspapers. For people who are working under great difficulty it does not help them to be unnecessarily exposed to different risks. Newspapers can do a lot of harm. This is one of the ways in which we have been trying to help them. They have been here and they have been assisted, and we are still assisting in one form or the other. If that is not dynamic, I do not know what it is.

Now, I come to Algeria. When we were debating the question of Algeria in the United Nations, even those who were directly concerned were not arguing against the claim of France, like Portugal, that Algeria was part of the French metropolis and therefore we should not interfere. When it was suggested that the United Nations should send an investigation commission to find out the facts, we did not hesitate to say that we cannot accept the claim of France that Algeria was a part of France. We even stood against the suggested partition of Algeria because we cannot see how one million French settlers can claim pre-dominance or pre-eminence over nine million Algerian nationals. We were also resolutely opposed to the suggestion that Algeria be partitioned. To split Algerian territory would be simply contrary to what we stand for. And we did not hesitate to say so. And if that is not dynamic, then I do not know what is.

Now, on the question of Bizerta. Even President Bourguiba himself, the head of state, did not use the word aggression. The Prime Minister, with his Ministers visited the President of the United States. We were there as guests of the United States. France is a very close friend of the United States, and a member of the NATO. But questions

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were asked in regard to Tunisia and Bizerta,
as to what was the position of our Government

The Prime Minister did not hesitate in the Press Conferences he had and on television, to state categorically that France was an aggressor. They had no rights to drop bombs on Tunisians. The French came to settle in this base as a result of an agreement, negotiation between Tunisia and France. And if Tunisia decides that the time has come for France to withdraw the only thing to do was for France to enter into negotiation with Tunisia to determine how soon and what methods could be adopted in the withdrawal. If that is not dynamic and realistic in support of our basic policy on Africa, I do not know what is. I do not think that anybody can do better than that when he is a guest; he has eaten his host's food and slept in his house, and yet has the courage to tell him the raw truth without changing his mind. That is exactly what was done.

Since the foundation of the United Nations no African state has ever been a member of the Security Council. There were other African States that became independent before us. Not one of them had made any move to get into the Security Council, or get somebody in there. I must say that the Nigerian delegation, spear-headed by the mover of this Motion, served notice in the Special Political Committee that we oppose the veto powers of the five powers for the fact that Africa was not represented. There was no permanent membership on the Security Council for Africa. That was their last session and there were no permanent seats. There had been what they called the Gentleman's agreement of 1946. We were supposed to be bound by this gentleman's agreement which we were not party to.

I did not hesitate in telling them in the Special Political Committee that Nigeria was not bound by any agreement which she was not a party to. And so long as the Charter of the United Nations says that the people there should be non-permanent delegates, nobody is going to make them permanent by indirect move. Therefore since they were due for re-election all must be brought into the pool. I said that Africa must have a share of this pool and I was told that this was going to upset the whole working of the United Nations. I said that if the big powers

thought that representing Africa might disrupt the whole thing we might as well be represented and upset the organisation.

We were thus able to initiate a move, to organise the Afro-Asian group of states and use our weight of numbers aided by intensive organisation. There was a move to weight us down but we persisted. The result was that for the first time after fifteen years Africa had a seat. As members of the League of Nations, and as founders of the United Nations, Liberia was admitted into the Security Council, and Ethiopia was admitted into the Economic and Social Council.

Some people opposed the step taken but I said: "Look, at least as a matter of respect, these people are the oldest African members of the United Nations. We should let them go there. What they may lack in youth and virility we can supply them and what we may lack in experience and wisdom they should supply us". That indeed won us a lot of friendship. Many people may not appreciate that, because they thought that Nigeria was just dying to be members of the Security Council. We could have had it for the asking, but we did not. We thought we were only two months old and there was still plenty of time to do that. And not only that, it is all due to our policy of not bullying anybody, or not taking everything for ourselves because we were big and more dynamic than others. They must be shown practically that when we say a thing we mean it and that has won goodwill for Nigeria. That also explains why if Nigeria takes the initiative to summon a meeting of twenty or more states in Africa, they will attend, but if others did that they would not come.

Again, everybody knows the attitude of the United States and other powers in respect of the admission of China. We came to the United Nations, the Prime Minister made a speech and he also visited the then President. He did not hesitate in telling him what is the attitude of Nigeria. You cannot have a situation in a world organisation where a nation of 650 million people are refused membership because you disagree with them. He did not hesitate in telling them that we cannot stand for such a thing.

Then question arose not as to whether China should be admitted or not, but rather

whether the subject of admission should be put on the agenda for debate. I simply told them that as far as Nigeria was concerned we were voting for this matter to be put on the agenda and to be discussed. I remember there was publicity about what I did, that I had upset everything. I said, "Well that is consistent with Nigerian policy". And some people thought I was doing this against my Government. I am sure an attempt was made to find out whether my action was consistent with Nigerian policy and it was confirmed that it was.

And so I voted, and when they tried to criticize it I said: "Look, this will be intellectual imperialism because if you will not allow us to think the way we like, in accordance with our policy, what is the use of coming here? And, of course, you cannot think for us." So, they left me alone. If that is not dynamic, I am yet to know what is.

Again, the question of the Congo. We are committed to assist African states to solve their problems. Nigeria played a vital part on the Congo Advisory Committee. That was the Committee that assisted the Secretary-General in deciding the line of action to be followed in the Congo situation, before Nigeria was admitted into the United Nations, the Afro-Asian group of powers were divided; they were committed to either one person or to another. In spite of all attempts, Nigeria resisted being committed to any individual.

It was as a result of activities of the Congo Advisory Committee that the mover of this Motion was appointed in his personal capacity as the first African Chairman of an International Commission for Reconciliation. There are other African countries that have existed as far back as three years. Within two months of admission into the United Nations, Nigeria was able to produce somebody to head an international commission. If that is not dynamic, I do not know what is. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

We went to the Congo in a difficult situation and Nigeria contributed in solving the Congo problem: the first Foreign Minister of Nigeria was sent there, the Deputy Commissioner of Police was sent there, the highest-ranking Army Officer of Nigeria was sent there, and the

Nigerians displayed themselves well, the Police, the Army, the Politicians, they all went there and distinguished themselves in the Congo situation. And a report was made which found the basic cause of the trouble and an agreement was made and recommendations followed in order to bring about settlement in the Congo. These were accepted by the General Assembly, and the agreement following that report was contracted by a Nigerian—Mr Nwokedi—and Mr Robert Gardiner, a Ghanaian, two West Africans who went there.

In New York I was in very close contact with the situation, in order to make sure that ideological war would not upset the apple cart again. Members will recall the saying that there were too many fingers in the Congolese pie? We did not hesitate to say there were European fingers, Asiatic fingers, African fingers and American fingers in the Congolese pie, and we asked them to withdraw their fingers from the pie, and to let the Congo reach stability. We did not hesitate. Our activities in the Congo were helping to bring about what has resulted now in a Central Government of the Congo headed by Mr Adoula. If that is not dynamic and consistent with our policy, I do not know what is!

That was a problem involving the great powers. We intervened in the Congo, not on behalf of anybody, but realistically, and the result is that to-day one hears that the Congo finally is having a conference.

We have also participated, not only in the General Assembly and in the Committees, but also in the Executive. I think Nigeria is the only African country that has been represented on the Executive Floor—that is the place where policies are decided; and of all the African countries, Nigeria is the only one that has had a person there. If this is not dynamic, I do not know what is! In less than a year of membership of the United Nations, we have headed a commission and we have had somebody on the Executive Floor!

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): On a point of order; much as I have enjoyed the speech of the hon. Minister, and much as I rely on your judgment and your good sense in the performance of your duties, Mr Speaker,

[CHIEF ROSIJ]

I think that as it is now twenty minutes past eleven o'clock, the hon. Minister has now spent an hour and five minutes, and this whole House is waiting to contribute their speeches.

Mr Speaker : It is a pity that the hon. Member has not finished presenting his facts, because actually the time he is allowed to make his speech is exhausted.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): I beg to move, That the hon. Member's time be extended to enable him finish his speech. The Members of the Opposition have been particularly interested in having a debate on Foreign Affairs, and I think as this is the first time the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations is making a speech on this debate, one would have thought that even the Opposition would welcome the idea of extending the time of the hon. Member so that he gives them all the full facts in the case of the Government.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the time allowed for the speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs be extended to enable him finish his speech.

Mr Speaker : If it is left to my discretion, I think I should give the hon. Minister ten minutes more.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I want to say a little more about the facts of our participation in African affairs, participation in international affairs and participation in various fields. Consistent with our policy of bringing the African States together and trying to solve our problems, the Prime Minister exercised the initiative in collaboration with other African countries like Liberia, Ivory Coast, Mali and Guinea, in calling the Conference of African States, and this was held in Monrovia. For the first time on the African Continent, certain African States met and decided unanimously on a number of concrete, practical and realistic policies that should be adopted in order to try to find a solution to the problems of Africa and particularly this part of the African Continent.

We did this as something that was meant for the good of the country. But rather than give praise for the initiative exercised by our own Government and the Prime Minister, our own people began to object and cry out against it. They asked for the exercise of initiative, they wanted the Government to be dynamic, and because the Government exercised initiative and did not please one or two other countries who thought they were the only people to exercise initiative on the Continent of Africa, our own people began to blame the Government, instead of praising it for doing what it had done so successfully ! And then we are asked to jump out of our own camp and to jump into a minority camp ! This policy the Government cannot accept.

On the question of Pan-Africanism, I want to make it clear to the people who have been floating the idea of Pan-Africanism. I was an active participant in the Congress which we held in Manchester in 1945 ; I was there, Jomo Kenyatta was there, the late George Padmore was there, Nkrumah was there, Dr Mackinnon was there, Dr Blyden was there, and I think that Chief Awolowo also attended. Magnus Williams represented the N.C.N.C. We participated in that. And when it comes to the question of Pan-Africanism, people cannot interpret it to mean one individual's view of it. We all know the history of it, the man who started it was a West Indian Barrister, in London, and then it was taken on by Professor Du Bois of the United States. The first meeting was held in 1919 in Paris.

Some people have asked "Do we believe in Pan-Africanism?". Of course this Government believes in Pan-Africanism. But we disagree in the method. Some people say that they want political union now and we say we want political union but not now. As it has been stipulated in our policy we want to clear the cultural, linguistic and economic differences and then come to an understanding. How are we going to remove the various Heads of States and Heads of Governments? Does anyone think anybody will sit down and let me become the Head of the whole African State ?

Now, from a realistic point of view we were able to influence opinion in the United Nations because we marshalled the votes of all the African States and the Asian States. Suppose

we had one United States of Africa even before South West Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Northern Rhodesia, Bechuanaland, Kenya, Uganda, Ruanda Urundi were free, what would be the result in the United Nations? The result would be that we would have only one vote and the initiative which we have now would be transferred to the imperialist powers and we could never effect a change in Africa. Pan Africanism and the United States of Africa *now* are most unrealistic. But as it is we use our collective votes to change anything. But when we shall have achieved the independence of all the African countries and we shall have solved our cultural and linguistic differences and also our difficulties in communications, then we shall think of a United States of Africa.

For instance, we cannot communicate with Dahomey just across the border without first telegraphing to London and London to Paris and Paris to Dahomey. We cannot get Accra unless by a radio message. These are some of the major problems facing us. Our people cannot move freely. Nigeria says that she wants to deal with those practical problems that are realistic and solve them. And once we know ourselves and we have been able to liberate the other African countries then we can be united as one country and go forward as a first class power with political stability and economic stability and then we will develop our technological and scientific methods in order to argue from strength and not from weakness.

Some people want to build up arms and forces so that when they come into this Union, they will be the strong powers and others will be the little lambs that will be taken to slaughter. Nigeria says "No, we do not do that type of thing". In other words, putting it graphically, our Pan Africanism is the pyramid resting on the broad base. The apex is ultimately where the ideal of political union is reached. But there are others who want to reverse the pyramid by starting with the political union, which is the apex, to build the pyramid and proceed downwards to the broad base. What will be the result? It will collapse and fall to pieces, and that is the graphic way of explaining our own ideas of Pan Africanism.

Hon. Members may not realise the number of diplomatic missions that have opened in this country. Perhaps we have more diplomatic

missions opened in this country than in several other African countries that were independent before us. It is due to our policy and it is due also to the policy of the Government that the French speaking African States cannot come to enmity with some of us. Besides, people have not been fair to this Government.

One thing one notices in this country to-day is that the people of this country are more interested in what happens outside Nigeria than in what happens here. People seem to be more interested in the doings of others and not in the doings of their own people. There seems to be a certain amount of lack of patriotism in Nigerians. I have not seen any organisation in any other country that devotes more attention to glorifying other countries than theirs. A little bit of patriotism will be very useful to the people of this country, to the Members of this House, to the youths of this country, to the businessmen, to the press and publishers, to the book writers, and to everybody. A little bit of introspection will do us good.

It was in 1947, when the Nigerian delegation visited the Irish Trade Unionists, that they were given a motto which they seem to have forgotten. That motto was—"Nigeria first, Nigeria last, Nigeria all the time". I think the time has come when the publishers, the Members of this House and of the various Regional Houses and everybody else should begin to think of Nigeria first, Nigeria last and Nigeria all the time. It is only by that—

Mr Speaker : The hon. Minister has one more minute.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : It is only by adopting a policy of self-examination, appreciation of what has been achieved by our own people, and trying to make others understand, that what is being clamoured for—the projection of Nigerian personality—can become a reality. One cannot project the Nigerian personality when we spend all our time deriding the Government, destroying what we have achieved and belittling our own selves.

It is only by trying to show that we are not claiming leadership just because of our size and population, but because we have not the intellect and everything else as well as a little

[MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]
 appreciation of what we have achieved, that we can go a long way to project the Nigerian personality that is being called for every time.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): I beg to second.

Sitting suspended : 11.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.10 p.m.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): I beg to move—

In line 1, leave out from "House" to end and add—"is of the opinion that the Foreign Policy of the Federal Government as declared by the Prime Minister and approved on the 20th August, 1960 by this hon. House lacks dynamism, and regrets that the Government's interpretation and conduct thereof is out of step with progressive opinion in Africa."

May I begin by agreeing with the hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr Ezera*), that in my view the time has come when there should be an all-party Foreign Affairs Committee in this House. From time to time we on this side of the House have offered to remove Foreign Affairs from the arena of party controversy.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs said here last week, in answer to a Question, that he did not think it proper to inform the House of the assistance which he claimed this Government had rendered to nationalists from other parts of Africa. I suggest that it is highly improper that this Government should take any action, spend any money or any energies which are not subject to examination by some organ of this House. And I think that if we had a Foreign Affairs Committee, that might be the appropriate place where the Minister could talk.

In regard to the Amendment which we have tabled, I think that you will find that this House, as indeed the whole country, is divided into three groups on this Motion. There are those ultra-conservative supporters of the Government who would never dare challenge Government policy or action, no matter how much they may disagree with it outside this House. These are those people who not only approve Government policy but also approve the conduct and interpretation thereof. In

my estimation, these elements, however strongly they may be represented inside this House, are in a hopeless minority outside this House.

Then there are the radicals, whom we claim to represent, who condemn the Foreign Policy of this Government and also the manner in which it has been carried out so far. I think that it is these elements who represent the true voice and the true temper of the people of this country. Then there are those who, while approving of the Government's policy, like the Member for Bende East, (*Dr Ezera*), last week, nevertheless agree with us that in giving effect to that policy Government is not carrying out the true wishes of the people of this country.

The purport of this Amendment is to facilitate the self identification by hon. Members into each of these three groups. I do suggest very strongly to the Prime Minister that if he really wishes to ascertain the true feelings of Members of this House, he might care to permit a free vote on this Motion and on the Amendment. I need not explain that in the course of a free vote, when Members are free to vote according to their conscience, if the Minister's Motion fails to carry the House then the Government is not bound to resign.

I think that the purport of the Minister's Motion, from what he told me elsewhere, is to provide an opportunity for examination and for criticism of Government policy, not merely to ask for a pat on the back. I assure him that if a free vote were permitted he would discover that the true feeling of most Members of this House is that we regret the manner in which this Government has carried out its policy so far. I will explain.

Our first quarrel with this policy is that it is not dynamic. The Minister made great play on the word "dynamism", and he was at great pains to explain to us that he was in Manchester in 1945, that because he tabled a motion in the United Nations, because he was Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Commission on the Congo, and because he made certain speeches in the Political Committee or whatever it is called, therefore the policy of this Government is dynamic. I suggest that all that the Minister has been able to prove to us is that he himself is dynamic and not the policy of Government!

The Minister is not the subject of this debate; the subject is the policy of Government. I have known the Minister for many years. I agree that he is dynamic—sometimes too dynamic if you ask me! But as I said, there is nothing in the policy itself which is dynamic.

The Minister, in amplification of that policy, has tried to introduce into Government policy what was never there—decolonisation by 1970. This is the Statement made by the Prime Minister on Foreign Policy. Has it ever been said by the Prime Minister or by any other Minister on the Floor of this House that the policy of this Government is complete decolonisation of Africa by 1970? It has never been said, and this is the first time that we have heard it.

Not only has this Government, in regard to foreign policy, no target, no objective, but to my mind there is even no point of departure. You see, people must have a guiding light, a faith, a credo, something to live for, something to work for. The foreign policy of this Government gives us nothing to work for, nothing inspiring. During the war years we heard the inspiring message from the *B.B.C.*: "We fight for world freedom". Great deeds of valour and massive support throughout the world resulted from this message.

The rallying cry of the peoples of the West to-day is the survival of liberal democracy. Their leaders inspire their people with a desire to work for and live for, if necessary, to die for libertarian principles which they say they believe in. For the peoples of the East, it is a victory for international communism. And in the name of this communist advance, a thousand million people are making a tremendous sacrifice never before equalled in the entire history of mankind.

For Nasser, for the United Arab Republic, the rallying cry is the union of Arab peoples. Nearer home, whatever one may say about the size of Ghana, Guinea and Mali, their rallying cry is the union of African peoples; not merely some watery Pan-Africanism, but an organic union of African peoples. They have given their people a sense of unity and a sense of purpose. What is our rallying cry? This is the Foreign Policy of the Government. What we have been told by the Foreign Minister is

not the Foreign Policy of our Government as enunciated on the 20th of August last year which is specifically what we are asked to approve. We have not been asked to approve what the Minister has put before us but this policy which was laid down on the 20th of August last year.

What does that policy give us? A plan to join the Commonwealth and the United Nations; we are friendly with every nation which recognises and respects our sovereignty; we will not associate, as a matter of routine, with any of the power blocs, we are determined to encourage the development of common ties; we shall secure agreement on the improvement of inter-territorial communication; we shall respect boundaries as they now exist; we believe in co-operation among African States—*(Interruptions)*

I want to tell these cacklers and babblers that I am not disputing what is here. What is disputed is that this provides no inspiration for anybody; for what the Policy Statement contains is what every country in Africa is doing—co-operation, we shall not fight each other, we shall do this, we shall do that—these cannot inspire anybody. They are mere platitudes. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Order! I shall not allow interruptions.

Chief Enahoro: This foreign policy to my mind is so lacking in inspiration; it is not dynamic. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr D. D. U. Ukay*) please maintain silence!

Chief Enahoro: I hope, Mr Speaker that you will take note of the fact that my time is being wasted. We listened to the Minister in complete silence.

What is the foreign policy we are all asked to reaffirm? I want to suggest that if we pass the Government's Motion it will be to the disgust of progressive elements throughout this country—a policy which advocates functional co-operation among African States at a time when the climate of progressive opinions throughout Africa is overwhelmingly in favour of organic union! It is worse than a conservative policy. It is effete; it is feeble.

[CHIEF ENAHORO]

A long time ago, that was before the time of many hon. Members, but time was in this country when we were told that we must fight for economic freedom before we got our political freedom. What would have happened to us to-day if we had followed that advice? These people sitting as Ministers would not have been here. It is because we disagreed and we fought for our political freedom in this country, because we knew that it would lead to other unions, economic union, and so on, that we have come to this standard. And that is why we are here to-day.

As Nigeria was just after the war so Africa is to-day. The answer to our problem is political and organic Union and you will find that that will lead to all other unions and all other powers will come to insignificance. The difficulty of getting to Dahomey, for instance, is because of the frontier. If there is no frontier all the difficulties will disappear. Tomorrow belongs to the larger nations of the world. The United States of America is 180 million strong; the Soviet Union is 260 million strong; India 400 million strong, China 600 million strong. I want to belong to an Africa 250 million strong. Nigeria is only 30 million strong, which is too small. An Africa 250 million strong will be a consolidating power in the imagination of all true sons of Nigeria. That is what we want embodied in the foreign policy. We do not want, "We shall co-operate; we shall not fight" and so on.

If continentalism is too progressive for this Government, can they not at least aim at a union of West African states of 70-80 million people? We have the makings of such a union already. Is it not absurd that while a Member from Daura or somewhere is sitting here with me or a Member from Western Ijaw, someone from Zinder who is his neighbour having the same culture, the same religion, the same language should need a passport or a travel certificate in order to visit him? Or that the people of Porto Novo, about 200 miles away from Idiroko, who have the same culture, the same tradition as the Yorubas should treat themselves as aliens?

It is all very well for the Minister to reiterate or repeat these facts. We know those facts. What does he intend to do? The Minister himself agrees that these artificial barriers of language, of culture, of religion or of economics are the very frontiers which the policy of the

government is dedicated to preserve. I say that that is not dynamic. Christian Clergymen have often said "Those whom God has joined together, let no man put assunder". I want to say to this Government that those whom God has joined together, and whom the imperialists have put assunder, we must strive to join together.

As I have said, we want a guiding line, something to inspire us. The Americans speak of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. God gave us life, our leaders gave us liberty. We want the happiness of pursuit. We can be happy and hold up our heads when we go outside this country. (*An hon. Member: make a concrete suggestion*). It is not possible to make a concrete suggestion without analysing what is wrong with the policy. I do wish hon. Members would have the patience to listen to me.

If this policy were merely conservative, but was carried out with imagination, one might reconcile oneself with it. But it is out of step with progress. It is confused and in some cases it has been carried out not with diplomacy, I am sorry to say, but with duplicity. Why? Because we believe in non-alignment yet we have a defence pact with Britain, in the teeth of opposition from Members of both sides of this House and from people outside it. If you are non-aligned you cannot sign a defence pact with any nation.

Then the Government says we are not committed. We are committed because while all the non-committed nations of the world are meeting in Belgrade we are not there. We are now even more non-committed than the very authors of non-commitment! The Indians are in Belgrade; they are the authors of non-commitment; they popularised it. They are in Belgrade and we are not there!

The hon. Minister has pronounced his antipathy to blocs. According to him we shall not belong to blocs; we do not believe in blocs. But the Sardauna of Sokoto, who is more or less the absentee head of this Government, advocates a Moslem bloc. We are friends to any country which recognises and respects our Sovereignty, they tell us; but when the Prime Minister leaves this country he goes to nowhere else other than the United Kingdom or the United States of America. Has he been travelling to other parts of the world who respect our sovereignty, who want to be our friends?

I was most interested to hear the Minister say that they believe in African unity, pan-Africanism, and in the same breadth, deny some of the very implications of that supra-national movement and ideology. They do not want it. What kind of pan-Africanism does the Minister try to put forward to us? Yes, Nigerian freedom will mean nothing until all the other countries in Africa are free. Has the Government recognised the provisional Government of Algeria? They have not recognised the provisional Government of Algeria. Liberia, and many other African countries, have recognised that provisional Government of Algeria.

What are we doing? What are we talking about? De-colonisation! Is that the way that this policy should be carried out? If we were discussing the Minister of Foreign Affairs probably we would give him a vote of appreciation for what he has done in his own right. But look at what the Government does as a body—there is nothing dynamic in that.

The Prime Minister comes back from Monrovia, he does not submit a report to the House, which is normal practice after a conference of that nature, with such implications for this Continent and for the whole world—there has been no report until now! Someone said on the Floor of this House last week that appointments have been made in the Foreign Service which appear to place a premium on area of origin rather than on ability and experience!

What I now wish to say, is no reflection on Dr Mbadiwe, for whom I have the greatest respect and who has made his contribution to the progress of this country. But after all, why does the Prime Minister want a Personal Adviser on matters which fall clearly within the portfolio of one of his Ministers? The Foreign Minister and the Permanent Secretary are the principal advisers of the Prime Minister on all foreign affairs—Ghana, Guinea, U.S., any part of the world. I am sure that if they put their minds to it, they would find other avenues in which to employ the great abilities which Dr Mbadiwe has. All this is the way in which our Foreign Affairs are being conducted—not what the Minister told us.

These are the facts. This is the conduct and interpretation which the Minister's Motion asks this House to approve! I say that it

leaves very much to be desired. I listened very carefully, because I wanted to hear the Minister's summary or analysis of achievements of this Government since independence.

We have the following achievements: membership of Africa—we were born in Africa! Membership of the Commonwealth—no country which ever applied for membership of the Commonwealth was ever turned down until the South African trouble started! Membership of the United Nations—other countries were there before us! So we expelled the French Ambassador overnight—24 hours notice! The Minister supported the USSR Resolution in the United Nations—that was a great achievement! The Minister made a speech in Committee—when he was busy elsewhere he was summoned to the Committee—what has he achieved?

In my estimation the foreign policy of this Government rests on three basic misconceptions: The first is the feeling that unless we lean over backwards to be nice to foreign investors, we may scare them away, progress would be slowed down. The second is that they think—the Minister himself said so—that socialism, communism, all other 'isms' do not matter—what matters is what Africa can produce.

The Minister seems to think that we can insulate ourselves against the flow of ideas from the outside world—we cannot! The Minister also appears to think that by reason of the fact that we are wealthy, we are populous, we have brains, that leadership is our birthright.

In regard to the first misconception, it is our common ambition to build in Nigeria a new civilisation, a civilisation that meets the requirements of the present-day. That means not only that we cannot afford to annoy investors or to scare them away, but it is equally true that we cannot afford *not* to learn from the countries and the peoples of the East.

I am not one of those who believe that the East is always right and the West is always wrong—for the next thing we may hear is that some people are committed to certain other countries. As a matter of fact when people like Mao-Tse-Tung speak of the inevitability of war and so on, and that only through war can war be eliminated—Africa would never be in sympathy with that point of view; but that is neither here nor there. One can be critical of the Portuguese action in Angola, or the French

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action in Tunisia, equally critical of Russian action in Hungary or the Chinese adventures on the Indian border, but that is neither here nor there. What matters to Africa is that it will be our own loss—we will lose—if we do not try to learn and get whatever assistance is available from other countries, East and West alike.

In regard to the second misconception, the Government cannot hope, it is utterly futile to hope that one can resist the invasion of ideas. Ideas are afloat, they are global, and we cannot seal our borders and say "Ideas shall need passports in order to come in". We cannot seal our borders against ideas; we cannot bury our heads in the sand and hope that like an ill wind, ideas will blow over that side and will leave us untouched.

Africa has replaced the Middle East as the mediator between East and West in world affairs. I think that if the Government leave a vacuum in the field of ideas in this country, it will be filled by those of whose very concepts and ideas they appear to be in such mortal fear. Whether the Minister likes it or not, I suggest that there will be a vacuum unless it is filled with some idea, and the idea we suggest is militant pan-Africanism, a union of African Peoples. People say that leadership is the birthright of this country—

An hon. Member : Who said that ?

Chief Enahoro : I said "people say". If leadership is the birthright of this country we have never exercised it ! In fact, I think we jeopardise that leadership by the follies of this Government, and I think that the greatest folly of all that the Government has committed was, if we might coin a word from what the medical people use, *inauscultation*—a failure to listen to the heartbeat and the pulse, and feel the throb of progressive opinion on this Continent.

Having based its Foreign Policy on these three misconceptions, it is no surprise at all that the policy should lack dynamism, and that its interpretation should be at sea. I beg of the House that we do not reaffirm this policy which is so uninspiring the conduct and interpretation of which policy is not progressive, and the achievements so far are most unimpressive. To my mind, the only achievement has been to leave distress in the minds of

progressive Nigerians and doubt and mistrust in the minds of militant nationalists in the rest of Africa.

I beg to move.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :
I rise to second the Amendment.

After I had listened to the speech of the Mover of the Motion asking us to congratulate the Government on the conduct and interpretation of the Government's Foreign Policy, what came to my mind was the title of a book I read round about 1935 entitled "Why were they proud". It was an account of the important things or help which Britain gave to Egypt—the whole account, was demolished by the author of that book.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs started by blaming the people of this country, blaming the Opposition and blaming the Press for criticising the Government. When I say I second the Amendment, I am doing so with a sense of responsibility. Even though I feel sure that every Member here welcomes the opportunity for this Debate on the Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations policy of the Government, I feel no less certain that all the Members who know the true significance of Foreign Affairs or the conduct of Foreign Affairs in the life of a great Nation like our own, will unhesitatingly register their disapproval of the way Nigeria's declared Foreign policy is being pursued, practised and conducted.

By affording this opportunity, the Government no doubt intends to remove one of the causes of its widespread unpopularity inside and outside Nigeria. But by bringing a Motion, the text of which seeks the approbation of this hon. House for a job so badly done or so left undone, the Government is not only belittling our intelligence but is also portraying us as immature, unprogressive and lacking in the ability to pass honest judgment on its conduct.

The declared Foreign Policy of the Government looks attractive and acceptable to the intelligent elements in the country and because it appears on the face of it to satisfy the desire and aspirations of Nigerian nationalists, it has naturally stirred up suspicions in the minds of the erstwhile masters of the Western world. It has also raised the hopes of our fellow African and Asian fellow-sufferers.

Our Western friends know that they would lose a lot if we were allowed to practise the declared policy of non-alignment with all the initiative and vigour that we are capable of bringing to play. Hence they, with the aid of their vast resources and the fact of their strangle hold upon our economy, have been quick to act after our Government declared its Foreign Policy. The result is that the Government has been unable to put into practice in all honesty its declared policy of non-alignment. But we are being called upon to congratulate the Government on the way it has been conducting Nigeria's Foreign Affairs. This, no doubt, is the biggest joke of this Session. It reminds one of the story of the desert ostrich.

What is the record of the performances of our Government in Foreign Affairs since the 1st of October, 1960? Let us examine, though cursorily, the attitude and the performances of our Government, nearer home, in African affairs. Many African states which won their independence recently started off with the formulation of concrete bases for co-operation not only with a view to consolidating their freedom but primarily with a view to aiding other African states in their struggle for emancipation. Some of the leaders publicly proclaimed their joy in the hope that the emergence of Nigeria, with her size, her big population, her vast resources and her intellectual talents, would ease the task of liberating other African countries.

Preparatory discussions and the Congo crisis led to the Casablanca Conference. While the Western bloc of nations was giving clandestine unprecedented publicity to the activities and deliberations of that Conference, they were at the same time quite busy collecting other African states, drumming into their ears their own views and setting them up against the so-called rebellious Casablanca Powers. This clandestine effort of the imperialist powers of Europe and America gave rise to the Monrovia Conference. The tragic result is that certain states in Africa are being converted into an appendage or a satellite of the Western bloc while the others are being converted into an appendage of the Eastern bloc.

I say that it is a great pity that the Federal Government allowed itself to be lured and cajoled into the Monrovia Conference. Fortunately, I believe that it is not too late for

Nigeria to retrace her steps and fall into line with the nationalist Governments engaged in rebuilding African personality and resuscitating African civilisation.

The records and achievements of the so-called Casablanca Powers are highly encouraging. I am not eulogising them because we do not belong to that group, but for an illustration. Let us take a look at what they called or adopted as "African Charter". With your permission, I will quote the text of the African Charter which reads:

"We the Heads of African States meeting in Casablanca from January 3 to January 7, 1961, conscious of our responsibilities towards the African continent, proclaim our determination to promote the triumph of liberty of all and to achieve its unity; affirm our will to preserve and consolidate our identity of views and unity of actions in international affairs to safeguard our hard won independence, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our States; to reinforce peace in the world, adopting the policy of non-alignment; proclaim our determination to liberate the African territories still under foreign domination by giving them any assistance to liquidate colonialism and neo-colonialism and sio-colonialism in all their forms; to discourage the maintenance of foreign troops and establishment of bases which endanger the liberation of the African continent; of political and economic interventions and pressure, proclaim the necessity for the independent African states and direct their political, economic and social policies to the exploitation of the national wealth for the benefit of their peoples and to ensuring an equitable distribution of the wealth among all nationalists; affirm our will to intensify our efforts for the creation of an effective form of co-operation among the African states in the economic, social and cultural domain, aiming at the consolidation of the liberty of African states and building their unity and security." That is the context of the African Charter adopted by the Casablanca Powers.

In addition, at that meeting they made certain decisions and recommendations. I beg your permission to tell the House the decisions arrived at by the Powers. It declared,

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

"The intention and determination of the respective Governments represented to withdraw their troops and other military personnel placed under the United Nations operational command in the Congo; reaffirm their recognition of the elected Parliament and legally constituted Government of the Republic of the Congo which came into being on June 30, 1960.

These are the only justification for the presence of the United Nations troops in the Congo—to answer the appeal of the legitimate Government; to implement the decision of the Security Council; to safeguard the unity and independence of the Republic; to preserve its territorial integrity—and, therefore, urges the United Nations Organisation to act immediately to disarm and disband the lawless elements, (that has been done); to release from prison and detention all Members of Parliament of the legitimate Government. (that has been done); to reconvene the Parliament of the Republic (that also has been done); to eliminate from the Congo all Belgian and other foreign military personnel not belonging to the United Nations Organisation, (that also is being done); to release to the legitimate Government of civil and military air force, radio stations and other establishments, (that has been done); and to prevent the Belgians from using the Trust Territory of Ruanda Urundi as a base for aggression, (that is being done)".

Now, the hon. Minister told us of his speeches in the United Nations and of his activities as Chairman of the Reconciliation Committee, but he failed to tell us what the Monrovia Conference, which had been set up as a counterpart of the Cassablanca Conference, has been able to do. It has been able to do nothing. Many people say it has been able to do nothing, but I would venture to say that the Monrovia Conference has been able to do something. It has been able to get praise and flatter in the superlative degree from the United Kingdom and America. Our own Prime Minister has been called the most sophisticated politician who can hold his own in any civilised society and a British Conservative Member of Parliament who came to

this country recently said the Prime Minister of Nigeria is the most eminent statesman in Africa.

We are asked to congratulate the Government. Until quite recently, Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations were in the hands of the Prime Minister, and we were all glad when hon. Jaja Wachuku was appointed Foreign Minister. I happened to be very near him when the public announcement of the appointment was made and I sought his permission to be the first to congratulate him. But I had not remained with him for more than five minutes when I discovered, that our present Foreign Minister is himself a victim of the cult of personality. The Western Powers are trying their best to build up the cult of personality in Africa. They are trying to set up one great personality against the other. They want to discredit one and build up the other. They isolate the one and flatter the other. I discovered, to my disappointment, that our present Minister of Foreign Affairs is also a victim of the cult of personality and the cult of personality inevitably leads to a clash of personalities.

I am now going to substantiate my point. The cult of personality is being destroyed in Europe, in America and even in Asia, but our own friends of the Western world are bent on building and emphasising the cult of personality in Africa. Their aim is to stultify our efforts in fostering the unity and solidarity which African nationalists everywhere are advocating, but we must all try and all progressive elements in Africa must try not to allow the cult of personality to defeat our aim of building a United States of, at least, West Africa, at least.

October 1, 1960, opened the door of our country to all countries in the world. It also opened the doors of all nations of the world to Nigeria. We must seize the opportunity now offered us to enhance Nigeria's credit in Africa and the world. It is no credit to be too reasonable; it is no credit to be too sophisticated. Nationalism does not thrive on deep thinking alone. It must have a little bit of emotional interest.

Some Nigerian politicians have been denouncing other African leaders. They see nothing good in Nassar because he has fire!

They see nothing praiseworthy in Nkrumah because he is shining. They see nothing creditable in Sekou Toure because he is aspiring. They see nothing proper in Modibo Keita because he is implacable. They seem to forget the saying that he is a wise man who learns by his own experience, but he is a wiser man who learns by other people's experience.

Tunisia, for instance, was following a dubious foreign policy. She was instrumental in getting our Government to plead with France to consider the demands of the Algerian Nationalist Government. Tunisia hoped that perhaps Bizerta would be released with peace and comfort by France. But what does Tunisia get? Bomb, extermination and all sorts of oppression! If Tunisia had stood firm with the Algerian Nationalist Government for which she should get credit, if she had gone all out to support the Algerian Provisional Government, Tunisia would not be in the position that she is to-day.

The sooner we start to pursue a true policy of non-alignment, the better it would help us to gain a genuine position in the leadership of Africa. If we want to keep out ideological conflict as suggested by our Foreign Minister, we must pursue a vigorous and positive policy of true non-alignment. Why is Nigeria not in Belgrade to-day? India is there; Yugoslavia is there; Ghana is there; Mali is there; Guinea is there; Morocco is there; Sudan, and even Ethiopia that attended the Monrovia Conference is there.

Mr A. U. D. Mban (Owerri South): Point of Order. Is the last speaker trying to suggest that our leaders or Ministers can sell this country?

Mr Speaker: That is a question and not a point of Order.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I would like to say a word about Nigerian Embassies abroad. After persistent pressure by the Opposition of this House, the Government formulated their foreign policy and started to interpret it in the way that we all have now seen. A few embassies were opened in Africa and in the major countries of the Western world. The inadequacy of the Government's conduct was pointed out on the Floor of this House. The Prime Minister came out and said, "Well,

Gentlemen, you know we have no funds to establish embassies in as many parts of the world as we would wish and, in addition, we have not got the trained personnel to man these embassies. We can be represented by Britain." That is what the hon. Prime Minister gave as an excuse or perhaps as a complaint for not opening embassies in different parts of the world and in different parts of Africa. But what did we find. Only six months ago, the hon. Prime Minister could find one million pounds to open the *National Press* and put whom they considered to be the enemies of the Leader of the Opposition in order to fight the hon. Member for Ijebu-Remo (*Chief Awolowo*). They have voted one million pounds for this purpose alone.

Alhaji Inusa Tudun Wada: The hon. Member is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker: Yes, I think it is a little bit of irrelevance.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: To support the Prime Minister, I would tell this House some facts which came to my possession only this morning. A practising barrister in Ibadan went to the Congo to spend his leave. There, he met the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and, as a Nigerian citizen, he was very anxious to see the Nigerian embassy in Leopoldville. When he got there, he saw one official, a highly efficient official termed the *Chargé d'Affaires*—because we have no Ambassador there. The *Chargé d'Affaires* is the secretary, he is the secretary-typist, he is the messenger, he is the trade officer and he is also the information officer in the Congo. I got the information only this morning. That is the sort of interpretation and conduct of foreign affairs that the Minister of Foreign Affairs wants us to congratulate them upon. Only one man in the Congo where we have our soldiers doing great service, and where we have our police officers.

Recently, the police band was sent to play there. They performed all over the big towns in the Congo but not one camera man from the Information Services followed these people, with the result that we do not know what is going on there.

The Foreign Minister himself told us that Nigeria had the honour to be made the Chairman of the Conciliatory Committee. He

[DR KALU EZERA]

diplomats they deal with ever so constantly. I make this appeal with every sense of responsibility. If we must have a good Foreign Service, then we must be prepared to make conditions of service attractive for them. As I said before on the Floor of this House, most of our young boys recruited from abroad are disillusioned, at least in the Foreign Service; they are being superseded, even those who had been trained at very great cost. We could make very great use of them if they were given good conditions of service. But this present state of affairs will not make for an improvement in the morale of Foreign Service officers. I submit again that a country whose Foreign Service personnel are of a low standard cannot gain the respect and prestige that it deserves, and this machinery for reflecting the country to the outside world will be very poor indeed.

Therefore, I submit that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be divided into functional units. Within the Ministry there should be a Division for the Bureau of African Affairs—a Division which will deal exclusively with matters devoted to Africa; and a separate division for the United Nations, and another for Foreign Aid and Technical Assistance.

At the moment no Division deals exclusively with United Nations matters. This is most disappointing in view of the fact that our main contact with the outside world is through the United Nations, and for this very same important reason, the calibre of man who should represent this country on the Floor of the United Nations should not be one who would in any form do discredit to this country, but should be one of our ablest and most qualified, who would, without question, reflect the honour, the vitality and the status of Nigeria. At the moment it is not so, but we are hoping the Minister of Foreign Affairs will address himself to that matter.

The other aspect I would like to mention is that I would also plead with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs that Nigerian Foreign Service officers whose wives are expatriates, or whose wives are foreign nationals, should be recalled into the Home Service at once. This is a very serious point, and I am making it at the risk of giving very great personal displeasure to most of my friends who are very able men and whose standards and integrity

are unquestionable. But if the truth must be told, our Foreign Service should not be manned by those who are married to expatriates, whites or foreign nationals. They constitute in many ways a security risk to this country.

There are other forms of security risks existing in our Foreign Service. These are in the form of having expatriate stenographers, and personal secretaries, etc. manning our missions abroad. I am not saying for one moment that we are not friendly with expatriates. All I am saying is that for a strategic policy-making agency like the Foreign Service, there is no question of friendship—we must state that while we are friendly and appreciate the very great and invaluable service rendered to this country by expatriates, most of whom have given life-long service to this country, we must also recognise the fact that a Nigerian cannot be employed in the British Foreign Service or American Foreign Service, irrespective of whether or not he is married to a foreign national.

My other question is in connection with the Nigerian High Commission building in London. There is a rumour, and this has spread very widely, that our High Commission building in London does not fly the Nigerian national flag. I further understand that even in Ghana, Nigeria—sovereign Nigeria—cannot and is not allowed to fly her national flag on her building. The situation is most intolerable. It is common knowledge that any country which is sovereign and independent, can only show that independence and sovereignty through its flag. True, it is only a sentimental thing, but if a country is not allowed to fly its flag, it is a slight—as if to say that its sovereignty is nonsense. I do not think that our sovereignty is meaningless. We are truly sovereign, and we want to remain truly sovereign. If the allegation is true—that our flag is not flown on our United Kingdom High Commission Office—then one is surprised that here in Nigeria, the United Kingdom High Commissioner not only enjoys the preferential diplomatic treatment of having his Embassy constantly guarded by two or three of our policemen, but also that he enjoys the privilege of having police sirens going in front of his car whenever he drives out. What is even more surprising is that the United Kingdom High Commission Office has been offered

more than 20 residential houses at Ikoyi by our own Government at nominal rents of 8.3 per cent for British officers serving in the High Commission Office here.

I agree that this is how it should be. But why should our own Foreign Servicemen—our entire Foreign Service staff in London—find it extremely difficult to get lodgings, when we extend to the British officers preferential treatment in our own country? If we are to give them this preferential treatment, then it must also be enjoyed by our own men in London. (*Applause from the Gallery*).

Mr Speaker : I notice that there is applause in the Gallery—this is not allowed.

Dr Ezera : This hon. House would like an explanation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs as to what circumstances led to this neo-colonial situation and why our Government has tolerated it for so long. I know that he has just recently assumed office, but perhaps from the official files an explanation might be available.

The other question concerns the present Conference being held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. I think I must be fair to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who rose some time during the morning to give an explanation. I listened very carefully to his speech this morning and he did not give any reason why Nigeria was not represented at the Summit Conference now currently holding in Belgrade. It would appear that almost all the Monrovia Powers are not represented at this Conference, whereas all the Casablanca Powers, in addition to India and Indonesia, are fully represented at it.

Are we, therefore, to take it that this supports the view that the Casablanca Powers are truly non-aligned States, while the Monrovia Powers are generally composed of aligned countries? In any case, it is most regrettable that Nigeria is not represented on that most important Conference. I must make some allowance—I realise that there is an African country which has been doing all it can to besmirch us, to stand against Nigeria, but I warn that over-emphasis and pre-occupation with such a scare will drive us to becoming reactionary. And the danger is very imminent. So we must take care not to allow a smaller African country to assume the role which is ours. We should not allow ourselves to be driven to the other extreme of reaction because the role that that

African country is playing tends somehow to have been our own by right and because that country is working against us subversively. If we do that, I am sure the public will not give us any support because it only means that we have become reactionary and that that other country which is chasing us has become a progressive country. We cannot allow it and I am sure that the new Foreign Minister, with his dynamism, will not allow that.

I come to the question of African unity. There have been different views on how best we can achieve African unity or what others have referred to as Pan-Africanism. I must say right away that I fully endorse the Government's announced approach to this problem of African unity. Clearly, cultural and economic barriers must be eliminated before the question of political unity can be considered. Any attempt to bring about political unity now, without settling the preliminary economic and cultural questions involved, is bound to fail.

To succeed, therefore, we must clear the ground, and clearing the ground means that cultural and economic barriers must be dismantled and the Government must give its full attention to this line to achieve this aim. Here, we talk about African Common Market. It is a line. Here, we talk about clearing boundaries and using common passport systems in West Africa. These are also lines and could be a start. I hope also that the new Foreign Minister will give his attention to these things. I also think that any use of force by any other African country to achieve this should be very seriously deprecated. I think the Opposition and the Government have agreed that force in any form should not be used to coerce any small country into subjection.

Another way of approach could be to adopt the question of ratifying convention. As the Governor-General of Nigeria, Dr Azikiwe, urged in his recent address entitled "The Future of Pan-Africanism" delivered in London on 12th August, 1961, I quote, with your permission :

"African States should now as an earnest of their sincere belief in Pan-Africanism declare a doctrine of non-intervention in the continent of Africa, making it clear that the establishment of the continued existence of any colonial territory in Africa by any non-

[SHETTIMA ALI MONGUNO]

not copy other people blindly. But we should have something of our own. We should not just copy blindly. We should not be worshipping heroes simply because we would like to hero-worship for the sake of it.

Our efforts as far as African affairs go should be geared to assisting the unfortunate ones and also bringing about political freedom to less fortunate countries, I mean the non-independent countries. But by no means should our line of action be undemocratic, by no means should it be unpopular and it should, at the same time, be peaceful.

Now, a word or two on the United Nations. Even the Opposition certainly agreed this morning that the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations is dynamic. I doubt if they had any alternative but to congratulate him on his efforts at the United Nations. But looking at the United Nations' set-up I do not think that it is at all fair that one nation, either because of its size or because of its wealth or because it was once a colonial power, should have the right to reject effectively, to rule out any decision taken by the General Assembly, simply because that particular nation happens to have the veto power. It should be wiped out.

The veto power of those countries should be taken away and our efforts should be geared towards that. It is ridiculous, it is very absurd that after all the member nations of the United Nations have taken a decision, a country finding it probably not to its favour can say "No", and that means no. This is my opinion. It may be all wrong.

Our Commonwealth membership is certainly to advantage but in this House we have stated that we would expect, when and if we discuss certain matters at certain meetings of the United Nations or other Commonwealth countries, that our sister member nations should try and show us that we are all the same. That is why we formed this union of nations called the Commonwealth of Nations. Other members may disagree (and they have the right to do so) but we more or less think that they should come out and support us and not just abstain from voting when we are craving to get a resolution passed in our favour. We would expect that if they recognize us they should, at the same time (as the Minister for Foreign

Affairs pointed out this morning) respect our aspirations as well. They must show us that we are the same and that we belong to the same union.

The point of initiative was mentioned this morning. In regard to this, I would like to say to the Government that even though it is true that the emptiest barrel makes the loudest noise, I strongly feel that we must be heard, somehow, by the countries outside Nigeria and, if possible, the entire world. Holding meetings secretly and taking decisions which, though taken in the best interests of the country do not reach the nation, is not, in my opinion, the right thing. Somehow or other we must be able to know what is going on. We must be told, we must read in the newspapers, we must listen to the radio and know exactly what is happening in this country in respect of foreign affairs.

Outside this country you cannot listen to Radio Nigeria and I have heard from a very reliable source that efforts are being made to improve the situation and, for this, the Government certainly deserves congratulations.

A Member from the Opposition seemed to be perturbed by the tour of the Northern Premier, the hon. Sir Ahmadu Bello. It was alleged this morning in this House that the Northern Premier, touring the Moslem countries, was advocating a political union of Moslem countries. I dismiss this statement and I would appeal to this House to dismiss it outright.

It is rather childish. Visiting Moslem countries should not be interpreted as advocating a political union. After all already a delegation headed by the Opposition Member in the Northern Legislature belonging to the Action Group is away visiting Moslem countries.

They call it a fact-finding tour. I do not know what "fact-finding" means. When the Leader of the Opposition was away in Ghana finding facts, what facts he found I do not know. He only returned to tell the nation that there should be an immediate union of African territories. But we should not quarrel over these things. Let Moslems visit Moslem countries as Christians visit Christian countries.

A very minor point, just before I take my seat. I call it a minor point because it is something concerning our passport. When one considers the relationship among these coun-

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tries with a very large number of moslems for that matter, it will be a bit unfair not to include a country like the United Arab Republic in the list of countries that a Nigerian or somebody from Nigeria could visit. May I appeal to the Minister concerned to amend that. In my opinion, it is definitely wrong.

There was a very serious allegation from the Opposition group that the Government of this country was not dynamic, and that the Prime Minister never shouted at the top of his voice. But is it not a simple logic that the Government by appointing a dynamic Minister of Foreign Affairs is itself dynamic? It is very simple. The Opposition seems to be too dynamic and the Nation has already chosen not to follow them because they are too dynamic for the Nation.

Finally, may I take this liberty to congratulate Sir Abubakar on his efforts to contact, whenever he possibly can and in person, the heads of other governments either abroad or in this country. The last personal contact of the Prime Minister was in America where he met President Kennedy and he even stated that he was inviting the President of the United States to visit this country. We cannot but congratulate him on his efforts because I strongly believe that personal contacts go a very long way in bringing about mutual understanding between Nations and this is what we stand for: to bring about mutual understanding among ourselves in Nigeria, among the countries in Africa and among the countries of the entire world.

We stand for nothing but peace on earth and our effort should be great towards this end. May I appeal once more before I take my seat that our effort must be geared to bringing about nothing but mutual understanding among the various Nations in the world.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): I want to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Amendment to this Motion for one important achievement that has been made, and that is, that they have succeeded in disrobing and unclothing the vanity and emptiness of the interpretation so far of the foreign policy of this Government, a job which the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs laboured so futilely and pitifully to accomplish.

When the Minister saw, as all practised orators do, from the look on the faces of all sides of the House, that he was not having the winds in his sails, he lapsed into elevation of personality, and that is his own personality. He made himself the embodiment of Government's foreign policy, the be-all and the end-all and the all-knowing single authority on foreign affairs. It is satisfying enough that the necessary holes have been punctured in that balloon and that the empty air has escaped as the balloon collapsed.

The Minister made his analysis under three main heads: Africa, the Commonwealth and the United Nations. I am going to make just some critical analysis of everyone of the three heads.

In Africa the Minister said that their policies are the total extinction or extirpation, (I do not remember which he preferred to use) of colonialism and neo-colonialism in nine years: that is in 1970. I venture to ask this question: How does the Government intend to achieve this? We expected to hear a careful explanation and an analysis of what so far the Government has done, to give us the hope that it is capable of achieving this target. Is it in declaring no definite stand on vital and crucial issues such as those which affect Angola and Tunisia, Central and East Africa, at a time when what was most needed was an unequivocal declaration of positive support and assistance to such suffering people, at a time when they most needed it?

It is like telling a hungry man that one sympathises with his hunger and that one will do all that one can to relieve him of it, but gives the hungry man no food even though the sympathiser can afford so to do! How often we have heard various shades of opinion in this country and also outside it asking the Government of our country to declare its stand with respect to the still dependent States of Africa? And how clearly that question was answered this morning, that it was not sufficient to show that we are friends of such States and that we are prepared to do everything we can to assist them when it is definitely clear that there are steps we can take to support them and to fight against those who still press them down under the clutches of imperialism! We would sit back or sleep, as the previous speakers have

[MR AKOMOLAFE]

whether we think that if we decide to follow our own independent line and not that of anybody else we are not likely to get any good from that Organisation? We need, a positive, a realistic Foreign Policy—dynamism is the correct word. Not the so-called egoistic dynamism which has featured so much in this foreign Affairs debate.

I will now go to the third and last aspect of the Foreign Minister's speech, and that is the United Nations. United in self-interest. United in conflicting and antagonistic partisan policies. United in using the weaker Members as catpaws and scapegoats. United in destroying the very fundamental principles of human sovereignty. United in refusing to their weaker fellowmen the right to direct their own affairs in the way they like it. United in fermenting the cold war and precipitating hot crises. And equally united, Mr Speaker, Sir, in shutting their eyes to the volcanoes of destruction of the weaker powers when they have set volcanoes at work.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. You are speaking on the United Nations not on our Foreign Policy.

Mr Akomolafe: Thank you, Sir. I am not too young to remember the old League of Nations, the antecedent of the present United Nations, to remember the mutual distrust, lack of confidence and disunity which resulted in its destruction. What I want to say, is that this young country of Nigeria should learn from the pages of history and learn the lesson quite correctly and pursue such a Foreign Policy that will not in any way make us a slave of any of these Organisations. We should understand exactly what our problems are, how to face them, where to get proper assistance and not to think our salvation will come from 'A' or from 'B'.

Permit me to say, that I am not in any way a disbeliever in the United Nations or the Commonwealth. I know no other Organisations in the world just now that can find a cure to the ailments of the world. I know no other salvation to the threats which face the very existence of man just now. Only recently, I was reading an article in which the author, an international figure, advocated more sincerity in the Leaders

of the World than the great talks, frequent meetings of world leaders. Nigeria is made to believe that if Kennedy can visit Khrushchev and Macmillan can go to China, the peace of the world is going to be maintained. I am sure we all know more than that. We know that rather than hope that the peace of the world will be maintained, the smaller countries like us will simply remain under the feet of the bigger ones. It is only when their needs have been supplied that we can ever get anything.

Sir, what I am advising the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs (now sleeping) (*loud interruptions and laughter*) is to declare a firm stand in regard to our position both in the Commonwealth and in the United Nations in accordance with the Foreign Policy agreed on the Floor of this House.

Secondly, to support actively other African countries, especially, West African states to hold their own other States of the world. Thirdly to make no mockery of the declared Policy of the Government of non-alignment and to be bold enough to stand on our own legs and not succumb to any pettings, in whatever language they may come, in the attempt to get from us more than what they are giving to us.

Finally, I wish to appeal to the Hon. the Prime Minister, to re-consider the organisation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. In this wise Sir, to make sure that no aspect, of Foreign Affairs is taken out of that Ministry if he has the confidence of the man he has appointed as the Minister. He should not digress by putting any aspect of the Ministry in an extraneous situation as separate, private advice, or whatever name it goes by, so as to avoid the possibility of a conflict of Policy or idea or action. Sir, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs that when he comes to the Floor of this House he should speak less of himself and more of the Foreign Policy of this country.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I would remind hon. Members, so far as those who have spoken are concerned, almost all of them have exhausted the thirty minutes maximum time and I notice that there are so many people wishing to speak on this. I might as well appeal to Members to be as brief as possible.

M. Albattan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): First of all, I would like to congratulate the Federal Government on the appointment of the hon. Jaja Wachuku as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs is a very capable, very brave and a fearless person. His appointment is not only acceptable to this House but also acceptable to every person in this country.

Foreign Affairs is very important to a nation and when the foreign affairs of a nation is paralysed, the whole nation is paralysed. It is so important that it must be handled very carefully, very diligently but, it must be pursued vigorously before a nation can claim to be a nation to be reckoned with in the world. Whatever happens, no matter where the wind of change blows, whether to the East or to the West we must maintain our independence.

I will now try to comment on the achievements of the Federal Government as far as our foreign policy is concerned for the past ten months. Nigeria during its short spell at the United Nations has contributed to the unity of the countries in the United Nations through her former Acting Permanent Representative at the United Nations, the hon. Jaja Wachuku, now Minister of Foreign Affairs. As Nigeria's Acting Permanent Representative he moved the resolution for the enlargement and reorganisation of the structure of the United Nations.

During his tour of the United States, our Prime Minister commented on the admission of the People's Republic of China into the United Nations. Everybody knows the stand of the United States on the admission of the People's Republic of China into the United Nations but when our Prime Minister got to the United States he boldly spoke that the people of Nigeria and himself support the admission of the People's Republic of China into the United Nations. I feel this is one of the great achievements of the Federal Government. I do not understand why the Great Powers should oppose the admission of the People's Republic of China, a country of about 600,000,000 people into the United Nations.

I now come to Nigeria's foreign policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence. We in Nigeria believe in non-interference in other countries internal affairs. We believe we should not challenge the territorial integrity of any nation.

What shocks me is that colonialism still exists in Africa. There are two types of colonialism now in Africa—the new colonialism and the old colonialism. The people of Nigeria want to know the attitude of the Federal Government to what is going on in Angola, they want to know what the Federal Government has in stock for their brothers in Central Africa; they want to know what Nigeria thinks of the trouble in Algeria. The Federal Government has not told the nation which of the Government in Algeria it recognises. We want the Federal Government to recognise the rightful Government of the Algerian people. I am calling on the Federal Government to recognise the Algerian Provisional Government now. It is the rightful Government of the Algerian people.

It seems to me the Federal Government is discriminating against the big powers. Why should the Federal Government give more privileges to the United States and Great Britain than the Soviet Union in the establishment of Embassies in Nigeria? Why should the Federal Government give the Soviet Union only ten diplomatic car labels and the United States and Great Britain one hundred each? If the Federal Government wants the respect of other nations of the world, if Nigeria wants to develop in the right direction, if Nigeria wants to preserve its independence as a nation, if we want our development to be gradual as an independent nation, we must give equal rights to all the bigger nations of the world.

When the Prime Minister returned from his visit to the United States of America he said that he would invite President Kennedy to visit Nigeria. I am appealing to the Prime Minister to extend the same invitation to the Prime Minister of India, Mr Nehru; he should invite the Prime Minister of China to visit Nigeria, we want the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union to visit Nigeria.

I will now go to African unity. I am not interested in either the Cassablanca Powers or the Monrovia Powers. There should be no blocs in Africa. What I want is the unity of Africa. I am not advocating the political union of Africa now. We cannot do that now. Every nation must develop on its own first. The Prime Minister should invite all Independent African Nations to the next African

[M. ISANDU]

because I am sure that a date is fast approaching when the white settlers in South Africa will realise that they have been dancing and spitting on the body of a sleeping giant now awake.

If we are not careful the same position will arise in this country. What I mean by this is that at Yaba here we have somebody whom I can call junior Verwoerd. In exercising his *verwoerdism* he kicked one of the staff in the West African Council for Medical Research with his leg and addressed him as "abastard African." This was on the 13th February, 1960, and this is only one of his serious and evil acts contrary to the freedom and liberty of our country. To safeguard the dynamism of our foreign policy and the interest of our people, this man should be repatriated without delay. We shall go to herbalists if we do not have a Nigerian of his qualification. Already we have one herbalist here.

Under these circumstances, I am compelled to say that most of the Europeans have no true love for us but are only interested in what they can get out of the Africans. May I take the opportunity to remind our hon. Prime Minister of what he said in the United Nations when he was pressing for the expulsion of South African delegates in the United Nations. He said that anywhere the African is maltreated he feels as if he was the one so treated. I therefore call on the Government to review our flirtation with Britain.

Finally, Nigeria is marching on and barely eleven months after our independence we have made a mark on the world. The future is rosy, but a world tour by the Prime Minister will increase the stature of our country.

With regard to our Broadcasting Corporation, I am not happy to see Canada being given the chance of broadcasting in our own country always. I do not know whether we are allowed such facility in their own country. This sort of thing must be checked with all seriousness.

Before I sit down I must say I am most concerned about something that happened in this House this afternoon between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dr Kalu Ezera. I feel that this exchange of words between them, especially to those of us who have not got their parliamentary experience or their standard of education—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order. How Members behave themselves is the concern of the Speaker.

M. Isandu: Well, with these few remarks, I hope that in trying to make Africa great and to protect our country, we should invite important men like Mr Khrushchhev and President Kennedy and all the other important people to come together for the good of mankind.

Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): Sir, I rise to support the Amendment which has been tabled on this Motion. I like to start, by drawing the attention of the House to the fact that during the Budget Meeting of this House I made a suggestion that my friend, the hon. Jaja Wachuku, should be appointed by the Prime Minister as the Foreign Minister. I said so, because I believe that Mr Jaja Wachuku is capable of delivering the goods. I said so, and I believe so not because I did not think that the Foreign Minister has weaknesses, but I had hoped that after his appointment and after people who are in the position to do so have advised him, he would check his weakness. But, Sir, I was a little disappointed when the hon. Foreign Minister made a speech here, I think it was on the 30th of last month, attacking me and Dr Ezera for speaking about his Ministry during the debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

What I like to say here, Mr Speaker, is that this is a very serious debate and we should not make recriminatory speeches. This is a responsible occasion but I think it is also an occasion when we can advise the Minister not to mar the ability which we hope he has by his over-exuberance and his talkativeness. I think I shall end it there and I shall not retaliate because I am a little older than he is and I probably have more experience of the world.

I think that it has been mentioned here earlier in this debate that there is some hero worship of some people outside this country. I think we must get it quite clear right from the beginning that, whether anybody likes it or not, in this country we are going to swim or sink together. There is no question of anybody having any loyalties beyond loyalty to this great country of ours which we all love very dearly. And I think that foreign policy,

if pursued rightly, should always reflect the interest of the country that is pursuing it. The interest of Nigeria should be absolutely paramount in all our foreign policies. There can be no other way of doing it.

Secondly, the interest of humanity should also be in a very prominent position because, if our interests are satisfied, and the interests of humanity as a whole are not, we ourselves cannot be satisfied.

The world is coming together more and more and becoming smaller and smaller. And this reflects the lack of logic in some speeches which I have heard here to-day about people interfering in other people's business; about people not wanting to lead other people; about what some people call empty noise. Foreign policy is pure politics. The person who makes what has been called the empty noise is getting on. Where are those who do not make the noise?

The people who have been indirectly referred to here to-day are less important in other spheres than Nigeria. In population, in economic resources, in intelligence, in size, in everything Nigeria is greater. But where is Nigeria to-day as compared with those people? Because of grave conservatism in the rank of the Government, some people come here and try to show an atmosphere of "holier than thou" attitude of false dignity. If this attitude should continue, it only means that the Government is digging its own grave and that does no credit to Nigeria.

It has been mentioned in the House to-day that an all-party parliamentary committee should be set up. I would like to say that this side of the House was the first to make this suggestion at the first meeting after Independence. I am not trying to claim any superiority, and I do not want this serious matter to be interefered with by heckling.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): On a point of Order. The hon. Member for Egba East is claiming that they have always been the first in doing good things for this country. I would like him to say why the Government of the West which is controlled by his political party has not taken the lead by passing the Motion for the creation of the Mid-West State.

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

Chief Rosiji: This suggestion was made not only in this House. In sincerity, the people who made the suggestion did so through private discussions which took place behind the scenes. But it seems that this idea has been fool-proofed by the Government. We have our own policy as an alternative Government in this country. We would like the Government to have its own policy also, especially in matters of foreign affairs. As this suggestion has been made again to-day, I would like to say that we do not intend to press this point. But if the Government feels that it is a right suggestion, it is up to it to pursue it; it is not up to the Opposition. But we feel that in foreign affairs as well as in defence, as has been raised here to-day, there can be the possibility of playing into the hands of our enemies by harmony. Even if the Government has that harmony, it should be restricted to within our own place here; it should not be carried to anywhere outside this country.

There is an important aspect which is of a general nature, and which I would like to raise. That is in connection with the psychology of independence. We have just had our independence and there is no doubt that a great deal of colonial mentality is still left in us. There is also a great deal of the superior psychology, the superior attitude, still left in the people who used to be our bosses. When it was said that some people were making some empty noise, I think that we should consider that it is high time for us to make some statement which will elevate the heads of our people in this country and bring them outside the level of colonial mentality. If this country does not pursue what has been described as a dynamic policy in foreign affairs, we shall not be helping our people to raise up their heads and to have the spirit of independence. I think it is important not only to show that we have a dynamic policy by following the lead of other people, it is equally important that we should make our voice heard on all the issues, all the problems that concern not only Africa but also the whole world.

Many issues have been called to mind immediately and I would, meanwhile, like to deal with only two. One concerns Africa and the other concerns the world at large. The one that concerns Africa is the much used expression—unity of Africa. It is a great pity

[CHIEF AYO ROSIJI]

that there should be some tendency to divide Africa into two blocs. There are to-day, as we all know, some African powers who met in Casablanca and other African powers who met in Monrovia. I think that Nigeria has a unique opportunity in trying to bring these blocs together. I think that the initiative can be taken right now to start discussions with heads of those blocs and ultimately to bring them together so that the unity of Africa can indeed be a reality and not just a political talk which people use to gain advantage in one way or another.

The other point which I want to raise is about Berlin. The fate of the whole world is hanging in the balance in Berlin to-day. I would like to make it quite clear that all the people who boss the United Nations Organisation to-day cannot bring peace to Berlin and the world—they have failed! They are all either in one camp or another, and it is up to us as a country that professes non-alignment, and it is also up to other countries of the world who are not committed, to take definite steps to bring about agreement on the issue of Berlin.

There is, a point which has quite often occurred to me about this Berlin issue. The last war ended in 1945, it is only 16 years ago, and Germany was defeated in that war. We know to-day that the most progressively prosperous country in the world to-day is Germany, Western Germany. We know to-day that we who supplied our men, our resources, to the winning of the war, are still lagging very far behind. We gave our lives and resources to defeat the aggressor. The Western Powers and the Eastern powers always assume that they are very clever, but I think they have been beaten to it this time. Anybody who goes to Germany to-day, either West or East will hear talk about the Third Reich! The Germans have manoeuvred both the East and the West into a situation in which they do not fight themselves, so that Germany can march victorious over the whole world again. This is only an observation by the way. The realisation of this position does not necessarily solve the problem of Berlin.

I think that a principle must be accepted in Berlin, the principle which we all hear talked about very much as "fundamental human

rights". Let everybody in Germany or Berlin or wherever they may be choose the person with whom they are going to associate; if the people of West Berlin choose to follow one bloc, let them do so; if the people of East Berlin choose to follow another bloc, then for God's sake, let them do so! It is their choice! If the people of West Berlin choose to live in East Berlin, then for God's sake let them go and live there, and if the people of East Berlin choose to live in West Berlin, let them go and live there and have free access to any part of the country of Germany, without let or hinderance!

I think it is important that one should emphasise the importance of the United Nations in preserving world peace. The United Nations started where the League of Nations left off. The Charter of the United Nations which was passed in 1946 in Central Hall, in London, is to-day completely out of date, and I think what makes it out of date is the fact that the spirit with which that Charter was drawn up is not now being followed and also the fact that the Charter—

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): There is very little time left and the hon. Member is not discussing the Foreign Policy of this Government in speaking about the United Nations.

Mr Speaker: I am not sure so far whether to rule him out of order or not, because definitely he is discussing what is rather relevant to our policy, although he is not directly on our policy.

Chief Rosiji: The Charter itself, had internal restrictions. The advent of the African countries and the growing importance and advent of the Asian countries is, I think an opportunity for pressure to be brought within the United Nations for a change in the Charter which will make it possible for Nigeria, as well as other African States and other Asiatic States, to take a more active and more effective part in the activities of the United Nations.

I was very pleased indeed when success was achieved in electing Liberia into the Security Council; I saw myself the undercurrent that went on in the United Nations, because I happened to be there at that particular time. I know the enemies of Africa, I know those who did not want Liberia or the African States to be in the Security Council, but I think that

it must be made clear to all these people that their salvation, as well as the salvation of the whole world, depends on the active participation of us who are the weaker nations in the Security Council and in the United Nations as a whole. Therefore, this Federal Government, and the Foreign Minister in particular, should not just be satisfied with the fact that Liberia has been appointed to the Security Council. They should press forward right now, immediately, for the admission of more Members from Africa into the Security Council.

We have heard here from the Minister of Foreign Affairs that our Policy is one of non-alignment. We on this side of the House agree to a policy of non-alignment, but what we say is that in practice this policy is not being carried out. One of the Ministers—one of the most important Ministers here, the Minister of Finance—when he went on the Economic Mission, made a speech which was reported over the whole world, in which he said that the Nigerian delegation was going to Russia, but that when it comes back it will still retain its political colour! First of all, why does the Minister find it necessary to make an apologetic speech? Why must he tell anybody whether our colour is red, yellow, brown or blue? Is it the business of the British people? There is an insinuation in it, and the insinuation is this: "We are your friends, do not get worried by the fact that we are going to Russia, when we come back we are still in the same ideological camp as you are, the same colour as you (interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order.

Chief Rosiji : I think that what I have just said is only the most recent indication of a departure from the professed policy of non-alignment by this Government. Many other examples have been cited, and I am not going to waste the time of this House by citing examples.

Furthermore, we belong to the Commonwealth of Nations, we belong there—and I hope that the Government share the same reason with me—we belong there because it suits us to belong there; if it does not suit us to belong there we will clear out! And I hope that belonging to the Commonwealth of Nations does not mean being subservient to Britain or to any other country for that matter.

The indications which we have had here are that as a result of the activities of the representatives of the British Government in this country we are subservient to the British Government. If being in the Commonwealth means this subservience then for God's sake, let us clear out.

But I shall be the first to admit that there are advantages in being in the Commonwealth, but the dignity of Nigeria cannot be sacrificed for small advantages because after all those advantages which exist are mutual advantages and are therefore not one sided.

The last point which I want to talk about is the very serious and regrettable incidence which has happened recently. This is the resumption of atomic tests by the Soviet Union. In this House we did not hesitate to condemn France for exploding the atomic bomb in the Sahara. We did so not only because the Sahara is in Africa and that Sahara is near to us but also because the further explosion of atomic bombs and further atomic tests are a very serious danger to humanity as a whole. Now, the Soviet Union has resumed atomic tests. I think this is an issue on which the Federal Government should make the view of this country known that we are against any people in any part of the world playing power politics with the lives of the people in the whole world.

Mr Speaker : Order, the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) has one more minute.

Chief Rosiji : I have said this and I am prepared to say it again in respect of any other nation which carries out atomic tests anywhere. And that is the way it should be. The other people who are now shouting about the atomic tests made by Russia did not condemn France when she exploded her own atomic bombs in the Sahara. Now before Russia explodes her atomic bomb everybody is talking about it. When are we going to be honest? If honesty does not enter into international politics, there will be no peace. And it is Nigeria and the other countries like Nigeria who can supply the honesty as the moral force to bring sanity into the world.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I think at this juncture, I should reply to the points that have been made by the various speakers. I intend to go from the last to the first, in making my replies. I want to express my thanks to Members of the House who have contributed

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something valuable to this debate and to say that I am not surprised that there are also those who have nothing to say but have to say something in accordance with the custom of this House.

I want to say that we are in agreement with the last speaker, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) when he says that if membership of the Commonwealth means subservience to the United Kingdom, then, of course, that organisation becomes useless to us. But as I said here this morning, the policy is very clear. We have no intention whatsoever that this country will be subservient to the United Kingdom Government. It is an independent country, an independent African state and that it must remain. Once independent, always independent, no more, no less.

I would like to say in regard to the alleged reference to the speech of the Minister of Finance that we have in our Constitution entrenched fundamental human right. The Minister of Finance went on a Mission and he made a speech and that was in exercise of his fundamental human right to make a speech. If he made a speech that his colour is not going to change, he did not say that the colour of the Government will not change. It might be that he was wearing a blue dress and he said on his return that it still remained blue.

The Government agrees *in toto* with the remark that we must continue to press for the Charter of the United Nations to be altered to give more opportunity for Africans to have a more effective say in the affairs of the United Nations. In fact, the Prime Minister made this quite clear during his last visit to the United States of America and we have been on that point not only in the United Nations but in the Secretariat of the United Nations because that is the more effective organ the moment the Assembly adjourns.

With regard to his remark that there are only two groups which are called the Monrovia Powers and the Casablanca Powers, I want to remind him that there are more than two. There were two groups before—the Brazzaville Powers and the Casablanca Powers. The Monrovia Conference was an attempt on the part of Nigeria to bring all together and all independent African countries were invited. Indeed, two out of the so-called Casablanca

Powers, Mali and Guinea, were co-sponsors of that meeting but due to some influence from certain sources at the last moment, they withdrew their names. It has been said that Nigeria should use all her efforts to bring the various independent African states together. That had been the consistent policy of this Government, even up till now. It is the intention of the Government and, indeed, I think steps have been taken to see to it that, as the Prime Minister says, the door is wide open and every independent African state will be invited to attend the Conference in Lagos. We are consistent in our policy.

There has been criticism about what the country is doing now. My only proof is this. Take the record of Nigeria in her home and external policies in ten months of her independence and take every other African territory for the same period, put them side by side and see whether we are worse than they or not. On the basis of our record, we have nothing to be ashamed of.

The Member for Jos North West (*M. Isandu*) has made a very useful suggestion. In that regard, I think as the Foreign Ministry takes over external broadcasts and publicity, it is our intention to see that there should be reciprocity in all these broadcasts. I do not see any reason why Canada should have access to Radio Nigeria, to broadcast something about Canada and Nigeria should not have the same access to Radio Canada. The same thing is true of the B.B.C. If the B.B.C. can project United Kingdom in Nigeria, we also should be able to have a reciprocal right.

The Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) repeated the argument why Nigeria is not in Belgrade. I want to answer this question frankly without any equivocation. It is a matter of prestige. An African country spent all its time fighting against Nigeria attending this Conference. And this Conference was not a Conference sponsored by all African States, but it was a Summit Conference to people who originated it. Nigeria was to be invited as any other country, but an African country was fighting against it and did everything to prevent Nigeria from attending. It was Ethiopia which had to insist that Nigeria should be invited and then after very protracted and grudging delay, they decided to invite Nigeria at a very late moment. Sir, in international relations, there is such a thing

as prestige. Nigeria is not going to beg for a thing that she is entitled to. All I have to say is that if we have exactly the same period of time as these people have had, perhaps, twelve months from to-day, it may be that all those who have been making noise will find themselves very backward in international affairs.

I am sorry that the Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr Akomolafe*) is not here though I should treat the speech he made with contempt. He said that I connived at the liquidation of Lumumba.

Chief Ayo Rosiii (Egba East): I thought that the hon. the Foreign Minister was going to change. It does not seem that he intends to change that habit.

An hon. Member: What is that habit?

Another hon. Member: I do not think Chief Rosiji was here with us; perhaps, he was not here when the hon. Minister was speaking.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: If any one was trying to impugn my integrity and my character, I think this was a great insult. In any case, I do not want to reply and I would prefer to treat the speech with the contempt it deserves; it does not require any answer. I would only refer him to the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission which had been published and as a Parliamentarian if he wants it he should apply to the United Nations for it. He will have the full report and everything. I should like to say here that I was not appointed by the Government of Nigeria and I did not represent the Government of Nigeria. I was not sent by the Government, I was sent by the United Nations. I reported to the United Nations and, therefore, I have no responsibility to report to this House.

There is only one regret I have and that is the speech of Dr Ezera. Dr Ezera made a very excellent speech, very constructive in many respects but, unfortunately at the last stage, he went from what I would call the sublime to the ridiculous and, consequently, I think he has let off steam and let the steam filter into thin air. All that I did was to use the Standing Orders. I said at that time that under Standing Orders, I think 25 or so, I do not remember, that on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill Members should not discuss anything beyond the economic and

financial policy and I thought this was irrelevant. I used the Standing Order and did not intend to be disrespectful to the Speaker, but I used my right as a Member of this House. As far as that is concerned, I think I had better leave it in the background, I do not want to say anything further about it.

A very important question was raised with regard to the High Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom and the National Flag. It is true, that the flag is not flying there. This is due to the fact that the house was an old lease in a residential area. Those of you who know London well, there are certain areas which are considered quite residential areas and they want to prevent people from using these areas because they do not want to reduce the value of these residential areas. Unfortunately, apparently, when this was going on, for reasons either due to those who have interest in this house not disclosing certain things or disclosing at a later date and those who are responsible for it not exercising sufficient care. This happened to be there. But I can assure hon. Members that this is not a matter for the Government, rather it is a matter for the Executive. That having happened, and since we came into it, we have made a definite attempt to bring this matter to the notice of the Minister of Commonwealth Relations and the British Government. I made the position clear that if we do not have a reciprocal right in this matter, we may be compelled in this country to make a reprisal because we cannot have our sovereignty abridged by any means.

In a delicate matter of this nature, we must be reasonable gentlemen. It is not as some people think. After all, we believe in the rule of law and we should use every reasonable means to get the situation altered, but if we make all possible and reasonable attempt and nothing is done, well, we have flags now in Nigeria. We might as well have to make some flags not to fly. But we have to wait till such a stage and until such a time that all reasonable efforts have failed. We shall use the simple, reasonable methods used by reasonable men. It is true we secured a floor in the Cocoa Marketing Board building and this type of imposition was brought in. We have protested against that and that protest has been heeded and the flag is flying there now. There is no further restriction about it again.

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With regard to pass-port, I have a number of complaints about these and I am looking into this matter. I can assure hon. Members that everything that should be done to make it easy for the citizens of Nigeria to exercise their rights and privileges under the law as fully and freely as possible would be done so that as much inconvenience as possible will be removed.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East): On the question of passport, the feeling of the House is that the nations of the Eastern Europe should be treated in precisely the same manner as the nations of the Western Europe. Will the hon. Minister give an assurance that this will be the case? We do not want platitudes, we want definite undertaking.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations: As far as I am concerned, I do not have to examine all the circumstances of this situation. The assurance I am going to give is that which is consistent with the policy of this Government and which is consistent with the will and wishes of the Parliament. I shall try as much as possible to abide faithfully by that policy, but I am not going to commit myself to a broad generalisation.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I do not know whether the hon. Minister is leaving aside or perhaps postponing to some other day the question of reciprocity in the housing accommodation for diplomatic staff here in Nigeria and in London.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations: That should be left to future debate.

Continuing, there is an Amendment to this Motion. I beg to say that the Government is opposed to the Amendment and I re-affirm my support for the Motion.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this honourable House re-affirms the Foreign Policy of the Federal Government as declared by the Prime Minister and approved on the 20th August, 1960 by this honourable House and hereby declares its approval of the Government's interpretation and conduct thereof, and congratulates the

Government on its achievement in the international field since the independence of this country.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Foreign Affairs Debate

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): Now that we have had a full debate on foreign affairs, and considering that the House is almost only half full, I do hope that it would be placed on record that next time we should be given at least two days to debate this important subject so that Members could air their views. As it is to-day, only experts have spoken on the matter.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): The only one point I would like to add is that when next we meet, since we now have a new Foreign Minister, I think that this House will always like to know the burning issues all over the world. We hear always that the British Prime Minister has told the House of Commons on this issue and on that issue but we remain here just quiet as if it is no Parliament any more. We think that a debate on foreign policy should be injected during the height of the House and when the House is full. It is only in this way that people pull out heat and it is only in this way that the country at large will know that the Parliament is alive to the issues of the world. We hope we will be given at least two days when next we meet.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North): I just want to add one important thing. It has been noted that Private Members' Motion Day is usually being omitted by this House. I could remember that this House resumed duty on 22nd of this month which was Wednesday, avoiding Tuesday, and to-day we are adjourning on Monday, avoiding Tuesday again. I just want to put it on record that we shall equally like the Government to give Members the chance to air their views by way of Motions.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): I just want to say this in support of Dr Ezera as far as the Foreign Minister is concerned. That when next we meet and we want to debate the foreign policy of this country, we want to hear

more from the Foreign Minister. We hope he will furnish all that we need and all that he hears from other parts of the world. The blame that the Government has not been supplying us with the necessary solutions to world problems should not go to the new Foreign Minister. The Prime Minister was holding that portfolio until recently when hon. Jaja Wachuku took over. The fact that the Opposition refused to press for a division to-day is a testimony of the implicit confidence we have in the Foreign Minister. I am just saying this to clarify the position.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): I want to raise this important point. One could see that this House is not as full as it used to be. I think the time has come when we should devise a means of checking the movement of Members of this House. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! order! order! Mr Mbah.

Mr Mbah rose to continue his speech.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): Point of order. I would like to remind the hon. Gentleman that this is not the Congo Republic.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of Order.

An Hon. Member: This is the Parliament of this country and not a Labour Front.

Chief A. F. Odulana: May I remind this hon. House that we are no more in school. The hon. Members who have gone out, some of the Members who have gone out have gone to fetch their books, and trying to check the movements of Members would be objected to. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order!

Mr J. U. Udenyi: This is a Parliamentary meeting—

Mr D. N. Chuku: On point of Order. If an hon. Member wants to live in Lagos he will make an application to be allowed to come to this House.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah: On point of information. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker: I think we should raise the point of information.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah: On point of Order. I beg to resume my seat.

Chief A. Enahoro: I do not want to introduce a sour note into the proceedings at this stage, but as most hon. Members are going through the Western Region I hope they will travel home very carefully because of the position of law and order! (*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order!

M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim: I have a point of information. It relates to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation. There were reliable allegations that equal opportunities of flight and good education are not given to the Northern counterparts in the Federal Flying School. If it is to our national interests—

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I am sure the hon. Member did not give notice to the Minister of Transport.

Mr Speaker: It is in the interests of this House and the hon. Member that he should give notice to the Minister and to the Chair before he makes his points on an adjournment.

Mr S. Lana: On a point of information. While this Parliament was sitting an expatriate from one of the Embassies in Lagos was taking a picture of Parliament in session. I think Parliament must make a very serious objection to this, even though the Police have got the matter in hand. Parliament should ask the Embassy—(*Interruption*).

Mr B. Ukaegbu: The point I want to raise is about the anniversary of the Independence Celebration —

An hon. Member: On point of Order. The hon. Gentleman was not speaking into the microphone at all.

Mr Speaker: Order. It is not a matter raised. It is just information, he said, and I think the whole House has heard his information and I am afraid, unless he moves a Motion I cannot throw it on the Floor of this House for debate.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: From what I understand, this gentleman, whoever he is, is not from any Embassy. He is one of these roving reporters or photographers who

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happens to be interested in taking his pictures. He wandered into the Gallery and apparently the Police are now handling the matter.

M. Shettima Ali Monguno : Just a word on what my hon. Friend, Chief Enahoro, has said. We are involved. We pass through the Western Region. If it is true that law and order has broken down, then we would like the Police to take note of this matter.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo : A matter for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. I think that when the Minister of Foreign Affairs takes into

consideration all the points raised in the House he should also remember the recommendations made by the All-Nigeria People's Conference.

Mr B. Ukaegbu : I would inform the hon. Chief Enahoro that as law and order has broken down in the Western Region we are flying home by helicopter !

Question put and agreed to.

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

Adjourned accordingly at 6.0 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS—20th JULY

Cotton and Benniseed Growing

W.49. M. Salihu O. Abdul asked the Minister of Economic Development, what the Ministry is doing to encourage the production of those two export crops, benniseed and cotton, in the Northern Region.

The Minister of Economic Development : On the advice of the Technical Committee for Agricultural Research improvement programmes on crops primarily grown in Northern Nigeria are undertaken by that Region's own scientists at the Regional Research Station, Samaru. Considerable increases in production have resulted from the use of improved varieties of benniseed introduced in recent years. Cotton research has, for many years, been carried out with spectacular success by the scientists of the E.C.G.A. at Samaru.

The Federal Department of Agricultural Research is confining its attention to increasing the production of yams, cassava, maize, rice and grain legumes. However, recent research by the Department's entomologists has established that the white fly, which is responsible for the spread of cassava mosaic disease, is also the principal vector of a virus disease of cotton. Research into methods of controlling white flies continues.

Inter-Regional Secondary School

W.50. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider the desirability and practicability of building the Inter-Regional Secondary School at Abagana in Awka Division.

The Minister of Education : The whole question of the establishment of inter-Regional Secondary Schools is being considered in consultation with Regional Governments. The location of the schools will be decided in the light of the consultation, but I cannot say at this stage at what place or places they will be established.

Police Training College

W.66. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Prime Minister, how many recruits were under training at the Police Training College in

Nigeria between 1st January, 1959 and 31st December, 1960; and to what tribes did they belong.

The Prime Minister : 2,405 recruits were in training in this period. Of these 2,298 were Nigerians, 103 were Cameroonians and the other four came from other West African Countries.

Regional Deployment of Policemen

W.68. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigeria Policemen of all ranks are stationed in each Region, in the Federal Territory of Lagos and in the Southern Cameroons; and what is the cost of maintaining these men in each case.

The Prime Minister : Details of strength and cost are as follows:—

	Off- cers	Rank		Total	Cost £
		Insp.	& File		
Federal Territory Lagos	138	202	3,160	3500	1,273,272
Northern Nigeria	107	118	2,599	2824	725,142
Eastern Nigeria	93	100	3,085	3278	795,288
Western Nigeria	102	124	2,449	2675	691,727
Cameroons	22	19	548	589	113,413
	462	563	11,841	1,2866	3,598,842

The figures indicating costs are for the period 1-4-60 - 28-2-61, except the costs in respect of the Southern Cameroons which is for only 9 months. Full details of costs for the whole year are not yet available.

Strength of Nigeria Police

W.69. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, what is the strength of the Nigeria Police Force; and if he will state the number of men and women in each grade at present and in 1958.

The Prime Minister : The strength of Nigeria Police Force is 12,866. Details of the number of men and women in each grade at present and in 1958 are as follows :—

Numbers of Men and Women in each grade—as at 28-2-61

	Men	Women	Total
Inspector-General ..	1	—	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1	—	1
Commissioner ..	4	—	4
Deputy Commissioner	6	—	6
Assistant Commissioner	18	—	18
Senior Superintendent	36	—	36
Long Grade Officers	391	5	396
Chief Inspector ..	15	—	15
Inspector, Grade I ..	44	—	44
Inspector, Grade II ..	96	—	96
Sub-Inspector ..	378	4	382
Cadet Sub-Inspector	26	—	26
Sergeant Major ..	48	—	48
Sergeant	586	1	587
Corporal	842	4	846
Lance Corporal ..	950	9	959
Constables	8,814	123	8,937
Recruits	438	25	463
Matron	—	1	(Cpl) 1
	<u>12,694</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>12,866</u>

Numbers of Men and Women in each grade—as at 31-12-58

	Men	Women	Total
Inspector-General ..	1	—	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1	—	1
Commissioner ..	6	—	6
Deputy Commissioner	5	—	5
Assistant Commissioner	13	—	13
Senior Superintendent	33	—	33
Long Grade Officers	266	1	267
Chief Inspector ..	14	—	14
Inspector, Grade I ..	37	—	37
Inspector, Grade II ..	77	—	77
Sub-Inspector ..	285	3	288
Cadet Sub-Inspector	38	—	38
Sergeant Major ..	45	—	45
Sergeant	481	1	482
Corporal	716	—	716
Lance Corporal ..	913	3	916
Constables	7,672	52	7,724
Recruits	403	20	423
Matron	—	1	1
	<u>11,006</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>11,087</u>

Strength of Nigeria Police Force—as at 31-12-58

Officers	326
Inspectors	454
Rank and File ..	10,307
	<u>11,087</u>

Udi, Awgu and Nsukka Police

W.70. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the current approved establishment and the present strength, in each rank of the Detachments of the Nigeria Police Force stationed in Udi, Awgu and Nsukka.

The Prime Minister :

	ASP	SIP	Sgt.	CPL.	L/CPL.	BC	Total
<i>Agwu Police Station :</i>							
EST.	—	—	1	1	1	13	16
STR.	—	—	1	1	1	13	16
<i>Nsukka Police Station :</i>							
EST.	1	1	1	1	2	25	31
STR.	1	1	1	2	4	23	32
<i>Udi Police Station :</i>							
EST.	1	—	1	1	—	10	13
STR.	1	—	1	—	1	11	14

Potatoes and Onions

W.77. Mallam Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Economic Development, in view of the fact that Zaria and Plateau Provinces are suitable for growing potatoes and many parts of the Northern Region for growing onions, what is he doing to encourage farmers to grow these crops for food and cash.

The Minister of Economic Development: The limited number of research workers of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research are fully committed to research programmes designed to increase production to six of the major food crops of Nigeria, *e.g.*, cassava, yams, sweet potatoes, maize, rice and grain legumes. The Department also has undertaken improvement programmes on citrus fruit, kola and coffee.

By a mutually agreed arrangement research into those food crops primarily grown in the Northern Region, such as guinea corn, millet, groundnuts, tomatoes, "Irish" potatoes and onions, is carried out by the Northern Region Ministry of Agriculture at their Regional Research Station at Samaru where considerable progress has been made in recent years.

Search for Mineral Oil

W.88. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will make a statement on the search for mineral oil in Uyo Division of the old Calabar Province.

The Minister of Mines and Power: The area of the Uyo Division of the old Calabar Province was formerly held under prospecting licence by Shell BP. In this area the company drilled six exploration wells of which only two, at Ituk, found any oil or gas. Extensive testing of these wells was carried out but production prospects appeared to be poor and further efforts in this area were suspended to develop the more promising oilfields in the vicinity of Port Harcourt.

In January 1960 considerably more than half the area held by Shell BP in the Division was surrendered but a prospecting licence for most of this surrendered area has since been applied for by Gulf Eastern who will start prospecting as soon as the licence has been signed.

Niger Delta Development Board

W.94. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Prime Minister, what criterion was adopted in the choice of chairman of the Niger Delta Development Board; where the Board's headquarters will be based; whether he is aware that it is the consensus of opinion that Degema is the most suitable and central place for the headquarters; and if Degema is not selected for this purpose, if he will give reasons for his decision.

The Prime Minister: The Federal Government decided that the Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Board should be a Nigerian of known administrative ability. The location of its headquarters is for the Board itself to decide; I am informed that Port Harcourt has been chosen, because from there all parts of the Delta are readily accessible, good communications exist, good services are available, and the headquarters can be constructed with a minimum of delay.

I am not aware that the consensus of opinion holds Degema to be the most suitable and central place for the Board's headquarters. It is, in fact, not centrally placed within the Board's area of operations.

Awards of Honour

W.95. Mr V. E. Eze asked the Prime Minister, whether it is not timely to create a List of Honours native to Nigeria (*e.g.*, Nigerian Distinguished Service Order, etc.) for the inspiration of greater devotion to national greatness in all fields.

The Prime Minister: I appreciate the spirit behind this question and I can assure the House that when the time is opportune the the Federal Government will give consideration to this matter.

W.96. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Prime Minister, if he will make a statement on the present situation in Tiv Division in view of the recent disturbances.

The Prime Minister: No Sir. The situation in Tiv Division has returned to normal.

Police Barracks for Gboko

W.97. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Prime Minister, whether he does not consider it necessary to have a police barracks built at Gboko.

The Prime Minister : No Sir. A large Native Administration Police unit is operating there under the guidance of an Assistant Superintendent of Police of the Nigeria Police.

Police Post for Obolo Afor

W.98. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Prime Minister, in view of the activities of marauders and the strategic position of Obolo in Nsukka Division, if he will consider establishing a police post at Obolo Afor near Idoma.

The Prime Minister : No sir. Obolo Afor is considered to be adequately covered by the Nigeria Police at Nsukka.

The Fire Brigade

W.99. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians in the Fire Brigade have been promoted to the post of Superintendent since the inception of this department sixty years ago.

The Prime Minister : There is no grade of Superintendent in the Lagos Fire Brigade. The post of Divisional Officer created in the Estimates 1961-62 will be filled by a Nigerian.

P.M.'s Rivers Province Tour

W.100. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Prime Minister, what towns he visited on his recent tour of the Rivers Province and which of these has no connection with any oil installation; and when does he intend to visit some of the rural areas of the Rivers Province in order to see things for himself.

The Prime Minister : There is no Rivers Province as such but I presume the questioner is referring to what used to be called "Rivers Province" and Port Harcourt was the only town which I visited during recent tour which was part of the old Rivers Province. I did not visit any town which had no connection with oil. It is my hope that I shall be able to visit other towns in that area before very long.

Transport at Independence Celebration

W.101. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Prime Minister, who was responsible for the transport of guests from and to their homes during the Independence Celebrations; and what is the total cost to the Government of transport for all guests including newspaper correspondents, and including transport within Nigeria.

The Prime Minister : The Federal Government was responsible for the transport of official guests from and to their homes during the Independence Celebrations, including transport within Nigeria. A total of approximately £136,135-11s-6d was spent on the transport of these guests and this included the cost of transport of newspaper correspondents only within Nigeria. The passages of newspapermen to and from Nigeria were the responsibility of the newspapers they represented.

Mr Jaja Wachuku

W.114. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the advisability of temporarily assigning to another member of the Council of Ministers responsibility over the Ministry of Economic Development, in view of the protracted absence at the United Nations in New York of the Minister permanently charged with responsibility for the Ministry.

W.102. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Prime Minister, what is the official designation, from this country's point of view, of Mr Jaja Wachuku with reference to his stay and activities in the United Nations in New York; whether he will make a statement as to when Mr Wachuku is likely to return to take over his duties as Minister of Economic Development; and, if it has been decided to retain him permanently at the United Nations, whether he will consider appointing some other person as Minister of Economic Development.

The Prime Minister : The hon. Jaja Wachuku is on special duties at the United Nations in connection with the Congo and allied matters and he is doing most useful work over there. He will return to Nigeria to resume his normal duties as soon as the Federal Government considers the International scene sufficiently clear to allow him to do so. In the meantime a Minister of State is already acting as the Minister of Economic Development.

Retirement in Police Force

W.103. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, if, in view of the necessity for increasing the police force and retaining the services of experienced men, he will discourage compulsory retirement based simply on having reached retiring age.

The Prime Minister : As in other sections of the Service, experienced members of the Force who reach retiring age are retained if it is considered that their retention will be in the best interest of the Force.

Republican Constitution

W.105. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Prime Minister, whether Government are ready to make a statement on the general desire for the present system of government to be exchanged for a Republican Constitution.

The Prime Minister : The Federal Government have no proposals for a Republican Constitution as such and are therefore not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

Special Constables

W.106. Oba S. A. Oladiran asked the Prime Minister, whether he will consider the advisability of increasing the allowances paid to Special Constables in appreciation of their onerous duties.

The Prime Minister : The allowance which is now paid was increased only in August last year. No further increase is at present contemplated.

Women Police

W.107. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Prime Minister, how many women are at present in the Police; how many of them have been promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Police respectively, and in what parts of the country those so promoted are serving.

The Prime Minister : 172, including 25 recruits under training. It is not long since women police came into existence but three have been promoted to Women Assistant Superintendents of Police: two are serving in the Federal territory and one in Western Nigeria. No women police have been promoted to the rank of Superintendent of Police.

Nigeria Police : Recruitment Incentive

W.108. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Prime Minister, whether he has plans to increase the strength of the Nigeria Police Force; and if he will state what further incentive he intends to provide to attract more young Nigerians into the Force.

The Prime Minister : Yes, Sir. The conditions of service of the Police Force are constantly under review and, because of improvements in the past few years, the number and calibre of candidates have improved.

Police Quarters : Eastern Nigeria

W.109. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that some of the police quarters in Eastern Nigeria are not worthy of this Government; and if he can give details of his plans to provide better accommodation for members of the Nigeria Police Force stationed in the Eastern Region.

The Prime Minister : I am aware that a number of police quarters require improvement. Steps are being taken to this end within financial resources available.

Police Post for Oleh

W.112. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia asked the Prime Minister, when he will establish a police post at Oleh in Isoko District in order to minimise offences and crimes in the area and provide a more effective policing there.

The Prime Minister : It is not considered necessary to establish a police station at Oleh which is at present adequately covered by the Nigeria Police at Ughelli.

Senior Police Superintendent, Benin

W.113. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Prime Minister, why the Senior Superintendent of Police in Benin has been allocated the quarters usually occupied by the Deputy Senior Superintendent who is thus forced to take up residence in the town for lack of Government quarters, while the quarters meant for, and usually occupied by, Senior Superintendents are locked up vacant; and whether he will allocate to the present Senior Superintendent there the quarters usually occupied by his predecessors.

The Prime Minister : The Officer concerned is now occupying the proper quarters. This was not possible for a very short period because the house was scheduled for re-decoration but this arrangement was later cancelled.

Ogwashi-Uku Police Station

W.115. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware of the dilapidated

condition of the police station at Ogwashi-Uku; whether he is aware that the detachment there is so grossly understaffed that many crimes reported are left uninvestigated for days or are not investigated at all; and whether he will remedy the situation.

The Prime Minister : I am aware of the unsatisfactory condition of the police station which will be rebuilt as soon as funds become available. The strength of the police in the area is considered to be reasonably adequate although there is a proposal to effect a slight increase as soon as it is possible to do so. I do not know of reported crimes which have not been investigated.

Police I.G.'s U.K. Trip

W.116. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Prime Minister, whether the recent journey of the Inspector-General of Police to the United Kingdom to receive the accolade of his knighthood was financed by the Federal Government.

The Prime Minister : The recent journey to the United Kingdom by the Inspector-General of Police was financed by the Federal Government for the purpose of consultations in London including police recruitment and training courses during which he took the opportunity to receive the accolade of his knighthood.

Child Stealing and Ritual Murder

W.117. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Prime Minister, if he will initiate legislation declaring child stealing and ritual murder very serious offences carrying very heavy punishment on conviction in order to arrest the incidence of these crimes, which is becoming rampant in this country; and whether he will take necessary steps to ensure that the police undertake more seriously their responsibility in detecting and prosecuting offenders.

The Prime Minister : Legislation is already in existence in the Criminal Code for such offences and heavy punishments are provided. The Police have always been vigilant in detecting and prosecuting offenders.

Obalereko Kidnap Case

W.118. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Prime Minister, if he will release the findings of the Police in connection with the case of one Obalereko who was said to be kidnapped for ritual murder some time last year.

The Prime Minister : The case was thoroughly investigated by the Police but as Obalereko, the complainant, could not identify the suspect and the premises to which he alleged he was taken, the case was closed for lack of evidence.

Police Quarters

W.119. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider providing furnished quarters for the Police in order to obviate the loss of their personal effects while transporting them from one station to another on transfer.

The Prime Minister : No. Sir. Provision of furnished quarters is not economically feasible. The inconveniences arising from transfers experienced by the Police are not different from those experienced by the rest of the civil service.

Foreign Firms

W.120. Mr V. E. Eze asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what immediate steps are being taken against foreign firms who are designedly and determinedly ousting our indigenous petty traders especially in the field of retail trade.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Foreign firms are not normally permitted to enter Nigeria in order to engage in the retail trade in consumer goods as it is considered that this is a service which can be adequately performed by indigenous traders.

There have, however, recently been a considerable number of complaints concerning expatriate participation in the retail trade and the question is currently being examined in consultation with the three Regional Governments.

Industries for Bauchi

W.121. M. Muhammadu Ningi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing new industries in Bauchi Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : I refer the Honourable Member to the reply to questions O.43 and O.71 as recorded in the *Official Report* of the 10th April, 1961.

Igala Division

W.122. Mr J. A. Yacim asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will explore the possibility of establishing industries in Igala Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to questions O.43 and O.71 as recorded in the *Official Report* of the 10th April, 1961.

Industries in Northern Region

W.123. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the number of industries established in the Northern Region in general and the Middle Belt Area in particular ; and in which towns those industries are located.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : I refer the Honourable Member to the replies to questions O.70 as recorded in the *Official Report* dated 10th April, 1961.

Cement Factory in Lafia Division

W.124. Mr M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing a cement factory in view of the limestone discovered in Obi and Keana Districts of Lafia Division in Benue Province.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : I have on a number of occasions advised this House that the function of my Ministry is not to directly participate in the establishment of industries but to create a climate conducive to industrial development by the use of industrial incentive legislation where appropriate and by giving advice and assistance to entrepreneurs on the availability of local raw materials.

Government is not planning to establish a cement factory in Lafia Division but the availability of limestone in that area will be brought to the notice of industrialists in the cement manufacturing industry.

Shipping Lines

W.125. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister if he will say which shipping lines have been or are the principal transporters to the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The following Shipping Lines have been or are the principal transporters to the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited—

Barber Line
Elder Dempster Lines
Farrell Lines
Fraissenet *et* Fabre Line (Nautilus Line)
Guinea Gulf Line
Hoegh Line
Holland West-Africa Line
K.K.K. Line
Lloyd Triestino
Mitsui Line
Nigerian National Line
Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line
Palm Line
Scandinavian West African Line
Scindia Line
Woermann Line.

Fishing Loans

W.127. Mr W. O. Briggs ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what are the names and addresses of the persons and/or organisations who, in the years 1959-60 and 1960-61, obtained loans for fishing projects, and how much was given to each ; how many of these came from the Rivers Province ; if none, how many applications were received from persons and organisations from the Rivers Province ; how many were rejected and why ; whether he will make a statement generally with regard to the terms and conditions of granting such loans ; and what qualifications are necessary.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : To cover the many points raised in this question, I list below all the applications for loans to develop the fishing industry :—

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remark</i>
N. A. Ezenbodor, Warri	50,000	Not approved
Delta Coast Fishing Association, Warri	30,000	Not approved
J. A. Okoro and Sons Lagos	35,000	Not approved
Oyetomi Fishing Company, Lagos	4,000	Not approved

Union of Lagos and Colony Fishermen, Lagos	3,500	Not approved
Nigerswiss Fisheries, Lagos	29,800	Approved
Suru Fishing Co-operative, Lagos	5,500	Approved
Irepo Fishing Co-operative Society, Lagos	5,500	Approved
Lagos Co-operative Fishermen's Society Limited, Lagos	6,000	Approved
Oke Ebunlowo, Ibadan	5,500	Not approved
Isale-Eko Fishing Industrial Revolution, Lagos	5,500	Under investigation

When investigating applications for loans, consideration is given to such points as experience in the industry, present scale of operation, the extent to which security can be offered, the market for the end-product of the industry and whether a well managed and viable industry will emerge if loan funds are made available.

The loan applications which have not been approved are those which, after careful investigation, have been unable to meet these criteria.

Fisheries Development

W.128. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what form of advertisement, if any, and to what extent, he has undertaken to publicise in the rural fishing areas the availability in his Ministry of fisheries development loans.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: My Ministry do not control funds specifically for fisheries development loans but the Federal Loans Board and the Revolving Loans Fund for industry are able to make loans to the fishing industry.

The Regional Officers of my Ministry in Kano, Jos, Port Harcourt, Aba, Onitsha, Calabar, Ibadan, Ondo and Sapele are available to give advice and assistance on loan applications. To ensure that the widest possible publicity is given to the facilities available, the

Federal Loans Board has recently issued a booklet entitled "Guide to all applicants for loans from the Federal Loans Board" which has been widely distributed throughout Nigeria.

Benue Province

W.129. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether the Federal Government are ready to establish a more lucrative industry in Benue Province during 1961-62.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: I refer the Honourable Member to the reply to questions O.43 and O.71 as recorded in the Official Report of the 10th April, 1961.

Trade Mission to West Germany

W.130. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what was the result of the last trade mission sent to Western Germany.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: A private Trade Mission visited Western Germany in July 1960, on the invitation of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Mission consisted of—

Leader ..	Alhaji Shehu Bukar
Members ..	Alhaji Sanusi Dantata Mr John A. Egwu Alhaji Karim O. S. Are Chief Samson O. Obaseki Mr Nnana Kalu

An interim report was submitted by the leader of the Mission on the 6th August, 1960. The full report is still awaited and it is consequently not possible to say what results were achieved by the Mission.

Shell-BP

W.131. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he is aware that after twenty-three years of peaceful work at Owerri, the Shell-BP company has moved its operations to Port Harcourt thereby leaving at Owerri a well-developed camp and creating an economical and industrial vacuum; and if he will consider the desirability of setting up another industry at Owerri as a matter of priority.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: I am aware that a well developed site exists at Owerri but must point out that the buildings are the property of the Shell-BP Company Limited who have been in negotiation with a number of interested parties, including the Eastern Nigeria Government, with a view to their further utilisation.

The availability of this accommodation will continue to be brought to the notice of industrialists but the Federal Government has no plans at the moment for the establishment of industries at Owerri.

French and South African Goods

W.133. Mr M. C. K. Obi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether Government will consider placing a ban on French and South African goods, in view of the strained relationship between those two countries and Nigeria.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Amendments to the Open General Import and Export Licences were published in *Official Gazette* No. 12, Vol. 48, dated 2nd March, 1961, as Legal Notices 40, 41, 42 and 43 of 1961. The effect of these amendments was to prohibit the importation from and the exportation to the Union of South Africa and South West Africa of all goods except under specific licence.

The ban on French aircraft and vessels having been lifted, it is not considered that any useful purpose would be served by prohibiting the importation of French goods.

Revolving Loans Fund

W.134. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how much of the Revolving Loans Fund has been loaned out; and how much has been expended on Board meetings which awarded the loans.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The Government has approved loans totalling £109,300 from the Revolving Loans Fund for industry. The industries covered by these loans are a tyre rebuilding and retreading factory in Eastern Nigeria, a wire nail making factory in Western Nigeria and a leather working factory in Northern Nigeria.

The amount expended to-date on honoraria, travelling and other allowances for the Members of the Committee which I appointed to

advise me on disbursement of the Revolving Loans Fund is £2,240.

Industries

W.135. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many industries have been established in the Federation in the last three years; and as a means of reducing unemployment, how many industrial projects are envisaged and where will they be set up.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: I refer the hon. Member to the replies to the questions O.70 and O.71 as recorded in the *Official Report* dated 10th April, 1961.

Foreign Investment

W.136. Mr A. Akomolafe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what foreign trading or industrial firms have, since October 1960, signified to the Government their intention to operate in this country; and what are the results of their discussion with Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Providing a foreign trading or industrial firm satisfied the Federal Government's immigration requirements it may commence operations in Nigeria whenever it wishes. There is no system of licensing in force and unless an entrepreneur applies for specific fiscal incentives my Ministry would not necessarily have details of their proposals. There are, therefore, no figures available from which a detailed reply to this question can be given.

Paper

W.137. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many tons of brown paper, newsprint and illustrated magazine paper have been imported annually in the years 1955 to 1960 inclusive; what proportion of these was imported by Nigerian or non-expatriate persons or individuals.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Imports of brown paper and newsprint in the

years 1955 to 1960 inclusive are shown in the following table—

Year	Brown paper (tons)	Newsprint (tons)
1955	511	2,382
1956	491	2,952
1957	557	2,165
1958	470	3,410
1959	1,039	3,520
1960	728	5,252

Import figures for illustrated magazine paper are not separately recorded.

The greater part of the paper and newsprint imported into Nigeria enters under open general licence and records of individual importers are not maintained. It is therefore not possible to state the proportion of these items imported by Nigerian or non-expatriate persons or individuals.

Telephone and Postal Services

W.138. M. Muhammadu Ningi asked the Minister of Communications, if, in view of the commercial importance of Ningi, in Bauchi Province, he will consider converting the present postal agency into a full post office.

The Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Ningi Postal Agency during the years 1958, 1959, 1960, amounted to 2,701, 2,165, 2,951 units respectively, which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 and 40,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office and Departmental Post Office status, respectively.

The up-grading of Ningi Postal Agency cannot, therefore, be justified at present.

W.139. M. Muhammadu Ningi asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will include Misau town in the proposed telephone service between Potiskum and Azare as Misau is an important Emirate Headquarters.

The Minister of Communications : Misau is not included in the list of towns specified in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, to be provided with telephone service during the current Economic Programme, and it is regretted that no funds are available at present.

The possibility of providing a telephone service in Misau will be considered when plans for the next Economic Programme are prepared.

W.140. M. Abubakar A. Ibrahim asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangements he is making towards the transfer of Lau Post Office to Jalingo, in view of the remarkable decrease in business at the former.

The Minister of Communications : While it is true that postal business at Lau has declined, it is considered that a Post Office there is still necessary.

A review is being undertaken at Jalingo to ascertain whether the Postal Agency there warrants conversion to Sub-Post Office status.

W.141. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider opening postal agencies in Vandeikyar, Aleide, Adikpo, Zaki Biam and Abintse in Tiv Division.

The Minister of Communications : A Postal Agency has been operating at Zaki Biam since 20th of December, 1958.

Applications for the establishment of other Postal Agencies in Tiv Division should be addressed to the Territorial Controller, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Enugu.

W.142. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of Communications, what is the unit turnover of all the postal agencies in Nsukka Division ; and whether that of Obolo Afor Postal Agency is sufficient for its conversion into a post office.

The Minister of Communications : The annual units of business transacted during the past three years at the Postal Agencies in Nsukka Division are as follows :—

	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Aku ..	7,049	7,838	8,587
Eha Amufu	32,577	34,772	33,244
Enugu Ezike	9,105	10,269	12,215
Obolo Afor	6,219	6,532	7,984
Obolo Eke ..	5,795	4,571	7,395
Ibagwa Nkwo	5,097	6,104	6,492
Ogrugru ..	3,666	4,241	3,697
Umulokpa ..	3,607	3,651	4,337

Approval has been given for the up-grading of Eha Amufu Postal Agency to the status of a Sub-Post Office.

The units of business transacted at Obolo Afor are well below the minimum level required under Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 for the conversion of the Postal Agency to a Sub- or Departmental Post Office.

W.143. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, what is delaying the installation of full telegraphic and telephone systems at Abagana Sub-Post Office in Awka Division.

The Minister of Communications : There is no provision in the current Economic Programme for Telecommunications services at Abagana Sub-Post Office in Awka Division. Consideration will be given to the claims of this area and other localities when the next Development Programme is planned.

W.144. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, what is holding up the grant of permission to open postal agencies at Ukwulu, Abba and Amansee in Awka North Constituency.

The Minister of Communications : The establishment of a Postal Agency at Ukwulu is at present under consideration.

Approval was given for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Abba in November 1960. The delay in opening the Agency is due to the inability of the local community to provide suitable persons as sureties.

An application for a Postal Agency at Amansee was rejected in February 1961, because the site of the proposed Agency is only one mile from an existing Agency at Amaenyi. Paragraph 10 (2) of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 requires that, in rural areas, the nearest Postal Agency, Sub-Post Office or Post Office should normally be at least five miles away.

W.145. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider establishing a postal agency in Agatu District in Idoma North.

The Minister of Communications : The Territorial Controller, Posts and Telegraphs Division, Enugu, will be pleased to consider an application for the establishment of a Postal Agency in Agatu District, provided that the conditions set out in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 are satisfied. No such application has yet been received.

W.146. Alhaji Aliyu Bissala asked the Minister of Communications, if, in view of the growing educational and commer-

cial importance of Lapai Emirate, he will consider providing postal and telephone facilities in Lapai town.

The Minister of Communications : Postal facilities are already provided by the Postal Agency at Lapai. The units of business transacted at the Postal Agency over the past three years were well below the level of 24,000 laid down in paragraph 13 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the minimum required for the conversion of a Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office.

There are no funds available in the current Economic Programme to provide telephone service at Lapai, but consideration will be given to the claims of this area when plans for the next Economic Programme are prepared.

W.147. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Communications, when he will permit the opening of the postal agency at Ajassepo, built by communal effort.

The Minister of Communications : There has been a Postal Agency at Ajassepo since 1954. In 1959, a section of the Community erected a building on a different site for the Agency; but the section of the Community which sponsored the original Agency refused to agree to the transfer. The dispute was referred by the Ilorin Central Council to the Ajassepo District Council which decided that a third building should be erected on a site acceptable to both factions. Work on the new building has not yet started.

Meanwhile, the Agency continues to operate in the original building which the Ministry considers to be satisfactory.

W.148. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will reduce telephone and postage rates in Nigeria since Nigerians are now using postal facilities on a commercial scale.

The Minister of Communications : Telephone and postage rates must be maintained at their existing levels to enable all postal and telecommunications services to continue to be operated as economically as possible.

W.151. M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Communications, when will

construction of a post office at Lafia be completed in order to facilitate easy communications; and if he will consider establishing postal agencies at Doma, Keana and Obi, in view of their distance from Lafia.

The Minister of Communications : According to the latest information received from the Northern Regional Ministry of Works, the new Post Office building at Lafia is unlikely to be completed before November 1961.

No applications have yet been received for the establishment of Postal Agencies at Doma, Keana and Obi. Such applications should be addressed to the Territorial Controller, Posts and Telegraphs, Enugu.

W.152. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider providing a departmental post office in Ikire in place of the present sub-post office there, in order to facilitate postal transactions in the area.

The Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Ikire Sub-Post Office during the years 1958, 1959 and 1960 amounted to 39,464, 29,059, 32,356 units respectively, which are below the annual minimum of 40,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Sub-Post Office for conversion to Departmental status. The up-grading of Ikire Sub-Post Office cannot, therefore, be justified at present.

W.153. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the post office in Ibadan is housed in a very small and inadequate building and is consequently badly congested throughout each working day; and whether he will consider building a bigger and more adequate post office there in order to meet the needs of that populous town.

The Minister of Communications : Funds are available for the construction of a new Head Post Office at Ibadan and the building is now being designed. Land has been acquired, and construction is likely to begin in June or July 1962.

W.155. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the volume of business transacted at Oleh postal agency in Isoko District during the past

twelve months; and whether the postal agency is now eligible for conversion to a sub-post office.

The Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Oleh Postal Agency during the years 1958, 1959 and 1960, amounted to 15,672, 15,298 and 20,815 units respectively, which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a postal agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status.

The up-grading of Oleh Postal Agency will however, in view of its having reached 20,815 units be examined in the very future.

W.156. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the call box at Abudu Postal Agency is wrongly sited and consequently yields very little revenue; and whether he will consider removing the box to the Training College at Abudu where it will be more fully utilised or installing a small exchange at the postal agency, with lines to the College, Police, the Council Offices, and local subscribers.

The Minister of Communications : As Postal Agents are responsible for the operation of rural call offices and for the collection of revenue for calls, Call Office circuits must be located in Postal Agencies. For this reason, it will not be possible to remove the telephone call office from the Abudu Postal Agency to the Training College, which is understood to be only 600 yards from the Agency.

No funds are at present available to provide an exchange at Abudu, but consideration will be given to this possibility when plans for the next development programme are drawn up.

W.157. Mr M. C. K. Obi asked the Minister of Communications, how soon Government will take over the responsibility of paying the salaries of postal agents and mail runners in the rural areas.

The Minister of Communications : The rates of allowances, which are paid by the Federal Government to Postal Agents, are contained in Annexures 1 and 2 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. As regards mail runners, the hon. Member's attention is drawn to paragraph 7 of the same Sessional Paper which states that the Federal Government does not

normally accept any responsibility for the delivery to or collection from Postal Agencies of mail.

W.158. Oba S. A. Oladiran asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider erecting a full post office at Irele in order to cope with the rapid increase of postal transactions in the towns of Irele, Shabomi, Igbotu, Ajagba Akotogbo and Ebekebo.

The Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Irele Agency during the years 1958, 1959 and 1960 amounted to 13,890, 12,033, 11,822 units respectively, which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 and 40,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the levels qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office and Departmental Post Office status, respectively.

The up-grading of Irele Postal Agency cannot therefore be justified at present.

W.159. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Communications, when a twenty-four hour telephone service will be extended to Ijebu-Igbo as justified by the present growing number of subscribers and the considerable commercial progress in the area.

The Minister of Communications : The present hours of service at the Ijebu-Igbo telephone exchange are as follows:—

Monday-Fridays	..	7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturdays	..	7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sundays	..	8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Consideration will be given to introducing a twenty-four hours service when the existing number of 34 subscribers has increased to 75.

W.160. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Communications, how many interviews for advancing officers from Junior to senior grades have been conducted during the last four years, and how many officers from each ethnic group have been promoted as a result of these interviews.

The Minister of Communications : The number of officers in this Ministry, who were interviewed for promotion from the junior to the senior grades during the last four years, was 981. The total number of officers

promoted was 302, distributed amongst the ethnic groups as follows:—

		<i>P. and T.</i>	<i>Met.</i>	
		<i>Div.</i>	<i>Div.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Yoruba..	..	109	7	116
Ibo ..	..	100	5	105
Efik ..	..	—	3	3
Northerners	..	4	1	5
Other Tribes	..	73	—	73
Totals	..	286	16	302

Ocean Patrols

W.162. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Defence, whether the plans to purchase sufficient gunboats and corvettes for ocean patrols in view of the developments in the waters separating that territory, the island of Fernando Po and the Federation.

The Minister of Defence : The Royal Nigerian Navy have already commissioned some ships and craft which undertake anti-smuggling patrols in the area mentioned by the hon. Member. In planning the build-up of the Royal Nigerian Navy over the next five years, account has been taken of the need to provide for anti-smuggling patrols and to obtain suitable ships and craft to meet these commitments.

Lieutenant Ezeugbana

W.163. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Defence, what efforts have been made to secure the body of the Nigerian Lieutenant who was killed in Kindu in a clash with Congolese troops so that the deceased can be given a decent burial in Nigeria; whether he is aware of the rumour that the body of this brave officer was eaten by Congolese troops in the belief that they would thus become brave soldiers; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Defence : I invite the attention of the hon. member to my answer given to a similar Parliamentary Question O.212 asked by Dr the hon. P. U. Okeke which was published in the Hansard of 18th April, 1961.

Discipline in the Armed Forces

W.164. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Defence, whether he is satisfied that the degree of discipline and morale

expected of the armed forces is as high as it should be; and whether he can give details of cases where disciplinary action was taken against members of the armed forces for reasons of indiscipline or lack of morale in the past three years.

The Minister of Defence : The answer to the first part of the question is Yes. As regards the second part, I assume that the Member has in mind offences serious enough to warrant a court-martial: in fact, there has been no Nigerian soldier tried by court-martial in the last three years.

Nigerian Military Contingent in Congo

W.165. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Defence, if he will give details of Nigerians who have lost their lives on active service under the United Nations Command in the Congo.

The Minister of Defence : The following are the details of Nigerians who have lost their lives in Congo :

(i) Lieutenant Godwin Ezeugbana who was killed in an ambush on the 2nd of February this year whilst on a mission to secure Kindu Airport.

(ii) Private Maidugu Zonkwa of 5 QNOR was killed on the 16th December, 1960 during the operation to rescue Austrian Hospital personnel who were imprisoned in Bukavu.

(iii) Private Yaro Dabai of 5 QONR who is missing believed killed as a result of the action in which Lieutenant Ezeugbana was killed on the 2nd of February.

(iv) Lance-Corpral Daniel Kamaru of 4 QONR became sick whilst in the Congo and subsequently died on 11th December, 1960 of natural causes.

Salaries in the Military Forces

W.166. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Defence, if he is aware of the vast disparity in the pay of Nigerian soldiers and that of their expatriate colleagues of similar rank serving in the Royal Nigerian Military Forces, and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Defence : There is no disparity in the pay of Nigerian officers and their counterpart expatriate *contract* officers in the Royal Nigerian Army except in the element of expatriation pay. There is, however, a

disparity in the pay of Nigerian officers and *seconded* expatriate officers who still retain the salary structure of the United Kingdom Army for the period of their secondment in Nigeria.

Congo Forces

W.167. Mr M. A. Omisade asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerian soldiers in the service of the United Nations Organisation in the Congo have been killed or wounded up to date.

The Minister of Defence : 1 officer and 1 other rank were killed in the Congo whilst 3 officers and 7 other ranks received injuries in action.

W.168. Mr M. A. Omisade asked the Minister of Defence, what has been the total amount spent on maintenance of the Nigerian troops by the Nigerian Government up to date.

The Minister of Defence : The total amount spent on the maintenance of the Nigerian troops serving in the Congo up to the end of June 1961, is estimated at £137,697. This amount is re-imbursable by the United Nations.

Overseas Military Training

W.169. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians were sent overseas in 1958, 1959 and 1960 respectively for military training, and how many of them have been promoted to officer rank.

The Minister of Defence : The following are the numbers of Nigerian Military students who attended Courses of Instruction of all types in the United Kingdom :

1958	..	..	..	51
1959	..	..	..	96
1960	..	..	..	102

of these, 74 have been commissioned.

National Economic Council

W.170. Mr V. E. Eze asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether the time is not overdue to reconstitute the present Nigerian Economic Council in order to include able and capable Nigerian economists of repute for real results.

The Minister of Economic Development : The question of how best to enlist the services of capable Nigerian economists in furthering the work of the National Economic Council is receiving the active consideration of my Ministry.

W.171. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Minister of Economic Development, what plans he has to encourage farmers in Benue and Niger Province who are producers of benniseed to produce more and better quality benniseed; and whether he will cause research to be undertaken to improve the quality of this very important cash crop.

The Minister of Economic Development: On the approval of the Agricultural Technical Committee which consists of the Chief Officers of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research and Regional Ministries of Agriculture research into improved production of benniseed is being undertaken by the Regional Research Officers at Samaru. In recent years a number of improved varieties have been introduced and at present emphasis is on improving the methods of cultivation. Results from recent experiments in Benue Province have shown that the local method of planting at stake is inferior to drilling or broadcasting on the ridge or on the field.

W.172. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Economic Development, what specific plans he has for Research into the methods of preservation of staple foods; and how he proposes that methods which have proved satisfactory will reach the farmers in rural areas.

The Minister of Economic Development: Research into methods of preservation of staple foods is carried out by the West African Stored Products Research Unit at Ikoyi, Lagos with laboratories in Lagos and the Regions. The Unit is concerned with finding economic ways of storing foodstuffs for local consumption and for export so that losses due to insects, moulds and chemical deterioration are reduced. In addition the Federal Institute of Industrial Research whose offices and laboratories are stationed at Oshodi near Lagos is concerned with the processing of raw foodstuffs and liaises with the West African Stored Products Research Unit regarding storage of their processed commodities.

The Agricultural extension services in each Region are the media through which information is passed to farmers in the rural areas.

W.173. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Economic Development, how much benefit the public have derived from the

various agricultural experiments that have been carried out during the past three years at Moor Plantation, Ibadan; and how much revenue has accrued to Government from sales of the products of such experiments.

The Minister of Economic Development: The scientists of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research at Moor Plantation are working to increase the production of four of the staple food crops: yams, cassava, maize and cowpeas. Much of the work involves long term research still in progress but the results of the last three years' work published should be of great benefit to the public. For example: three years' of work with new cassava varieties at Moor Plantation has revealed that new variety 53101 yields up to 20 tons per acre compared with the local varieties' 4 tons per acre. Furthermore this variety has also out yielded Local varieties at Agege, Ilorin, Osara and Bida.

Under the improved farming methods now in use at Moor Plantation the new maize variety E.S. 1 has been giving 3-4,000 lb per acre compared with the maximum of 1,500 lb per acre yielded by the old local varieties.

New methods of storing yams, in "clamps", have been shown to reduce the loss in weight associated with storage in barns.

One hundred per cent increases in the yield of cowpeas have been obtained by planting them in May rather than in the traditional month of September. The total revenue obtained during the last 3 years from the Moor Plantation produce has been £1,400. It should be noted that not all the produce of Moor Plantation is readily saleable; for example some varieties, introduced because they are resistant to disease, do not always suit the local taste.

Public Service Staff

W.186. M. Abubakar A. Ibrahim asked the Minister of Establishments how many employees, excluding messengers and similar staff, are on permanent and pensionable terms in the Federal Public Service; how many of these are Northerners; and what steps is he taking to make the Federal Public Service more representative of the Federation.

The Minister of Establishments: (a) There are at present 24,537 employees, excluding messengers and similar staff, on the permanent

pensionable establishment of the Federal Public Service ;

(b) of these 750 are Northerners, made up as follows :—

Administrative Class ..	10
Executive Class	3
Clerical Class	65
Technical Class	279
Others	393
	<hr/>
Total	750

(c) The Federal Government is fully aware of the present disproportionate representation of Regions in the Federal Public Service, especially the North whose representation in the Service is the poorest compared with the other Regions. The Government has already taken steps to improve this situation. Among these are :—

(a) Encouragement of Northerners in the Regional and N.A. Service to apply for transfer or secondment to the Federal Public Service whenever opportunity occurs. Vacant posts in the F.P.S. are now also suitably advertised for the attention of candidates in the Northern Region. To this end a Careers Officer has in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Nigerianisation ; his duty is to visit educational institutions and secondary schools throughout the country and in particular the Northern Region with a view to bringing to the notice of the students and other interested persons the prospects and opportunities offered by the Federal Government so as to attract them to the Federal Public Service. He is responsible for ensuring that everything possible is done to remedy at all levels the present poor representation of the Northern Region in the Federal Public Service. In order to assist the officer in this task a comprehensive "Guide to Careers in the Federal Public Service" has just been published by my Ministry, copies of which are now being distributed to the schools, colleges and institutions of higher learning both in and outside the country.

(b) Admission of Northern boys into Southern secondary schools to complete their secondary education with a view to joining the Federal Public Service.

(c) Establishment of a branch of the Federal Training Centre in Kaduna to step

up the training of Northerners for posts in the Clerical and Postal Services of the Federal Government.

(d) A special opportunity has also been provided for Northerners by the Federal Government to enable them to study in local institutions for G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examinations before proceeding to take degree courses. Scholarships are also now awarded to suitable Northerners for professional courses which do not require the possession of the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) as the minimum entry requirement.

Staff Housing

W.190. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Finance, why government servants who have received government loans and built their own houses should continue to live in government quarters.

The Minister of Establishments : It is the policy of Government that officers who have received loans under the Federal Government African Staff Housing Scheme for the purpose of buying or building dwelling houses should *not* live in Government quarters.

This matter is constantly under review and a recent investigation has shown that, at the present time, only five such officers are living in Government quarters. Of these, three have been granted special permission to do so, because of the special nature of their appointments and duties. The other two officers were only recently granted loans and they have been asked to vacate their quarters and move into their new houses.

Public Accounts Committee

W.191. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Finance, why there was no meeting of the Public Accounts Committee during the year 1960-61 to inquire into the accounts of the Corporations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance : The Public Accounts Committee is a Parliamentary Committee under Parliament's control and it is not for the Minister of Finance to arrange when it should meet or for what purpose.

Smuggling through Fernando Po

W.192. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Finance, if he is aware that some Spanish businessmen in the Island of Fernando Po are a party to smuggling of goods into Nigeria,

The Minister of Finance : I have no evidence that Spanish businessmen in the Island of Fernando Po are active parties to the smuggling of goods into Nigeria, but I think it probable that they are aware of the trade in smuggled goods and that it is not unwelcome to them as businessmen. As the hon. Member knows the problem of the loss of revenue through the activities of smugglers is one to which the Government gives unremitting attention and he may rest assured that all practicable measures to stamp out smuggling are being and will continue to be taken.

W.193. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Finance, how much has Government lost yearly as a result of smuggling from the island of Fernando Po during the last five years.

The Minister of Finance : It is estimated that the annual loss to revenue during the last five years through the smuggling of dutiable goods from the island of Fernando Po has been of the order of one million pounds.

W.194. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Finance, if he is aware that there is a big network of Spanish smugglers in Nigeria giving out information on movements of the anti-smuggling ships operated by the Nigerian Government; and if he will consider the desirability of introducing a helicopter flight along the creeks and also of tightening up anti-corruption measures in the Customs and the Police at Calabar.

The Minister of Finance : I am not aware that there are Spanish smugglers in Nigeria although I have no doubt that in such a highly organised business as the smuggling of Spanish Brandy and cigarettes in the Calabar area, there is a well-developed system of keeping watch and passing on information about the movements of our preventive patrols and ships.

A helicopter would be of inestimable value in the detection of smugglers but, as in all matters concerning the protection of revenue, we have to compare the cost of prevention or detection with the amount of revenue we expect to gain from our efforts. A helicopter costs approximately £20,000 to purchase and an equivalent sum per annum to operate. To hire, it costs approximately £80 per hour. Unless therefore our expenditure would be more than offset by extra revenue collected,

the use of helicopters would be uneconomic. However, there are points to consider and I will examine the proposal further in consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

In respect of the anti-corruption measures in connection with Police and Customs at Calabar I can speak only in respect of the latter. The hon. Member can rest assured that we are alive to this problem and that the severest disciplinary measures are taken in proved cases of corruption. Having said this, I would say that I am sure the hon. Member did not wish to imply that all Customs Officers and Police at Calabar were corrupt, for such an implication would be untrue and would have a most demoralising effect on the officers concerned. If definite facts about corruption can be given then I can promise we will follow them through and the individuals who furnish this information will be doing a great public service to Nigeria.

W.195. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Finance, if he is aware that the newly inaugurated air services between Calabar and Santa Isabel facilitate smuggling activities in Nigeria in view of the fact that Spanish businessmen fly in and out of Nigeria unchecked to supervise their Nigerian clients in the smuggling trade.

The Minister of Finance : I have no evidence that the air service between Calabar and Santa Isabel is used by businessmen engaged in smuggling activities. It is not a fact that Spanish businessmen fly in and out of Nigeria unchecked. Calabar airport is a recognised airport at which any travellers from Fernando Po are subject to the normal immigration procedure. No Spanish subject would be permitted to land without a valid visa, which of course would not be issued to any person suspected of being engaged in smuggling activities.

Question W. 196—W.A.C.B. and Symbols on Nigerian Currency

The Minister of Finance : This question falls into three parts and I append below my comments seriatim :—

(1) The West African Currency Board has not yet been dissolved. Its notes and coins are still legal tender in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

(2) For the six years 1951 to 56 an average of £500,000 was received each year.

Following years receipts were as follows :—

	£
1957	1,115,000
1958	2,172,000
1959	2,566,000
1960	1,570,000

Also in 1960 an amount of £5,959,000 was received from the West African Currency Board, being distribution of Reserves.

A further distribution of Reserves is expected at a later date.

(3) The symbols and faces appearing on Nigerian currency notes are wholly Nigerian in character. With regard to coins, the symbols appearing on these are also Nigerian. But on one face of the 3d, 6d and 1s coins the bust of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is featured. No change on these arrangements is at present contemplated.

Customs Offices, Apapa

W.198. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider authorising some

alterations in the architecture of the building which houses the Customs Offices in Apapa, in order to make those offices more congenial to the health of the officers and the members of the public who carry out transactions there.

The Minister of Finance : The unsatisfactory ventilation of the Custom House, Apapa, has been noticed for a long time and the necessary alteration by the Ministry of Works and Surveys has on a number of occasions been requested under Capital Work by the Department of Customs and Excise. I am informed by the Ministry of Works and Surveys that the matter is now receiving attention and it is hoped that the alterations will be made in the near future.

Investment Abroad

W.199. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister of Finance, if he will state the total sum invested by the Federation abroad, as at 31st December, 1960, indicating the countries in which investments are held, the amount invested in each country, the rate of interest payable on each investment, and the number of years each investment is expected to last.

The Minister of Finance : I give below a summary of Investments held overseas as at 31st December, 1960, showing the face value of the investments in each country :

Country	Amount		
	£	s	d
U.K.			27,915,399 13 7
WEST INDIES :—			
Grenada	11,836	3	6
Jamaica	331,630	0	2
St. Lucia	40,000	0	0
Trinidad	370,153	6	0
EAST AFRICA :—			
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	730,686	11	3
Kenya	1,101,363	7	7
E.A. High Commission	2,161,114	10	2
Uganda	300,716	14	4
Tanganyika	518,077	6	9
WEST AFRICA :—			
Nigeria	2,507,644	14	11
Ghana	211,139	4	8
Sierra-Leone	182,547	16	8
Gambia	18,665	14	9

SOUTH AFRICA :—					£	s	d		£	s	d
Union of South Africa	..	..	..	..	43,187	4	10		£		
Bechuanaland	..	..	..	..	10,000	0	0		53,187	4	10
Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142,218	0	0
Palestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67,322	5	5
Aden	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104,190	15	4
Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,805	9	7
Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	213,253	5	10
British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,710	19	5
British Guiana	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142,993	12	4
Cyprus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	411,915	0	4
Australia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	867,957	5	0
Fed. of Malaya	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	176,619	15	7
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	387,851	6	11
									£39,023,000	4	11

For details of rates of interest etc., the Honourable Member could make reference to the Accountant-General's Annual Report for the year ending 31st March, 1960.

Nigerian Currency Notes

W.200. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that the present Nigerian currency notes get very dirty and torn shortly after they have been in circulation; and whether he will cause the notes to be printed on paper of higher quality in order to ensure their durability and so obviate frequent need to reprint notes.

The Minister of Finance : The points raised by the Honourable Member in this question had already been dealt with in the answer to Oral Question No. O.79 which was published in the "Hansard" of the 10th April. This is quoted below for ease of reference :

I am advised that the security paper from which all Nigerian currency notes, including the five shilling notes, are manufactured is of the highest quality available. The problem is not so much one of the toughness of the paper but rather the length of time the notes are in circulation and the heavy handling which they receive. These considerations apply especially to low denomination notes because they pass rapidly from hand to hand in the course of settling small transactions and are rarely treated with the same respect as notes of higher value.

"In order to improve the quality of the notes in circulation the Central Bank and its agencies are doing their utmost to recall badly worn notes and issue new ones in their place. It is hoped that, with the co-operation of the banks, firms and the public, this should ensure that the notes in circulation are always maintained in a satisfactory condition."

Infectious Diseases

W.124. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Minister of Health, when and how his Ministry can go into any Region of the Federation with medical facilities to help that region in respect of any outbreak of an infectious disease.

The Minister of Health : As health is a "residual" subject the Federal Ministry of Health would go into a Region only at the invitation of the Regional Government.

Discrimination at U.C.I.

W.215 Mr F. C. Ogbalu : asked the Minister of Health, if he is aware of the discrimination which exists in the University College Teaching Hospital, Ibadan, between doctors trained at the University College, Ibadan and those trained in the United Kingdom; and if he will make investigations as to the privileges and treatment meted out to the two categories of doctors.

The Minister of Health : No discrimination is practised amongst the Doctors at University College Hospital. The board of Directors of University College Hospital consists of members from the various Regions

of Nigeria and is dominated by indigenous Nigerians. I am therefore convinced that the Board would not contribute to a policy of discrimination.

Medical Practitioners

W.216. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Health, if there is a shortage of medical practitioners in the Medical Services; how many vacancies exist for Medical Officers; and what steps are being taken to recruit them.

The Minister of Health : There are only three vacancies in the current establishment for medical practitioners and steps are now being taken to fill these vacancies.

Federal Hospitals

W.217. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Health, how many hospitals, including Army Hospitals, are being run by the Federal Government; and how much does it cost the Government to run these hospitals yearly.

The Minister of Health : The Federal Ministry of Health is maintaining eight hospitals at the cost of £1,891,510. These hospitals include in-patient hospitals in the Federal Territory of Lagos and the University College Hospital, Ibadan and does not include out-patient clinics and dispensaries maintained by the Ministry. Army Hospitals are outside the control of the Federal Ministry of Health.

Increased Health Facilities

W.218. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Health, what steps he is taking to provide more health facilities to meet the increasing population of Lagos.

The Minister of Health : To meet the medical needs of the increasing population of Lagos consideration is being given in the Economic programme 1962/67 to proposals to build 5 health centres in Lagos island, Apapa and the mainland, and also to increase the bed capacity of the General Hospital and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

The new Mainland Hospital will be ready for use towards the end of this year and the Massey Street dispensary which is being converted to a Children's Hospital will also be ready in the next few months.

Trade Unions

W.220. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many Trade Unions have had their registrations cancelled from 1st April, 1959, to 1st April, 1960; and what are the reasons in each case.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The following Trade Unions had their registration cancelled :—

Cameroons Union of Native Authority Staff.
Igbirra Native Authority Staff Union.
Lagos (Waterside) Yam Suppliers Workers' Association.
Nigerian Union of Artisans.
All Nigeria Union of Labourers.
The Lagos Bakers' Union.
Northern Domestic Servants Union.
Ibadan and Oyo Provinces Livestock Workers' Union.
Nigeria and Cameroons Masons's Union.
Licensed Guides Union.
Motor Conductors Union of Nigeria.
The U.A.C. Labourers Progressive Union.
Nigeria Hardwood Workers' Union.
Onitsha News Vendors' Union.
C.M.S. Printing Press Technical Union.
Abeokuta Gravels and Granites Suppliers' Workers Union.
Owo Akoko Co-operative Workers' Union.
Kaduna Textile Workers' Union.
Abakaliki Contractors' Union.
Enugu Truck Pushers Union.

In every case save that of the Enugu Truck Pushers Union, the reason for cancellation was that the Union had ceased to exist. The registration of the Enugu Truck Pushers Union was cancelled for violation of the Trade Unions Ordinance.

Naturalisation

W.221. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many foreigners have been naturalised in Nigeria since 1955; what are their countries of origin; how many have been naturalised since independence and what are their countries of origin.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : 43 Foreigners have naturalised in Nigeria as citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. These consist of 7 Stateless persons, 1 Danish, 4 Czechs, 7 Polish, 6 Lebanese, 7 Greeks,

4 Syrians, 1 Israeli, 1 French Cameroonian, 1 Icelandic, 1 Sudanese, 1 French, 1 German and 1 Dutch. No foreigner has naturalised since Independence.

Negro South Africans

W.222. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many South African nationals of negroid origin are resident in Nigeria; how many have sought asylum in Nigeria, and how many were denied such asylum; and if Government are prepared to abandon immigration requirements in cases of African elements fleeing from the terror of apartheid in South Africa.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : There are some 350-400 South African nationals resident in Nigeria, but the information sought by the hon. Member cannot be given as Nigeria does not practice a colour bar, even to the extent of noting racial origins.

No South African national has sought asylum in Nigeria. Should any do so in the circumstances outlined in the question, sympathetic consideration would be given to their taking up residence here. However, every case would be considered on its merits.

The Federal Government cannot, of course, completely abandon immigration requirements in so far as such requirements are part of the law of the country. However, the Federal Government would be prepared to ease immigration requirements within the limits of the discretion permissible under the law.

Judicial Hanging

W.224. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if all condemned prisoners are technically hanged and not strangled; and if he is aware that in certain cases of hanging there is a good deal of struggling, bleeding and groaning; and whether he will make a statement.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : All executions which take place within Federal Prisons in Nigeria are carried out by hanging

according to law. In each case, the hanging is followed by a Coroner's Inquest and in no case in the past year has a Coroner found that executions were in any way carried out irregularly.

Gallows-Equipped Prisons

W.225. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will state the number of prisons equipped with gallows, and the total number of hangmen in the country, indicating what training and experience are required to qualify a hangman to undertake his duties.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : There are seven prisons equipped with gallows in Nigeria and currently a gallow is being installed at Abeokuta. Hangmen do not come within my Portfolio as they are recruited by the Nigeria Police Force.

Cruelty Among Prisoners

W.226. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what steps he is taking to prevent the cruel treatment usually meted out to new prisoners by the older ones.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : No instances of cruel treatment being meted out to new prisoners have come to my attention. If the hon. Member will supply me with particulars of such instances, I will investigate the matter.

Worker Mortality in Fernando Po

W.228. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour what was the death rate of Nigerian workers in the Island of Fernando Po for the last four years; how many died through natural causes, maltreatment and beatings respectively.

The Minister of Labour : The death rate on the average of Nigerian workers in Island of Fernando Po and Rio Muni for the last four years was 17.83 per 1,000. Further details are as follows :

Period	Natural Causes	Accidents	Other Causes	Total
April 1957-March 1958	123	6	—	129
April 1958-March 1959	130	11	—	141
April 1959-March 1960	115	28	—	143
April 1960-March 1961	118	4	—	122
Total	486	49	—	535

No case of death as a result of maltreatment or beating came to notice. There are on the average about 30,000 Nigerian workers in these territories.

Ministry of Labour Building

W.237. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Labour, whether he is aware that the building accommodating his Ministry does not reflect the importance of that Ministry; and whether he has any plans now or in the near future to provide better accommodation for the staff of his Ministry so that they can work in a more congenial atmosphere than obtains at present.

The Minister of Labour : I am fully aware of the poor office accommodation available to my Ministry. Every effort has been made to find a more suitable alternative, but none has so far been successful. There is hope however that adequate space will be found for the Ministry in the Independence Building when it is completed sometime in 1962.

Trade Union Leadership

W.238. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Labour, if he will state what effective and positive steps he has taken to ensure a unified leadership in the trade union movement of this country.

The Minister of Labour : I have nothing to add to the reply given to Question W.84 on 17th April, 1961 and my statement in the House on the following day.

Foreign Airline Companies

W.262. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Transport, how many foreign airlines are operating in Nigeria; if he will give their names and countries of registration; whether any foreign airline has asked for and been denied permission to operate; if he will state the names of such airlines; and why were they not granted such permission.

The Minister of Transport : I assume that by the term "foreign airline" the hon. Member refers to Airline Companies that are not registered in Nigeria. There is one such company operating in Nigeria, namely Airwork (Helicopters) Ltd., registered in the United Kingdom.

2. In addition the following foreign airlines operate scheduled international air services to or through Nigeria :—

Name	Country of Registration
Air France	France
Air Liban	Lebanon
British Overseas Airways Corpn.	United Kingdom
Ethiopian Airlines Inc.	Ethiopia
Ghana Airways	Ghana
K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines	Netherlands
Transportes Aereos Portugueses	Portugal
Union Aeromaritime de Transport	France
United Arab Airlines	United Arab Republic

3. No foreign airline has so far been denied permission to operate a scheduled air service.

Bodija Aerodrome, Ibadan

W.267. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Transport, whether he would consider enlarging and improving Bodija aerodrome at Ibadan, in view of the growing importance of that town.

The Minister of Transport : Plans are in hand for the general improvement of Ibadan aerodrome. These plans include the construction of a new terminal building and parking apron for which tenders have already been invited. In addition, the surface of the main runway is to be improved.

There are at present no plans for enlarging the aerodromes as it provides adequately for existing requirements.

Iron Scrap Tenders

W.269. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport if he will state the names of those firms or contractors who won tenders and purchased iron scrap from the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Nigerian Ports Authority respectively during the period 1st April, 1958 to 31st March, 1961.

The Minister of Transport : I am informed that the information sought by the hon. Member is as follows :—

Nigeria Railway Corporation

- Mallam Ibrahim, B. Gusau, Gusau.
 Messrs Swiss West African Trading Agency, Yaba.
 Mr Joe Ola, Otuyelu, Ebute Metta.
 Messrs Buch (Nigeria) Limited, Apapa.
 Mr Ben Ofili, Enugu.
 Messrs Pan African Metals, Yaba.
 Messrs Jacobs Metals, United Kingdom.
 Messrs Bamgbala & Co., Lagos.
 Mr J. T. Ojobaro, Lagos.
 Messrs Thomas Wyatt (W.A.) Sons Limited, Apapa.
 Messrs A. Cohen, United Kingdom.
 Messrs S. Animashawun & Sons, Lagos.
 Mr H. C. Okeke, Enugu.
 Messrs Prnbrand Metals Ltd., United Kingdom.
 Messrs Bassett Smith & Co., United Kingdom.
 Messrs George Cohen (W.A. Limited, Ghana.
 Messrs Temi-Tope Bros., Lagos.

Messrs Vivian Younger & Bond Limited, Lagos.

Messrs George Cohen, Sons & Co., United Kingdom.

Nigerian Ports Authority

- Mr T. O. Bakare, Lagos.
 Messrs Buck (Nigeria) Limited, Apapa.
 M. Bello Kadiri, Lagos.
 Mr Daniel Nwabuko, Calabar.
 Mr Vincent Olata, Port Harcourt.
 Miss Aduke Oridedi, Lagos.
 Mr Mustafa Olori, Lagos.
 Mr Salisu Alade, Lagos.
 Messrs Swiss West African Trading Agency, Yaba.
 Mr J. A. Sojupe, Yaba.
 R. Alabi Alashela Trading Bros., Lagos.
 Mr Alli Balogun, Lagos.
 Mr F. O. Bamgboye, Lagos.
 Messrs Bamgbala & Co., Lagos.
 Mr H. Ishola, Lagos.
 Messrs West Africa Metal Co., Ebute Metta.
 Mr Ayinla Balogun, Lagos.

New Parliament Buildings

W.272. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if, in view of the national importance of the proposed Parliament Buildings on Victoria Island, he will give an assurance that the designing of the buildings will be entrusted to a panel of fully qualified and experienced Nigerian architects in order to ensure that the design will reflect the dignity of Nigeria both now and in the future.

The Minister of Works : A Nigerian Senior Architect has been placed in immediate charge of the work.

Borgu Division

W.275. Mr M. Yusufu Ilesha asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he will be able to visit Borgu Division.

The Minister of Works : The Minister intends to visit Borgu Division when he is able to arrange a tour of Ilorin Province.

Ilesha-Ghanara Road

W.276. M. Yusufu Ilesha asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider taking over the Ilesha-Ghanara road.

The Minister of Works : Federal obligations for roads are under comprehensive review. The Regions have been invited to state the Regional responsibilities that they believe should become Federal. All representations received from the Regions will be carefully considered.

Minna-Kuti-Shiroro Road

W.278. M. Umaru Galkogo asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when Government will take over the Minna-Kuti-Shiroro road in view of the vast development project proposed at Shiroro.

The Minister of Works : Federal obligations for roads are under comprehensive review. The Regions have been invited to state the Regional responsibilities that they believe should become Federal. All representations received from the Regions will be carefully considered.

Oturkpo-Ogumogbo Road

W.282. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will convert the Oturkpo-Ogumogbo road to a trunk road A, in view of its commercial importance.

The Minister of Works : Federal obligations for roads are under comprehensive review. The Regions have been invited to state the Regional responsibilities that they believe should become Federal. All representations received from the Regions will be carefully considered.

Police Living Flats in Eastern Nigeria

W.286. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he is aware that a sum of about £109,000 allocated to the Federal Public Works Department last year for the construction of Flats for the Police in Eastern Nigeria has not been fully utilised; and if he will give reasons for the delay.

The Minister of Works : No, Sir. Contracts approximating to this sum have been awarded for Police Quarters at Onitsha, Port Harcourt and Enugu.

Bridges on Ibadan-Shagamu-Lagos Road

W.288. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has for erecting railings on the newly-constructed bridges on the Ibadan-Shagamu-Lagos road.

The Minister of Works : Railings are not considered necessary for bridges such as these under 20" in length.

River Jamieson

W.289. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will construct a bridge over the River Jamieson at Sapele.

The Minister of Works : No, Sir. It is not a Federal responsibility.

South African Goods

W.132. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister what South African goods have been imported into this country during the period 1st April 1960 to 31st March, 1961 and what firms imported them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : The following goods were imported from the Union of South Africa during the period 1st April, 1960 to 31st March, 1961—

Foodstuffs.—Frozen and canned meat, fresh and salted fish, poultry, fresh and canned fruit and fruit juices, potatoes, sugar and eggs.

Beverages.—Wine and brandy.

Chemicals.—Calcium carbide, liniments, pharmaceutical products and perfumes.

Manufactured goods.—Leather goods, veneer sheets and plywood, cement, glassware, iron and steel manufactures.

Machinery.—Transport equipment, mining and agricultural machinery and spare parts and accessories.

Miscellaneous.—Newspapers, periodicals and candles.

Goods shipped prior to the 2nd March, 1961, entered Nigeria under open general licence and the names of the importers were therefore not recorded. Specific licences were required from the 2nd March and, between that date and the 31st March, were issued to the following importers—

- Messrs F. Abramson and Sons.
- Messrs L. A. Lawal Adisa and Brothers.
- Messrs A. G. Leventis and Co. Ltd.
- Messrs K. Maroun (Pork Products) Ltd.
- Messrs S. Nassar and Sons (Nigeria) Ltd.
- Messrs Ogidan Commercial Agency.
- Messrs Seven Up Bottling Co. Ltd.
- Messrs Vivian Younger and Bond Ltd.
- Messrs Yanju Trading Company.

Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

W.176. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education if he will not consider building one of the proposed inter-regional secondary schools at Abagana in Awka Division, in view of the availability of land and other congenial factors in that place and also its nearness to a big and important township.

The Minister of Education : The whole question of establishment of inter-regional Secondary Schools is being considered in consultation with Regional Governments. The location of the schools will be decided in the light of the consultation, but I cannot say at this stage at what place or places they will be established.

W.177. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Education, what progress has been made in the plan for establishment of inter-regional secondary schools; how soon are they going to be opened; and where are they to be located.

The Minister of Education : As I have stated in reply to Question No. W.50 by the hon. F. C. Ogbalu, the whole question of the establishment of inter-regional secondary schools is being considered in consultation with Regional Governments and the location of the schools will be decided in the light of this consultation.

Teachers' Service Conditions

W.178. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Education, if in view of the constant exodus of teachers into other fields of employment, he will consider taking such steps as are necessary to improve the conditions of service of teachers.

The Minister of Education : I am giving earnest consideration to making the teaching profession more attractive as a career. The Federal Government's concern over this matter is stated in paragraph 33 of the White Paper on Education, 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 30/9161).

W.180. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister of Education, how many scholarships were awarded in the year 1959-60 for studies overseas, and what is the expenditure so far on the students.

The Minister of Education : The following scholarships under the Federal Scholarship Scheme were awarded for studies overseas in 1959-60 :—

United Kingdom	..	..	155
U.S.A.	..	..	29
Canada	..	..	9
Ireland	..	..	2
Australia	..	..	1
India	..	..	1
Switzerland	..	..	1
Total	..	..	198

A sum of £254,815-18s-6d was spent on the scholars during that financial year.

23rd AUGUST, 1961

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mbieri Postal Facilities

W.149. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that a sub-post office is being built at Orié Mbieri by community effort to replace the old Mbieri postal agency, and that the Mbaitoli County Council has invited tenders for the construction of a sub-post office at Orievbi to serve the people of the area; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Communications : I am aware that two buildings are being constructed to accommodate Sub-Post Offices to replace the existing Mbieri Postal Agency. In 1958, when consideration was being given for the conversion of the Mbieri Postal Agency to Sub-Post Office status, the Ministry was approached on the matter by two local authorities in adjoining areas, namely the Mbieri Local Council and the Mbaitoli District Council. Due to a misunderstanding, both local authorities were provided on request with a plan of a new Type Post Office, and it was assumed that the two local authorities would agree to select a site for a new Sub-Post Office that was mutually acceptable to both. In the event, no agreement was reached and each local authority proceeded to erect its own building by community effort.

Owing to the fact that both local authorities were issued with building plans, and to that extent may be said to have received encouragement from the Ministry to proceed with their projects, I have decided that both buildings, when completed, shall be recognised as Sub-Post Offices provided that they comply with the requisite standard.

Telephone for Ikeduru

W.150. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangements he has made to redeem his undertaking that a telephone will be provided at the new Ikeduru Post Office before the end of 1960.

The Minister of Communications : The delay in providing the telephone call office at Ikeduru has been due to the shortage of staff to commission and bring into service the trunk transmission equipment. The call office was opened to the public on the 13th July, 1961.

Oleh Telephone Call Office

W.154. Mr J. K. de-Omomadia asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that the telephone call office opened at Oleh in Isoko District on the 11th July, 1960 has been out of service for over six months now and what steps he has taken to put the service in order.

The Minister of Communications : I am aware that the telephone call office at Oleh has not been functioning satisfactorily. The performance of the equipment at Oleh has not come up to expectation and arrangements are being made to replace it by more powerful equipment.

EDUCATION

Ashby Commission

W.174. Mr V. E. Eze asked the Minister of Education in view of the fact that sound education is the answer to practically all our problems, including Nigerianisation and national prosperity, whether the time is not overdue to consider the recommendations of the Ashby Commission's Report on Education in Nigeria.

The Minister of Education : In Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961 "Educational Development 1961-70", the hon. Member will find set forth the Federal Government's policy on educational development which is based on the recommendations in the Ashby Commission's Report.

Nigerian Objects of Antiquity

W.175. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Education, how many antiquities of Nigerian origin which were carried away to Europe were recovered between 1st January, 1958, and 1st January, 1961; what was the cost of recovery of each item during that period; and what was the total cost of all the items so far recovered.

The Minister of Education : One hundred and seventy-five antiquities were recovered during this period at a total cost of £20,200. More than 100 of these were acquired at the cost of freight and insurance only, the antiquities themselves being donated to Nigeria from the British Museum and from two private collections. Of the remaining items, some were purchased as collections costing, respectively, £1,150, £500, and £20, and the others were recovered singly at prices ranging from £3,200 for an ivory mask, to £2-10s-0d for a carved Ijaw wooden figure. Since the list of these is lengthy, I have not included it in full, but I should be happy to supply the Honourable Member with further details if he so desires. The total amount spent so far on the recovery of antiquities is approximately £57,000.

University of Lagos

W.179. Mr A. F. Odulana asked the Minister of Education what are his proposals for establishing a University in Lagos in view of similar efforts now being made by the Regions.

The Minister of Education : The hon. Member is referred to Sessional Paper No. 3 "Educational Development 1961-70" in section (4) of which proposals for the setting up of the University of Lagos are considered.

An advisory Commission financed by UNESCO is now in Nigeria to advise on its establishment.

U.C.I. Medical Students

W.181. Mr B. A. Ajayi asked the Minister of Education, whether he is aware that, since 1956, there has been a sensational death every year among the students in the Faculty of Medicine at the University College, Ibadan ; and whether steps will be taken to investigate the cause of the deaths in order to prevent further occurrence of such deaths.

The Minister of Education : There have been three student deaths in the Faculty of Medicine at U.C.I. since 1956 ; these have been fully investigated, and while I am deeply distressed that such tragic deaths should have occurred I am satisfied that all reasonable precautions to prevent them were taken. The College authorities exercise close vigilance over all their students, and do everything in their

power to ensure that those who show signs of mental strain receive medical treatment. Two of the three students did in fact receive such treatment shortly before their deaths ; the third showed no sign of needing medical attention and the cause of this remains unexplained. There is no evidence to suggest that it is anything but a coincidence that the three students who died were all studying medicine.

It is perhaps relevant to note that the problem posed by the student who, though educationally qualified for a University course, is unable to adjust to the academic and social demands of University life is by no means confined to U.C.I. or to Nigeria ; it is a universal problem to which the complete answer, which lies in medical and educational research, has not yet been discovered.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS

European Wives in Government Service

W.187. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will not discourage the influx of European women, especially wives, into government service under the pretext of temporary employment.

The Minister of Establishments : European women, especially wives, are offered month-to-month or contract appointments in the Public Service only if they are professionally, academically or technically qualified, and only when suitably qualified indigenous officers are not available. Such appointments are made when it is absolutely necessary to do so and are terminated as soon as suitably qualified Nigerians are available.

Federal Commercial Officers

W.188. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Establishments, why he has allowed the continuance of the gross injustice meted out to Federal Commercial Officers by starting them on salary points much lower than their counterparts in the Regional Public Services as well as their co-evals in the Customs and in Labour fields ; whether he agrees that an immediate replacement of the salary scale A is the only way to remedy the situation ; and when he proposes to take action in the matter.

The Minister of Establishments : I do not agree that the present salary scale constitutes a gross injustice meted out to Federal Commercial Officers. I consider that the existing grading is appropriate, having regard to the duties and responsibilities of the post, the qualifications required for it and the grading of other posts in the Federal Public Service.

Pensioners

W.189. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Establishments, whether he is aware that there are some pensioners who left the Federal Public Service since 1959 but have not yet received their retiring benefits ; and whether he will take steps to save the people concerned from further financial embarrassment.

The Minister of Establishments : I am not aware that some pensioners whose retirement was effective in 1959 have not received their retiring benefits. If the hon. Member is able to supply details of such cases I shall be only too glad to have them investigated immediately.

LABOUR

Nigerians in Fernando Po

W.227. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour, how many Nigerians are in the island of Fernando Po; how many of them are Treaty labourers, non-Treaty labourers and traders respectively; how many are recruited, how many are repatriated annually; and what adequate protection is accorded by the Nigerian Government to these non-Treaty labourers and traders.

The Minister of Labour : According to available records, the total number of Nigerians in Fernando Po is 40,000, approximately 23,000 of whom are Agreement workers. Of the remainder it is impossible to state how many are non-Agreement workers and how many are traders because the trading population is an itinerant one. The recruitment quota is 800 a month, but this is not always filled. The following table shows the recruitment and repatriation figures for the period, 1957-1960 :

Year	Recruitment	Repatriation
1957	8,730	3,779
1958	13,478	7,228
1959	6,944	7,749
1960	4,035	7,415

The non-Agreement workers and traders are adequately protected by the Consular Agent.

Nigerian Prisoners in Fernando Po

W.229. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour, how many of the Nigerian workers in the island of Fernando Po are serving terms in the Island's Spanish prisons.

The Minister of Labour : The number of Nigerian workers under sentence in the Spanish prisons in Fernando Po and Rio Muni on 1st February, 1961, was 39. The number rarely exceeds 40 at any one time.

Nigerian Labour Officers in Fernando Po

W.230. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour, how many Nigerian Labour Offices and Officers are there in the Island of Fernando Po; and how effective are they in ameliorating the plight of Nigerian workers in the Island.

The Minister of Labour : Apart from the Nigerian Labour Office at Bata in Rio Muni which is manned by a Nigerian Labour Officer there are two Nigerian Labour Offices in Fernando Po, at Santa Isabel and San Carlos respectively. The Office at Santa Isabel is manned by a Nigerian Labour Officer assisted by an Assistant Labour Inspector and that at San Carlos by a Labour Inspector. The increase in the numbers of the staff of the Federal Ministry of Labour in Fernando Po has enabled more systematic visits to be paid to farms and plantations employing Nigeria workers for the purpose of ensuring that the provisions of the Labour Agreement are being observed.

Official Visit to Fernando Po

W.231. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour how many official ministerial visits have been paid to the island of Fernando Po during the last three years; and how many plantations were in fact actually visited on such occasions.

The Minister of Labour : In the last three years there have been two visits by the Federal Minister of Labour to Fernando Po as follows :—

8-11-57—Hon. J. M. Johnson, M.P.

11-5-61—Hon. J. M. Johnson, M.P.

A Parliamentary Delegation led by hon. J. M. Johnson, Federal Minister of Labour, visited Fernando Po from 8th to 13th November, 1957.

The Delegation visited among other places six farms in Fernando Po, and five farms in Bata and Rio Benito. The transit camp in Santo Isabel was also visited. The Delegation was accorded facilities to go anywhere and to talk with anyone it wished.

Hon. J. M. Johnson, M.P., paid another official ministerial visit to Fernando Po on 15th May, 1961, when he was accompanied by the East Regional Minister of Health, hon. E. P. Okoya, M.H.A., Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, and two members of the Federal Parliament, the hon. A. U. D. Mba, M.P. and the hon. P. E. Ekanem, M.P., who is a member of the Opposition. Nine farms on the planned programme of inspections were visited. In addition, surprise visits were paid to a few other farms.

Labour Supply to Fernando Po

W.232. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour, what is the nature of the contract between the Nigerian Government and the Spanish Authorities in Fernando Po with regard to the supply of Nigerian labour to the Island; and when is this agreement likely to expire or come up for review.

The Minister of Labour: The current Agreement between the Nigerian Government and the Government of the Spanish Province of the Gulf of Guinea for regulating the conditions of employment of Nigerian workers recruited for work in Spanish Guinea was published in the *Official Gazette* as Government Notice No. 1973 of 31st October, 1957.

The Agreement is now due for revision. A delegation headed by the Federal Minister of Labour and comprising Members of Parliament (including a Member of the Opposition Party), a Senator, the Minister responsible for Labour matters in the Eastern Region and officials visited Fernando Po and Rio Muni during May 1961. The purpose of the visit was to obtain first-hand information of the conditions of employment of Nigerian workers there with a view to deciding what matters should be raised during the proposed negotiations for revision of the Agreement due to start as soon as the necessary formalities are finalised.

Welfare of Nigerian Labourers in Fernando Po

W.233 Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour, if he is aware of the mounting wave of mal-treatment of Nigerian labourers in the Island of Fernando Po by the Spanish plantation owners; and what he proposes to do to check this inhuman and insulting treatment to our national dignity and pride.

The Minister of Labour: I am not aware of a mounting wave of mal-treatment of Nigerian labourers by the Spanish plantation owners. Corporal punishment is prohibited under Spanish law and very few cases have been reported during the past year. In these cases the Nigerian Labour Officers on the Island made immediate representations to the Spanish Authorities who take a very serious view of such offences. Heavy fines are imposed on first offenders and Spanish employers may be expelled from Spanish Guinea for a subsequent offence of this nature.

As a result of a recent delegation to Fernando Po an agreement has been signed with the Spanish Authorities whereby the Consular Agent and/or a Nigerian Labour Officer shall be free to make visits to those places of work at which Nigerians are employed on informing the Spanish Commissioner of Labour but not obtaining his consent as previously. This Agreement will no doubt have the effect of ensuring that Nigerian workers are not mal-treated.

Education of Workers' Children in Fernando Po

W.234. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Labour, if there is a school financed by the Nigerian Government for children of Nigerian workers in the Island of Fernando Po; how much money was spent on this school; how long has it been in operation; whether the account of building and running this school has been satisfactorily rendered; and to which authority has this account been rendered.

The Minister of Labour: There is no school financed by the Nigerian Government for the children of Nigerian workers in Fernando Po and Rio Muni. The remaining parts of the question do not therefore arise. There is, however, a small grant (£1,000) made annually to the British Chaplaincy

School which serves as financial aid to the school, run by the British Chaplain for the education in English of Nigerian children in Fernando Po. The Roman Catholic (Spanish) Mission also runs a school for the education in English of 450 Nigerian children, most of whom are the children of labourers. This school receives no aid from the Nigerian Government.

Fernando Po : Welfare of Workers' Children

W.235. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Labour whether he will consider the urgent need of attaching a boarding section to the school established for the children of Nigerian workers serving in Fernando Po to cater for the children of workers in the remote plantations where there are no schooling facilities.

The Minister of Labour : Representations are being made by my Ministry to the Spanish Authorities to agree to open small schools on the farms, and to assist the British Chaplaincy in building and running a school at San Carlos. If we succeed in these efforts, the pressing problem of educational facilities for Nigerian children in these territories would be greatly eased as many Nigerian workers could arrange for their children to be 'boarded out' near schools. There would then be no longer any need for attaching a boarding section to the existing British Chaplaincy School with all the inconveniences that would be entailed. Lack of trained teachers might present a problem in the building of more schools, but this problem would receive adequate attention at the proper time.

Unemployment

W.236. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Labour how many of those who registered with the Department of Labour for employment during the period 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1960 have been employed; and what efforts he is making to find employment for those not yet placed.

The Minister of Labour : During the two-year period 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1960, a total of 16,687 persons were placed in employment by the Public Employment Offices throughout the Federation.

At the end of December 1960, there was a total of 14,867 persons registered with the Ministry of Labour who were actively seeking employment.

As the hon. Member may be aware, my Ministry does not by itself create vacancies for employment if they do not exist, and even where they exist, it still has to depend on such vacancies being notified by employers to the Public Employment Offices before job-seekers can be placed in them.

Government is doing everything possible to facilitate industrial expansion which will in turn create more jobs.

Recruitment of Labour for Fernando Po

W.239. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Labour, if he will give details of labour recruitment to Fernando Po for the past three years; and whether he will state the results of medical examinations conducted on Nigerian workers on their disembarkation at Calabar from that Island.

The Minister of Labour : Recruitment for employment in Spanish Guinea during the last three years was as follows:—

(a) 1st April 1958-31st March 1959—
10,196 recruitments who were accompanied by 1,352 wives and 792 children;

(b) 1st April 1959-31st March 1960—
7,841 recruits with 1,221 wives and 757 children;

(c) 1st April 1960-31st March 1961—
5,627 recruits with 1,094 wives and 597 children.

Medical examinations are not normally conducted on workers returning from employment in Spanish Guinea but owing to a recent allegation in the national newspapers that Nigerian labourers returning from Fernando Po and Rio Muni showed marks of brutal treatment, a request was made to the Anglo-Spanish Recruiting Agency that all Nigerian workers returning from Spanish Guinea during February and March 1961 should be medically examined. During this period 699 workers

returned to Calabar from Fernando Po and 695 of them were medically examined, the remaining four workers refusing to be examined. Three medical practitioners were employed in examining these men and the results revealed that none showed any signs of having suffered any ill-treatment or injury to their persons during their stay in Spanish Guinea.

Fatal Accidents in Fernando Po

W.240. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Labour, if he will state the amount of compensation paid in respect of every fatal accident involving Nigerian workers employed by the Spanish Authorities in Fernando Po during the year 1956 to 1960, and whether in his opinion such compensation is adequate.

The Minister of Labour : Article 34 (2) of the Fernando Po Agreement provides that "in the event of a Nigerian worker dying in consequence of an accident, within 30 days of the worker's death a sum equivalent to 30 times the total monthly wages payable to him shall be deposited by the employer with the Spanish Commissioner of Labour for transmission to the Consular Agent for disposal in accordance with Nigerian law and custom". During the period 1st January, 1956 to 31st December, 1960 a total sum of £4,004-3s-8d was paid by the Spanish employers as compensation for fatal accidents involving 71 Nigerian workers in Fernando Po and Rio Muni. The detailed analysis is as follows :—

Year	No. of Labourers	Compensation Paid		
		£	s	d
1956	12	687	18	10
1957	8	503	9	5
1958	16	996	8	4
1959	28	1,584	18	11
1960	7	230	8	2

This compensation is regarded as adequate. The total compensation equivalent to 30 months earnings was agreed upon at a time when the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance which applies to workers in Nigeria also provided for

30 months' earnings. The Native Labour Regulations for the Spanish territories in the Gulf of Guinea still provides for 30 months' earnings as compensation, although Workmen's Compensation Ordinance applicable to Nigeria has raised compensation to 42 months' earnings. My Ministry is at present endeavouring to secure for Nigerian workers in Fernando Po and Rio Muni more than double the wages they now receive. This increase will, in its turn, more than double the present amount of compensation payable in cases of fatal accidents. Moreover, section 6 (c) of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance in Nigeria provides that "if the (deceased) workman leaves no dependants, the reasonable expenses of the burial of the deceased workman not exceeding in all the sum of £30, shall be paid by the employer". As this additional proviso does not exist in the Fernando Po Agreement full compensation is paid in respect of every Nigerian worker involved in fatal accident whether or not he has dependants wholly dependent on his earnings. During my last visit to the island I reached an agreement with the Spanish Authorities that they would study the Nigerian Compensation figures with a view to increasing their own.

Employment of School Leavers

W.241. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Labour, how many school leavers have been employed in the Federal Public Service during the period 30th November, 1960 to 31st March, 1961; and what plans he has for absorbing those who are still unemployed.

The Minister of Labour : 388 school leavers were placed in employment in the Federal Public Service in the Federation through the employment exchanges during the period 30th November, 1960 to 31st March, 1961. 302 of these were placed in the Federal Territory of Lagos, 47 in the Federal establishments in Eastern Nigeria, 32 in the Federal establishments in Western Nigeria, and 7 in the Federal establishments in Northern Nigeria. This figure does not by any means cover the total number of school leavers employed in the Federal Public Service for the period as many school leavers obtained jobs through their own efforts while some Ministries did not recruit through the employment exchanges.

Available statistics show that a majority of those school leavers who are still unemployed are those who failed to pass the West African School Certificate Examination. A Juvenile Advisory Committee has been appointed to study the situation and submit proposals for dealing with it.

TRANSPORT

Proposed Niger Dam

W.263. M. Usman Turaki asked the Minister of Transport, what compensation schemes Government have proposed for the villagers whose houses will be affected by the proposed multi-purpose Niger dam.

The Minister of Transport : The principle of compensation for the villagers whose houses will be affected by the Niger Dams Project, has been accepted by the Federal and Regional Governments. A preliminary survey of the villages has recently been carried out by an official of the Northern Region Government and the basis for paying compensation will shortly be decided.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Aliade-Akwarra-Gboko Road

W.274. Mr S. T. Daka asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether there are plans to tar the Aliade-Akwarra-Gboko road, and when the work will commence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There are no plans at present to tar the Aliade-Akwarra-Gboko road. The low volume of traffic using the road does not give the road a high priority against the limited funds available for road Capital Works.

Ilesha-Kosubonsu Road

W.277. M. Yusufu Ilesha asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he is aware that nothing has so far been done about tarring the Ilesha-Kosubonsu road in Borgu Division, though it was indicated that work was to start last year; and what is the cause of the delay.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The Ilesha-Kosubonsu road is the responsibility

of the Northern Region and the Ministry of Works, Kaduna has been requested to provide the information sought.

Obolo-Afor Trunk Road Junction

W.279. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider the advisability of constructing a roundabout at Obolo-Afor on the Nsukka-Aliade Trunk Road A in view of the fact that the Enugu-Oturkpo, Ehamufu-Obolo, and Ankpa *via* Enugu Ezike-Okolo roads all meet at this point.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The hon. Member's suggestion has been carefully examined. It is considered that safety requirements will be met by arranging the junction of the Nsukka road with Trunk Road A3 to be further from the junction of the Obolo-Eke with Trunk Road A3 than at present. Proposals for this have accordingly been made to the Eastern Region Ministry of Works.

Nigeria-Cameroons Road Link

W.281. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what is the position of work on the trunk road linking Nigeria with Mamfe in the Southern Cameroons; whether, in view of the result of the plebiscite held in that territory, the Federal Government are still financing the construction of the road; or whether the cost is being shared by the two Governments.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Capital works upon roads within Nigeria linking Nigeria with the Southern Cameroons are under consideration. No capital costs are being incurred by the Federal Government on roads in the Southern Cameroons.

Ilorin-Kabba Road

W.283. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what was the total cost of tarring the Ilorin-Kabba Road up to Ajassepo; and what was the cost per mile.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : The total cost of tarring the Ilorin-Ajasse section was £126,813 at a cost of £4,878 per mile.

Ibadan-Ilesha Road

W.285. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: Whether he will consider felling the trees along the Ibadan-Ilesha Road, in order to obviate the accidents usually caused by fallen trees during the rainy season.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: Trees along the Ibadan-Ilesha Road provide considerable amenity, but where constituting a potential danger to traffic they have been, or will be, felled.

APPENDIX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS**ESTABLISHMENT AND SERVICE MATTERS****Federal Government Pensioners**

O.301. Chief R. A. Orok asked the Minister of Establishments, how many pensioners who were in the service of the Federal Government are there in the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments: The hon. Member will appreciate that it is extremely difficult to give an exact answer to this question for at any time there are a considerable number of pensions in payment which have not been brought to account as they are not paid directly but through paying agents in various parts of the country. However, there are approximately 17,545 pensioners in Nigeria whose pensions or part of whose pensions are payable by the Federal Government.

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**Nomeh Postal Agency**

O.317. Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the possibility of opening up a Sub-Post Office in place of the existing postal Agency at Nomeh, taking into consideration that Nomeh is a promising produce buying station.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The business

transacted at Nomeh Postal Agency during 1960 amounted to 9,978 units, which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Nomeh Postal Agency cannot, therefore, be justified at present.

County Councils and Health Centres

O.318. Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Communications, if he will extend telephone facility to County Council Offices and Health Centres in all parts of the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications: The responsibility for requesting telephone facilities at County Council Offices and Health Centres lies with the person controlling those organisations.

Many Council Offices and Health Centres throughout the Federation already have telephones. Providing spare plant is available, service can be given upon request, at any other place where public exchange facilities exist.

Igboora Postal Agency

O.319. Mr D. N. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will state the units of business transacted at the Igboora Postal Agency and Eleruwa Postal Agency, respectively, in each of the years 1958, 1959 and 1960; and whether he will now consider converting each of these postal agencies into a Sub-Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communication: The business transacted during the years 1958, 1959 and 1960 at Igboora Postal Agency amounted to 11,652, 12,719, and 13,572 units respectively, and at Eleruwa Postal Agency to 13,212, 14,579 and 10,042 respectively. The Units of business are below the minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Igboora and Eleruwa Postal Agencies cannot, therefore, be justified at present.

25th AUGUST, 1961

Internal Affairs

"After-Care Committee" for Prisoners

W.310. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he will consider setting up an "After-Care Committee" for the welfare of released prisoners in Nigeria.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I am very aware of the need for proper after-care of released prisoners in Nigeria, though how far this should be the responsibility of the Federal Prison authorities or of the Regional departments of Social Welfare, I am not able to state at this stage.

I am discussing the development of prisons with the Regional Ministers concerned and I will bear in mind the question of after-care responsibility when we resume our discussions.

Oyo Prison

W.311. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what improvements he is proposing for Oyo Prison.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I have to refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to Oral Question No. O.539, and to say that this applies equally to all the Prisons.

Trunk Road "A" : Maintenance

W.273. Mr J. A. Yacim asked the Minister of Works and Surveys : If, in view of the fact

that the Trunk Road 'A' from Shintaku to Eastern Nigeria was in a better state of repair when it was under the Regional Government, he will take steps to improve and tar it as soon as possible.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : There has been no change in the maintenance arrangements for the Federal Trunk Roads concerned. They are maintained by the Ministry of Works, Kaduna, now as in the past, on an agency basis for the Federal Government.

The general state of repair will be taken up with that Ministry to see what improvements can be made within the limited funds available. The tarring of Trunk Road A.6 from Shintaku to the junction with Trunk Road A.3 cannot be undertaken now for lack of funds.

Israeli Nationals

W.307. S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many people of Israeli Nationality are now working in Nigeria.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : On the last check there are 225 registered Israelis permitted to work in Nigeria.

30th AUGUST, 1961

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Kakuri Prison

W.308. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what trades and other courses are taught at the Minimum Security Prison at Kakuri, how many prisoners have successfully sat for the G.C.E. examinations year by year since the establishment of this prison.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Trades and Courses taught at H.M. Kakuri Prison

Camp are as follows :—Carpentry, Plumbing, Mansory, Motor Mechanics, Poultry, Craftsmanship, Commercial Subjects, *i.e.*, Book-keeping, Typing and Shorthand, Weaving, Tailoring, Carving, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Cobbling, Piggery and Fishing, and Academic Courses leading to G.C.E. ordinary and Advanced Levels.

Courses for G.C.E. examinations was introduced to the inmates in H.M. Kakuri Prison Camp during the financial year 1959-60.

The number of prisoners who have successfully sat for G.C.E. Examinations are as follows :—

1960 G.C.E. Qualifying Test 1

1960 G.C.E. Ordinary Level 1

1961 G.C.E. Qualifying Test 1

Feeding Prisoners

W.309. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how much it costs to feed a prisoner per month in the Badagry Prison.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The average cost of feeding a prisoner per month of 30 days in the Badagry Prison is £2-0s-0d, i.e., 1s-4d per prisoner *per diem* as per scale laid down in Prisons Regulations.

APPENDIX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

INFORMATION

Independence Printing Contracts

O.425. Mr E. D. Akinbowale asked the Minister of Information, if he will state how much of the printing work in connection with the last year's Independence Celebrations was given to qualified indigenous printers and to whom, and if he will give an assurance that consideration will in future be given to qualified indigenous printers in the allocation of such work.

The Minister of Information : Printing work in connection with the Independence Celebrations was commissioned by the Committee which was set up to organise the Celebrations. As far as I can ascertain, none of it was done by purely indigenous printers, but a great deal was done by Printing companies registered and working in Nigeria.

Such printing as my Ministry was directly responsible for, was done by the Federal Government Press, in the interests of economy.

I can assure the hon. Member that it is the policy of the Government that a considerable amount of printing work of all kinds shall be put out to tender to qualified indigenous printers, and to the Nigerian National Press, and that my Ministry is rigidly executing this policy. Every encouragement is being given to qualified Nigerian printers, taking into consideration the quality of their work and the capacity of their printing presses.

The National Anthem

O.426. Mr N. E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Information, what effort he has made to publicise our National Anthem through the country so that everyone may be familiar with it and treat it with the respect it deserves.

The Ministry of Information : Efforts have been made to publicise our National Anthem under three categories :—

- (a) publicity to young people
- (b) publicity to the general public and
- (c) special publicity

If I might take them one by one ; publicity to young people was directed in the May 1960 Edition of the *Childrens' Own Paper* which carried on its back page the words and music of the National Anthem together with the name of the winner and the panel of judges. The *Childrens' Own Paper* circulates to all schools throughout the Federation of Nigeria and 60,000 copies of it are printed and distributed free every month. It is estimated that every copy of this Paper is read by at least five children, which means that it reaches some 300,000 young people throughout the country. In July 1960 the *Childrens' Own Paper* again carried the words and music of the National Anthem.

To publicise the National Anthem my Ministry have used to the full the facilities of the radio, cinema and the press. Long before Independence, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation broadcast regularly the tune of the National Anthem, and by Independence, it has become a familiar tune. The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation still continues to broadcast the National Anthem at close-down time, and its audience can be estimated in millions. Throughout all cinemas in the Federation, the National Anthem is played and the two television networks also play the anthem at the beginning and end of their daily relays. The National Anthem has been recorded by the Police Band and records of it can be purchased with ease throughout the Federation.

In addition to the above, the Reference Section of the Information Division of my Ministry has prepared and issued 5,000 copies of the words and music of the National Anthem, with a short description of their origin and significance. These leaflets have been circulated to schools, colleges, legislators; to Nigerian Embassies abroad and Foreign Missions here in Lagos.

I have no doubt whatever that the National Anthem is very well known in all towns and villages throughout the length and breadth of our country and that it is treated with profound respect by all our fellow-citizens.

National Press

O.427. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Information, when the proposed Federal Government Press is expected to begin to operate; and what arrangements have so far been made as regards personnel and machines.

The Minister of Information: It is assumed that what the hon. Member has in mind by the "proposed Federal Government Press" is the Nigerian National Press Limited which was recently established by the Federal Government as a Private Limited Company. The Nigerian National Press began to operate

shortly after its formation was announced by the Federal Government. A very large volume of commercial printing has been undertaken and executed, while the weekly paper, the '*Sunday Post*', made a very successful debut on 13th August, 1961. The daily paper to be known as the '*Morning Post*' is scheduled to commence publication on Monday the 2nd October, and a souvenir copy to commemorate the first anniversary of Nigeria's Independence will be published on 1st October (a Sunday) to herald its coming.

Staff has been recruited both in Lagos and in the Regions and they are already at their posts, working for the '*Sunday Post*' and preparing for the launching of the '*Morning Post*'.

A considerable quantity of machinery has been acquired, including Rotary Presses, Linotype machines, Monotype Keyboards, Heidelberg, Ludlow Photo-engraving machines, Lithographic equipment, etc. Some of this has arrived, and is either in operation or being set up; other equipment is either on the way, or is awaiting shipment and delivery.

N.B.C. News Section

O.428. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Information, whether he is aware that the News Section of the N.B.C. is still unsatisfactory in the way it picks news for broadcasting and whether there is any plan to improve the situation.

The Minister of Information: The N.B.C. receives news material from many sources—from International news agencies, from the monitoring of overseas radio stations, from its own teams of reporters in Lagos and in the releases supplied by Government offices, political parties and many other bodies. The material received daily from all these sources, is of course, far greater than can be accommodated in the N.B.C.'s news bulletin. Selection, therefore, is inevitable; and the sole principle of selection applied by the N.B.C. is that of

news value. The aim of the news staff, after assessing the large quantity of material reaching them from outside, is to select those items of overseas and Nigerian news that appear to be the most significant and interesting from the point of view of the listener.

This process of selection is by no means an easy one, and calls for very quick decision. From time to time, the judgments made by the N.B.C.'s news editors are challenged by critics who feel that a particular item should have been included in a bulletin or omitted from it. Not surprisingly, the critic tends to concentrate his attention on one item that is of absorbing interest to him, whereas the editor must as a matter of professional duty, see such an item in relation to the many other items that are competing with it for inclusion in the news bulletin. If he fails to discharge this duty honestly, the Corporation does not hesitate to take disciplinary action against him.

All the main political parties in Nigeria have made general allegations of 'bias' or "discrimination" against the N.B.C.'s news services. Though errors of judgment occasionally occur—as indeed they occur from time to time in the life of every news organisation—I am satisfied that the N.B.C.'s news staff consistently tries to give its listeners the pick of the day's news from home and abroad, and to be scrupulously fair in its handling of political and other controversial issues, but I would like to assure the hon. Members that the Corporation will make every effort to ensure impartiality. Hon. Members will by now be aware that one of the objects of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill now before Parliament is to enable me to give specific directions to the Corporation, and I will take all necessary steps to this end.

DEFENCE

Air Force

O.430. Mr C. A. Odigbo asked the Minister of Defence, how soon does Nigeria propose to own an Air Force; and what efforts are being made for training the crew.

The Minister of Defence: The question of establishing a Nigerian Air Force was referred to in the Speech from the Throne on

29th March, 1961, during the Budget Session. The Minister of Defence has recently visited Ethiopia and India, and will later visit other countries with a view to seeing for himself how best to establish our own Air Force.

An announcement regarding the establishment of our own Air Force may be expected in the near future.

Nigerian Officers

O.431. Mr R. O. Akinjide asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians are now General, Colonels, Lieutenat Colonels, Major and Captains, respectively, in the Royal Nigerian Army.

The Minister of Defence: The figures are as follows:—

General	Nil
Colonels	Nil
Lieut-Colonels	2
Majors	16
Captains	26

Recruitment of Graduates

O.432. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Defence; what is his policy with regard to the recruitment of Nigerian Graduates into the Nigerian Armed Services.

The Minister of Defence: It is the policy of the Ministry of Defence to encourage Nigerian Graduates, when available, to seek commission in the Royal Nigerian Army provided they are within reasonable age limit and are temperamentally suitable. In the past 4 graduate officers have been so commissioned and application from 2 others received will soon be examined by the Selection Board.

Frontier with the Cameroons

O.433. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Defence, what arrangements have been made for a speedy report and action on any

important incident along the frontier with the Southern Cameroons since it decided to join the Kameroun Republic.

The Minister of Defence : Certain steps have already been taken by my Ministry and by the Nigeria Police to deal with any untoward incidents that might arise on our border with the Southern Cameroons following its decision to join the Cameroun Republic. It is not considered in the national interest to give details of these arrangements but the hon. Member may rest assured that adequate steps have been taken to deal with any eventuality.

Congo Contingent

O.434. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Defence, the strength of the Nigerian Army serving in the Congo.

The Minister of Defence : The strength of the Nigerian Army Contingent in the Congo is 1,429 all ranks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telegraph Extension

O.450. Alhaji Yerima Saleh asked the Minister of Communications when he will extend the telegraphic line from Nguru to Gashua in view of its importance as the administrative headquarters of the Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No provision has been made in the current telecommunications development programme as detailed in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 for the extension of telecommunications to Gashua and no funds are available to permit the inclusion of any additional projects in the programme at this stage. The claims of Gashua will however be considered when the plans are formulated for the next development programme 1962-67.

Okigwi Postal Agencies

O.459. Mr F. U. Ihe asked the Minister of Communications, what is the volume of business transacted in each of the postal agencies at

Uturu, Nneato, Umuchieze and Isuochi in Okigwi Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The latest annual business statistics of the Postal Agencies are :—

Uturu	..	..	7,183 Units
Neato	..	..	5,382 Units
Umuchieze	..	..	4,329 Units
Isuochi	..	..	12,443 Units

Post Office for Nto Edim

O.460. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Communications, when a post office will be provided at Nto Edim to replace the present postal agency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Nto Edim Postal Agency amount to 3,213 units a year, which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Nto Edim Postal Agency cannot, therefore, be justified at present.

Niger Province Postal Facilities

O.461. M. Garba Turakin Paiko asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangement he is making to provide Lapai, Agaie and Kamuku with both Telephone and Postal Services, in view of the fact that these Towns are all Divisional Headquarters in Niger Province, and grave difficulties are encountered at present when it is desired to communicate between one Native Authority and another in important and emergency matters.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Lapai, Agaie and Kagara (Kamuku) are already provided with postal facilities by means of Postal Agencies. The former two transact business at the rate of 3,710 and 4,492 units a year respectively, but annual figures for Kagara are not yet available since the Postal Agency was only opened on the 24th January, 1961.

There are no plans to provide telephone service at these places, since they are not included in the current development programme and funds are not available to provide service at present. Their claims, however, will be given due consideration, along with many others, when plans for the 1962-67 programme are formulated.

Postal Agencies amounts to 13,037 and 15,775 units a year respectively, which is below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Aramoko, Ekiti and Efon Alayé Postal Agencies will I hope be justified in the very near future.

Igara Sub-Post Office

***O.462. Mr U. O. Ayeni** asked the Minister of Communications, what has delayed the opening of Igara Sub-Post Office and if he will arrange for its opening without delay.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The delay in the opening of Igara Sub-Post Office is due to the fact that certain modifications necessary to make the building suitable for use as a Sub-Post Office have not yet been carried out by the local council. The council have been asked to take appropriate action, and as soon as this is done the Sub-Post Office will be opened.

Ekiti Division Postal Facilities

O.463. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Communications whether he is aware that the only Departmental Post Office serving the whole of Ekiti Division is now inadequate for the volume of business there, and if he will consider providing an additional Post Office in that Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There are already two full Post Offices in the Ekiti Division at Ado Ekiti and Ikerre, and in addition there are sub-Post Offices at Ijero and Ikole which transact the full range of postal business.

Upgrading of Postal Agencies

O.464. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Communications, what proposals he has for raising the postal agencies at Aramoko, Ekiti and Efon Alayé to Sub-Post Offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The business transacted at Aramoko, Ekiti and Efon Alayé

Postal Agencies for Ekiti Division

O.465. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider supplying the following towns with postal agencies, Ikere Ekiti, Iloro Ekiti and Igogo all in Ekiti Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There is a Post Office at Ikere-Ekiti which transacts the full range of postal business.

An application to establish a Postal Agency at Iloro-Ekiti has recently been received and if the usual conditions can be satisfied its opening will be approved.

No request for Postal Agency facilities at Igogo has been received, but if the local authority will make an application it will receive sympathetic consideration from me.

Oshogbo Post Office

O.466. Mr B. A. Adeyemo asked the Minister of Communications whether he is aware that the present Post Office in Oshogbo is too small and inadequate and if he will make a statement as to when a modern and larger Post Office will be built there.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : There are no plans to build a new Post Office at Oshogbo. However, it is recognised that there is need for improvement in the public counter and sorting facilities at present provided and it is hoped to make provision in the next development programme for the necessary modifications and improvements to be made to the existing building.

31st AUGUST—1961

THE POLICE FORCE

Nsukka Police

W.291. Mr F. A. Amadi asked the Prime Minister, whether in view of the non-establishment of the proposed Police units in certain centres in Nsukka Division he will increase the strength of the present detachment at Nsukka from 31 to 60.

The Prime Minister : It is proposed to increase the establishment of the Police Station at Nsukka from 31 to 45 when new quarters are built.

Corruption in Police Force

W.325. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider establishing a counter intelligence agency to check on police constable, especially those in the traffic division in order to put an end to bribery and corruption.

The Prime Minister : No, Sir. What is really needed is for the members of the public to be educated not to offer bribes to any official, police or otherwise. Everything necessary to punish offenders will be done if the public would bring genuine cases to the notice of the police.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

South African Goods

W.295. Mr S. J. Umoren asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he is aware of the fact that some firms still import goods into this country from South Africa and whether he will make a statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Specific import licences have been required for the importation of goods from South Africa since the 2nd March, 1961, on which date an amendment to the Open General Import Licence (Scheduled Territories and Easy Currency Countries) No. 2 of 1959 was published in the Official Gazette. Specific

licences up to a total value of £52,423 have since been issued in order to enable importers to fulfil irrevocable contracts.

As no further licences are likely to be issued, save in the most exceptional circumstances, it is not my intention to make a statement on the subject.

African Common Market

W.296. Mr S. J. Umoren asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider the need to initiate action towards the formation of an African Common Market in the event of Britain joining the European Common Market.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Nigeria is one of the twenty Independent African States represented at the recent Dakar Conference of Experts at which a resolution for the establishment of an African Common Market was adopted for submission for the consideration of the Heads of States of the Monrovia Conference States at their meeting in Lagos early in the new year.

As far as I am aware this proposal is independent of whether or not Britain joins the European Common Market.

Export since Independence

W.326. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state the increase of Nigeria's export trade since independence; and who have been our best customers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Domestic exports during the period 1st October, 1960, to 30th April, 1961, were valued at £91,281,169 compared with £92,021,264 in the corresponding period of 1959-1960. Our best customers since independence have been the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Netherlands, Western Germany, Italy and France in that order.

Trade with the U.S.A.

W.327. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what volume of import and export trade Nigeria has carried on with the U.S.A. since independence; and if he will state the nature of such a trade.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: Details of our trade with the United States of America during the period 1st October, 1960 to 30th April, 1961, are set out in the following table—

Imports	£	6,273,271
Domestic exports		11,375,733
Re-exports		6,400
		<hr/>
		£17,655,404

There was thus a favourable trade balance of £5,108,862.

The principal items of trade were—

Imports: Flour; unmanufactured tobacco; internal combustion engines; tractors; typewriters and office machinery; road construction, mining and other machinery; air conditioning and refrigerating equipment; motor vehicles.

Exports: Cocoa beans; goatskins; sheepskins; rubber; timber; columbite.

Nigeria Exhibition

W.328. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether another "Nigeria Exhibition" is planned in the near future: and if he will plan to extend such a useful exhibition to the Regional capitals.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry: A major international trade fair will be held in Lagos on the same site as the 1960 Nigeria Exhibition from 27th October to 18th November, 1962. Foreign Governments and foreign countries, as well as Nigerian companies, are being invited to take part.

I regret that the cost of mounting so large a fair will prevent its extension to Regional capitals. There will, however, be Regional participation as Regional Governments have been invited to share: Nigerian pavilion with the Federal Government and visitors are expected from all over Nigeria.

PUBLIC WORKS

Lagos-Shagamu Road

W.284. Alhaji K. O. B. Are asked the Minister of Works and Surveys; If he is aware that the sharp corners at Mile 45 on the Lagos/Shagamu Road cause motor accidents every week; and whether steps will be taken to improve that portion of the road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Minister believes that the accidents are for the most part caused by excessive speed rather than the sharpness of the corners. It is hoped that the road programme, 1962-67, will include major improvements for this section of Trunk Road A 1.

APPENDIX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS
POLICE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Abakaliki Police Units

O.336. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has regarding the improvement of the Police Stations and quarters in Abakaliki Division for which funds have been provided.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: The erection of the new Police Stations and quarters at Okposi, Abakaliki and Ugep is expected to commence soon.

Housing of Superior Police Officers

O.349. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that some superior police officers with executive powers stay in private houses belonging to politicians in the towns of Nigeria and whether there are steps being taken to remedy the situation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: No, Sir. The hon. Prime Minister is aware that some superior police officers live out due to lack of Government quarters. But they are well aware of their duty to be politically impartial. Steps are being taken to improve the housing situation for police officers within the financial resources available.

West African Union

O.343. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has for the political union of West African States in the near future.

The Prime Minister : I have no plans for the political union of West African States because I do not believe such a union is practicable within the foreseeable future. I believe that first approach should be made between all African States to create a machinery for closer co-operation in economic, educational, cultural, scientific and technical co-operation, as well as removing barriers to facilitate communication and transportation between the various States.

To that end a Conference of twenty African and Malagasy States was held in Monrovia in May this year followed by another meeting in Dakar recently of Experts representing those States. The various proposals put forward at this last meeting of Experts in Dakar are now being studied by all the States concerned including Nigeria as a prelude to the next Conference to be held in Lagos.

Prime Minister's U.S. Visit

O.474. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Prime Minister, what sort of reception he was accorded in those parts of the United States in which racial segregation is practised; and whether he thinks that his trip to Little Rock would help in any way to ease the racial tension in that city.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : The hon. Prime Minister did not visit any such parts in the United States. The question therefore does not arise.

Report on P.M.'s Engagements abroad

O.475. Mr A. A. Ajibola asked the Prime Minister, when he will give a full report to the House covering his activities at the United Nations General Assembly in October 1960, the recent Monrovia Conference of independent African States, and during his state visit to the U.S.A. in July this year.

The Prime Minister : I refer the hon. Member to my previous speeches broadcast to the nation which covered my activities at the United Nations General Assembly in October 1960 and at the Monrovia Conference of Independent African States and my recent visit to the U.S.A.

PROHIBITED IMPORTATIONS

Banned Literature

O.480. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Prime Minister what literature or books are banned from entering Nigeria, what are the reasons for the ban and how soon will the ban be lifted.

The Prime Minister : The Criminal Code (Prohibited Importations) Order in Council 1955 prohibits the importation of 33 specific publications. These works were banned because they were considered to be subversive. I am well aware however that the list of banned publications is out of date and I have already appointed a Committee to advise me on this whole subject of subversive literature and on the ban in particular.

DEFENCE

Servicemen in the Congo

O.350. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerian soldiers and Policemen are now serving under the U.N.O. in the Congo; and what has been the result so far achieved by the contribution of these men to the United Nations' efforts in restoring peace and order to that country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence : There are 1,429 Nigerian soldiers and 358 Nigerian Police of all ranks serving in the Congo, the activities and achievements of which were referred to in the hon. Minister of Defence's speech in the House of Representatives published in *Hansard* of 18th April, 1961.

I have little to add to what is already well known, but would emphasise that the contribution of the Nigerian Contingent in maintaining peace and order in the Congo has continued to be widely acclaimed.

EDUCATION

Financial Aid to Ife University

O.363. Mr M. C. K. Obi asked the Minister of Education, if Government have given any financial aid to the University of Ife; if so, how much, and, if not, what do Government intend to do in this regard.

The Minister of Education : The Provincial Council of the University of Ife was formally inaugurated on the 26th of June, 1961; so far no approach has been made by the

University to my Ministry for financial aid. It is expected that all Nigerian Universities will be eligible to apply for assistance from block grants for University development made from Federal Government Funds. Such funds will be administered by the National Universities Commission as proposed at paragraph 58 of the White Paper on Educational Development 1961-70. Legislation providing for the establishment of the National Universities Commission is under consideration.

Strikes in Educational Institutions

O.365. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Education, what measures are being taken to check the growing number of strikes in educational institutions.

The Minister of Education : I am not aware of "growing number of strikes"—certainly not in Federal Government or Federal area educational institutions. Occasional incidents have arisen in scattered parts of the whole Federation but I do not consider them frequent or serious enough to cause alarm.

Peace Corps

O.366. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Education, what plans his Ministry is making to utilise the opportunity being offered by the United States Government under the auspices of the Peace Corps.

The Minister of Education : The Federal Government has agreed with the principle of accepting the "Peace Corps" as a form of technical assistance. The acceptance of the offer has already been communicated to the United States Government in the appropriate manner. A large proportion of the "Peace Corps" personnel to be posted to Nigeria will be engaged in teaching.

Common Educational Policy

O.367. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider consulting his Regional colleagues with a view to working out and adopting a common educational policy in the country.

The Minister of Education : There is constant consultation between the Regional Ministers of Education and myself, and between the professional and administrative staffs of our Ministries. The Federal Government

White Paper on Educational Development 1961-70 (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961) gives some indication of the degree in which consultation on general policy has been successful. In particular a common policy exists in the field of secondary education. Also the enthusiastic manner in which the Report of the Commission on Post-School Certificate and Higher Education in Nigeria (now commonly referred to as the Ashby Report) was received throughout the Federation is a substantial measure of the agreement on general policy matters as they affect higher education in the country.

Since education is a residual subject under the Constitution it would seem unwise to aim at an unvarying uniform pattern between one region and another. It is hoped that the National Universities Commission and the All-Nigeria Academic Council as proposed at paragraph 57 of the White Paper will influence the general growth of university institutions in such a manner as to encourage those trends in which the Governments of the Federation are agreed without at the same time inhibiting new and useful local developments which may be desirable at all levels of education.

The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the continued success of the West African Examinations Council which is responsible for the many public examinations taken by pupils as well as by teachers. I also wish to draw the hon. Member's attention to the success which has been achieved in many directions by the Joint Consultative Committee on Education—a body of professional educationists drawn from all the Regions and from the Federal Territory of Lagos as well as from the Universities and the Institutions of Higher Education.

Scholarship Awards for Medical Studies

O.368. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Education, whether he will increase the number of scholarship awards to prospective medical students in view of the desperate shortage of doctors in this country.

The Minister of Education : Steps have already been taken to award a large number of Federal Scholarships for the study of medicine this year. In fact the number of awards for medicine is greater than the number of awards made in respect of other subjects.

Nsukka Government Scholars

O.492. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Education how many Federal Government scholars are at present studying at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and what are they pursuing.

The Minister of Education : During the last academic year 48 Federal Government Scholars studied at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The details are as follows :—

B.A. (General)	14
B.A. (English)	7
B.A. (Hons.) Economics	7
B.Sc. (Hons.) Sociology	3
B.A. (History)	15
B.Sc. (Mathematics)	2
Total	48

Repatriated Students

O.493. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerian Students were repatriated from the United Kingdom, from 1st July, 1959 to 31st July, 1961.

The Minister of Education : The records in the High Commissioner's Office in London show that during the period 53 students were repatriated. The Regional distribution is as follows :—

Western Region	24
Eastern Region	14
Northern Region	2
Federal Territory	13

Free Secondary Education

O.494. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Education whether he will consider introducing free Secondary Education in the Federal Territory.

The Minister of Education : Provision of Free Secondary Education is certainly an ideal which every government would wish to achieve if the financial resources were available. It may be noted that even in a rich country like the United Kingdom, Secondary Education for all was introduced in England and Wales under five years ago.

With the successful introduction and expansion of free Universal Primary Education in the Federal Territory of Lagos it is consequential that facilities for Secondary Education must be increased. At present the intention of Government is to provide continued education for about 25% of all those who successfully complete the primary stage, in institutions best suited to their aptitude and ability.

Indeed the ultimate ideal target we aim at is to provide Free Universal Secondary Education for all; but the truth must be faced that we cannot afford that for some time to come in view of our limited resources or our heavy commitments in many other fields in the national efforts. I assure the hon. Member that we wish we could provide the facilities now, but wishes are not horses.

Teachers' Training

O.495. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Education if he will abolish Grade III Teachers' Training Course in the Federal Territory and if he will consider introducing Grade I Teachers' Training Course next year.

The Minister of Education : It is not proposed to retain Grade Three Training Courses in Lagos, but the upgrading of the present colleges must depend on the strengthening and the improvement of the staffs of the training institutions. This is being done, and by the end of 1961, over twenty teachers from Lagos, will be attending overseas courses, specifically designed to train tutors in training college work. One College in Lagos will cease Grade Three Training this year and will admit a four stream Grade II entry in 1962.

By agreement with, and with assistance from UNESCO, I.C.A. and the Ford Foundation, the Federal Government are to open an Advanced Teacher Training College, with initial intake of 160 teachers in October 1962. Entry will not be restricted to teachers of Grade Two qualifications and above, in the Federal Territory, but will also be open to the Regions. When completed the College buildings will have boarding facilities for approximately four hundred students, and in its final phase it is designed, with day students, to provide facilities for about eight hundred students.

Emergency Science Training School

O.496. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Education, how many students have completed their courses at the Emergency Science Training School since its inception and what are they doing at the moment.

The Minister of Education : The number of students who have completed their Courses at the Federal Emergency Science School is 266. Students who at the G.C.E. Examination taken at the end of the course passed in the minimum number of subjects for direct entry to Higher Institutions normally obtained direct admission into the University College, Ibadan, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the Nigerian Colleges of Science, Arts and Technology in Ibadan, Enugu and Zaria, and into Universities and Higher Institutions overseas for University and professional training.

Students are required to apply for Federal Government Scholarships, and their applications are considered on their merits. Those students awarded scholarships are subsequently placed in higher institutions locally or overseas as the case may be. Some of the other students who are not awarded scholarships find funds from private sources to pursue their education in local or overseas Institutions. The remaining students as well as those who fail to qualify go back to their various departments.

I may mention, too, that the courses pursued in higher institutions by students who qualify from this Institution include :

Agriculture, Biology, Forestry, Botany, Mathematics, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Medicine, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Physics Science, Mining, Vet. Science, Architecture, Meteorology and Zoology.

Of the 175 students who took G.C.E. Advanced Level in January, 1960, 102 obtained minimum qualifications to enter Universities. Of these, 55 are now in Institutions of Higher Learning in Nigeria and abroad. More of them will be entering higher institutions in October this year, the actual figure is not yet available. A few of them could not pursue further studies for lack of funds having failed to obtain scholarship awards.

Of the 91 students who took the G.C.E. Advanced Level in January, 1961, 45 obtained minimum qualifications for direct entry into

Universities. Most of these students have obtained admission into Universities and Technical Colleges, but the actual figure may not be available till later on in the year. A few of these, too, may not be able to go to higher institutions if they failed to secure scholarships or bursaries.

Government Scholars in China

O.497. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Education, how many Federal Government Scholars are studying in Russia and China and what are their courses of studies.

The Minister of Education : There are no Federal Government Scholars studying in either Russia or China at present. The reason is because no applicant for a Federal Government Scholarship ever gave an indication that he would like his award to be made tenable in either Russia or China. Since the applicants themselves made no requests to this effect the Federal Government is not obliged to send them there.

Industrial Technology—Scholarships

O.500. Mr A. A. Ajibola asked the Minister of Education, whether Government will now consider awarding a large number of scholarships in industrial Technology in order to accelerate the pace of industrialisation of this country.

The Minister of Education : An increasing number of scholarships has been awarded during the last few years for engineering studies. In the 1961 awards recently announced nearly one-third of the scholarships were for Engineering and allied subjects. It can safely be said that a number of these engineering students will form the hard core of our industrial technologists.

It must, of course, be noted that scholarships are awarded in a wide variety of subjects, bearing in mind the needs of the country. Engineering in general and industrial technology in particular are not excluded.

Government Science Scholars in America

O.498. Mr G. K. Dada asked the Minister of Education, how many Federal Government Scholars are in American Universities studying science.

The Minister of Education : There are at present 19 Federal Government Scholarships studying science in American Universities.

The details are as follows :—

B.Sc. (Botany) .. .	4
B.Sc. (Chemistry) .. .	4
B.Sc. (Mathematics) .. .	1
Veterinary Science .. .	10
	—
Total .. .	19
	—

Evening Science Classes

O.501. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Education, whether he is aware that the evening classes attached to the Emergency Science School are most irregularly attended by the tutors, and whether he will take steps to regulate attendance by those tutors.

The Minister of Education : The Evening Classes attached to the Emergency Science School are to the best of my knowledge regularly attended by the tutors. The tutors are mostly part-time lecturers and on very rare occasions might have to be carried away on urgent duties connected with their normal office duties. In such cases, the Senior Lecturers who are the permanent staff in charge of the particular subjects are informed and alternative arrangements are made wherever possible.

In a few instances, such part-time lecturers have arranged to take lessons missed at convenient times arranged between them and the students with the approval of the Senior Lecturer-in-charge.

All part time lecturers are responsible senior officers in their respective departments and possess a keen sense of responsibility.

Incentive to Study Technology

O.502. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Education, what special inducement he is offering to students studying technology and allied sciences in view of the importance attached to these subjects in the world to-day.

The Minister of Education : If by "special inducement" the hon. Member means giving students studying technology additional allowances over and above the normal rates of

allowance, the answer is *No*. But engineering students are given much encouragement, for the importance of technology to our development cannot be overstated.

The Federal Government pays the same rates of allowances to all holders of Federal Scholarships and these rates are based on the location of the institutions. The importance attached to engineering or technology and allied studies is shown by the increased number of awards which the Federal Government has made in recent years. In fact about one-third of the awards for 1961 are for engineering and allied courses.

Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

O.503. Mr E. Elenwa asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider the desirability of building one of the proposed inter-Regional Colleges in Ahoada Division.

The Minister of Education : The Regional Governments will be fully consulted with regard to the proposed Inter-Regional Secondary Schools to be built under the Education Development Programme. The question of siting or location will be considered along with other factors in the consultations and the various discussions will no doubt be borne in mind.

Adult Education

O.504. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Education, what plans he has to give thousands of Adult illiterates in Lagos some kind of adult education.

The Minister of Education : The hon. Member for Onitsha is probably labouring under a misapprehension. With the possible exception of Basutoland, St Helena and Mauritius, the percentage of literacy in Lagos is one of the highest on the continent of Africa. This is in keeping with the record in primary education.

It is the hope of my Ministry to eliminate illiteracy among the few that are nearer the grave by increasing the facilities for those that are about to face the battle of living. The few pockets of illiteracy in Lagos, especially among the older Muslim elements, are being systematically mopped up. And, subject to the availability of funds, follow-up literature will be produced in increasing numbers to meet the demand for reading materials.

4th SEPTEMBER—1961

THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Commemoration

W.318. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider the erection of statues around the Independence Square to honour our foremost leaders who won Independence for Nigeria without bloodshed.

The Prime Minister : The suggestion to erect statues in honour of leaders in this country is welcome and Government will give careful consideration to the matter as soon as funds are available.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Liberation of Fernando Po

W.208. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, since Nigerians form more than 60 per cent of the population of Fernando Po, whether he would consider the desirability of setting up machinery for negotiations between the Nigerian Government and the Spanish Government with a view to purchasing the island from the latter, or failing such negotiations, for Nigeria to take steps to liberate the island in the interest of our territorial security.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : The Government has repeatedly stated that this country has no territorial ambitions and, consequently, the question of purchasing Fernando Po from the Spanish Government or taking steps to liberate the Island cannot be entertained now.

Nigeria Office in London

W.209. Dr K. Ezera asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether he will consider setting up a departmental inquiry into the administration of the Nigeria Office in London, in view of the growing dissatisfaction of Nigerian students towards that Office.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am aware of the difficulties confronting the Students Section of the Nigeria High Commission in London and plans are in hand to reorganise the Office and to ensure that it has the staff and organisation necessary to cope with its responsibilities.

EDUCATION

Afuze Postal Agency

W.298. U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Education why Afuze Postal Agency was closed down and when he hopes to re-open it.

The Minister of Education : Post Offices and Postal Agencies undoubtedly help education generally, but I suggest that the hon. Member should direct his question to the proper quarters.

Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

W.299. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Education what progress has been made towards implementing the plan to establish Inter-Regional Secondary and Technical Schools in the Federation.

The Minister of Education : It is the desire of the Federal Government to establish a number of Inter-Regional Secondary Schools as soon as possible. The views of the Regional Governments are being sought and in due course a statement on the subject will be made.

With regard to Technical Schools the report of a U.K. team which recently carried out an investigation in my invitation, on technical education as a whole in Nigeria is awaited. In making proposals and plans for the future it is hoped to take into consideration the recommendation in the report. I wish to add that this special investigation on technical education is a follow-up action on the Ashby Report.

Grants to University of Nigeria

W.300. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Education, how much has been paid each year by way of subvention or grants by the Federal Government to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, since the foundation of that institution.

The Minister of Education : No subventions or grants by the Federal Government to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, have been made. I wish to say no approach by the authorities of the University of Nigeria has been made to my Ministry for financial aid. It is

expected, however, that all Universities in Nigeria will be eligible to apply for assistance from block grants for University development made from Federal Government Funds. Such funds will be administered by the National Universities Commission when established as proposed at paragraph 58 of the White Paper on Educational Development. Legislation providing for the establishment of the National Universities Commission is under consideration and it is hoped that the Commission will be set up shortly.

I wish to add that I have been asked a similar question in respect of the University of Ife and any answer to that question is the same as this.

Lagos Green Belts

W.331. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Education, how many public parks and holiday camps are available to school children in Lagos; and if he will consider increasing these facilities.

The Minister of Education : There are no less than five public parks available for school children in the Federal Territory of Lagos—Ikoyi Park, King George V Park, Tafawa Balewa Square, Rowe Park, and Abule Nla Park. Kuramo Waters is used as a holiday camp. The possibility of increasing these facilities has always engaged the attention of the Lagos Executive Development Board.

INFORMATION

Transmission of Radio Nigeria

W.333. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, if he will state whether he has made any investigation as to whether or not Radio Nigeria can be heard outside Nigeria.

The Minister of Information : Yes Sir. The present National programme of the N.B.C. is heard in immediately neighbouring countries, and the hon. Member may like to know that the N.B.C. receives about 150 letters per month from listeners in foreign countries. The present transmissions are not, however, strong, and action is now being taken to replace this transmitter by a stronger one, which will enable listeners in all neighbouring countries to hear our National Programme regularly.

In addition to this, an External Broadcasting Service, which will radiate programmes specially designed to project Nigeria abroad, is being actively planned, and buildings will be commenced very shortly. This Service will be heard throughout the world.

Local Transmission Breakdowns

W.334. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, whether he is aware of the frequent breakdowns in local radio stations of Radio Nigeria network; and if he will remedy the situation.

The Minister of Information : I am aware of occasional breakdowns at local radio stations, and these receive the continual attention of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. Most of them, however, are due to temporary breakdowns in electric power, electrical storms and other reasons which are beyond the control of the N.B.C.

Improvement of Transmission

W.335. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, what he intends to do in order that transmissions from Radio Nigeria may be improved; and if he will consider purchasing more powerful transmitters like those being used by Radio Liberia and the Ghana Broadcasting system.

The Minister of Information : Plans are now being considered for the installation of new and more powerful transmitters in Lagos and the regional capitals to enable the National Programme to be heard clearly throughout the country on both medium and short wave, and for each Regional Programme to be heard on medium wave throughout the Region concerned, and on short wave throughout the country. It is estimated that such a programme will take about five years to complete. As a first step, a new 100 KW short wave transmitter has been ordered for the National Programme.

These, plans, when implemented, would give Radio Nigeria transmitters every bit as powerful as those in operation in neighbouring countries.

Revenue from Commercial Broadcasting

W.336. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, how much revenue has been

realised from commercial broadcasting since Radio Nigeria went commercial.

The Minister of Information : £42,667 up to and including the 31st July, 1961.

Correct Pronunciation of Nigerian Names

W.337. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, how soon Nigerian proper names and place names could be Nigerianized over Radio Nigeria.

The Minister of Information : Radio Nigeria has always insisted that Nigerian proper names and place names should be pronounced correctly, and training is continually being given to announcers to ensure this.

Ideal of One Nigeria

W.338. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, to what extent has one Nigeria been projected abroad.

The Minister of Information : I can assure the hon. Member that the principal objective of my Ministry is to project the idea of the unity of our Country. The future External Broadcasting Service of the N.B.C. is designed for this purpose; recordings of programmes of music, talks, and features from the present National Programme which reflect this idea have been supplied on request to broadcasting organisations in Canada, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Israel, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Film Unit has produced three films during the period 1960-61—"This is Nigeria," "Nigeria Hails Independence," and "H.E. the Governor-General", which have been distributed to many agencies and to all Nigerian Missions abroad. The first two were submitted to the Moscow Film Festival this year, and a shortened version of "This is Nigeria" was presented at the Berlin Film Festival.

Current and future production of the Film Unit, which includes "A Year of Endeavour", and Films on Nigerian Art and Archaeology, Inland Waterways and Mining, will also project abroad the idea of unity of our Country.

In its many pamphlets and brochures depicting Nigeria's political economic and

industrial growth, the Information Division of my Ministry is continually projecting the same idea, and these publications are, of course, distributed free by Nigerian Missions abroad. The hon. Member will also recall the Special Supplements on Nigeria which appeared in the Times and the New York Times on 1st October last year; another similar supplement dealing with the country's achievements in the first year of independence will appear in the New York Herald Tribune this year.

Training in Elocution

W. 339 : Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, what effort his Ministry is making or has made to train better announcers, especially girls, to improve news and programme announcing over Radio Nigeria.

The Minister of Information : The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation trains its staff either in its own Staff Training School, or on the job, or by attaching them to overseas Broadcasting Organisations. Every effort is made to recruit and train better announcers, especially girls, but this is a continuous process because there is a continual wastage of trained staff who either move to other sections of the N.B.C. on promotion, or who resign to seek higher pay or more advanced education.

The Morning Close Down

W.340. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Information, how soon he plans to discontinue the 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. close down of Radio Nigeria Broadcasting Service.

The Minister of Information : The close-down period of 90 minutes on week-days is necessary for quick maintenance of equipment which is otherwise in continuous use during the day. From Sunday the 24th of September, 1961 this interval will be reduced to 75 minutes and transferred to the time between 1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and from that date there will be no close-down on a Saturday. Already there is no close-down period on Sundays.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

National Economic Council

W.292. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Economic Development how effective is the National Economic Council.

in co-ordinating industrial enterprises throughout the Federation with special reference to the establishment of competitive ventures as is likely to happen in the case of cement, Iron and Steel (Metal) Windows and Doors Factories.

The Minister of Economic Development : The National Economic Council has proved to be an effective instrument, when it is essential in the national interest, in co-ordinating industrial enterprises which will have an impact on the country's economy as a whole. In assessing the relative merits of different proposals, the National Economic Council has always been guided by economic considerations, with a view to arriving at a recommendation which will in the long term be in the best interests of Nigeria. In the case of the industries mentioned by the Member there is no reason to believe that as in the past a satisfactory solution will not be found.

American Projects

W.321. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will state how many projects America is undertaking in this country, their nature, quality and distribution throughout the Federation; and what does Nigeria offer in return for them.

The Minister of Economy Development : Through the United States Overseas Mission (International co-operation Administration) 36 projects have been approved and a start has been made on 24 of these. For these projects experts, advisers and equipment have been provided and a description of their nature, quality and distribution is as follows :—

Quality	Federal	North	East	West
Agriculture ..	1	4	2	2
Banking ..	1	—	—	—
Education ..	2	3	5	4
Housing ..	—	—	1	—
Industrial ..	1	1	1	1
Statistics ..	1	1	1	1
Television ..	—	—	—	1
Welfare ..	—	—	—	2
(36) Total ..	6	9	10	11

In return Nigeria pays such local costs as are defrayed in Nigerian currency, such as the provision of houses, offices, free medical

treatment, etc., and provision is also made for exemption from income tax and certain customs duties.

In addition, private American organisations and foundations are assisting Nigeria. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund have carried out feasibility surveys, the Carnegie Trust has provided assistance in the field of education and the Ford Foundation has supplied experts and equipment.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bauchi-Yola Road

W.342. M. Usman Borkono asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: When he intends to tar the road from Bauchi to Yola, via Gombe, in view of its importance.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is hoped to include major work upon this road in the next road programme, 1962-67.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Local Industries and Terms of Trade

W.294. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what effect has the establishment of Local Industries produced on our export and import trades so far.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : Although it is apparent that the establishment of local industries is having an increasing effect on our export and import trades, it is not possible to do more than generalise on the subject owing to the lack of accurate statistics of industrial production.

On the import side, the productive capacity of local cement manufacturers is now approximately 465,000 tons per annum, while that of the three major textile mills is approximately 33 million square yards of cloth. Other industries, which are either already in production or likely to be so in the near future, are concerned with the manufacture of asbestos cement products, beer, canned meats, flour, footwear, furniture, household utensils, margarine, soap, tyres and tubes, and other goods. These manufactures save foreign exchange.

On the export side, the local processing of groundnuts resulted in the export in 1960

of oil and cake valued at nearly £7 million. Plywood and leather exports were respectively valued at over £1 million and £300 thousand, while the production of crepe rubber increased in 1960 and exports earned over £6 million. The establishment of tanning and tin smelting industries will also enable us to increase our export earnings.

TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Earnings of Inland Waterways

W.264. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Transport, what were the average daily takings of the Inland Waterways Department for each of the months from June to December 1960 on the Onitsha/Asaba ferry services; what were the average monthly running costs for the same period; and if he will consider ploughing back the profits towards improving the quality of the services rendered at the ferry.

The Minister of Transport: The average daily takings on the Onitsha/Asaba ferry service during the months June to December, 1960, were as follows—

	Total receipts	Average per day
	£	£
June	9,110	304
July	8,973	289
August	9,082	293
September ..	12,605	420
October	10,152	327
November ..	10,673	356
December ..	12,069	389

The total receipts during this seven-months period were thus £72,664, a higher figure than usual and largely accounted for by the additional traffic handled over the period of the Independence celebrations. The running costs during the same period were £18,910 making an average of £2,701 per month. This figure does not, however, include all indirect costs which would be included if the ferry were being operated as a commercial undertaking; if these were included the profit would be materially reduced.

Profit made on the Onitsha/Asaba ferry is unfortunately offset by losses on all the other ferries operated by the Inland Waterways

Department and it is necessary to view the ferry operations of the Department as a whole. Furthermore, revenue from ferry operations must, under the Federal Government's accounting system, be paid into general revenue. It is not possible therefore to plough back the profit made on the Onitsha/Asaba Ferry Service as proposed by the hon. Member.

Facilities at both terminals have recently been considerably improved and a new ferry was purchased last year for this service at a cost of more than £70,000.

Upkeep of Aerodromes

W.270. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Transport, what is the total annual cost of the upkeep of Enugu, Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Benin and Ibadan aerodromes and Kano and Lagos Airports.

The Minister of Transport: During the financial year 1960/61 a total of £523,340 was spent on the maintenance of these airports/aerodromes, including the provision of all facilities and services. A breakdown of this figure is given below—

Benin	24,730
Enugu	16,650
Ibadan	19,570
Kaduna	15,760
Kano	259,440
Lagos	159,530
Port Harcourt ..	27,660
	<hr/>
	£523,340
	<hr/>

Dredging the Niger and Benue

W.271. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Transport, when dredging of the Niger and Benue Rivers will commence; and how long it will be before the work is completed.

The Minister of Transport: In their final report on the Rivers Niger and Benue, the Netherlands Engineering Consultants (Nedeco) recommended that before any full scale dredging was undertaken in either river, test dredging should be carried out at a number of specific crossings during a period of two years in order to obtain sufficient data on which to estimate the effectiveness of such dredging

also to indicate whether or not, in view of the high costs involved, extensive dredging would be a practicable proposition.

The first series of test dredging operations was carried out during the months of March/April this year and the data obtained from these tests is at present being studied by Nedeco. Until the data so far obtained has been examined and further tests have been made during the next low water, it is not possible to say whether extensive dredging will be carried out on the Niger and Benue Rivers, and I am unable to estimate when such work might begin nor how long it might take to complete.

APPENDIX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS PUBLIC WORKS

Victoria Island Flats

O.507. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: How much was spent on the construction of the Members' flats on Victoria Island and who were the contractors.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: £800,000, Sir. The main contractors were Messrs Arbico and Messrs Guinea Construction Company with the foundations being undertaken by Messrs Foundation Engineering Company.

Widening of Trunk A Roads

O.506. Mr S. J. Umoren asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: If he will consider the urgent necessity of widening all Trunk A Roads in the Federation so as to minimise the number of road accidents.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Minister has given continuous attention to the adequacy of Trunk Roads A and a roads planning section has been working on the width and specifications required for present and future traffic. The needs are well known to the Minister, but the limiting factor is lack of finance. It is hoped that the more urgent widening projects can be fitted into the next programme.

Approaches to Carter Bridge

O.508. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Works and Surveys; How much was spent last year on the improvements made

on the Iddo approach to Carter Bridge and the roads from Iddo to Ebute Metta and Iddo to Apapa road, and which firm of contractors did the work.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: A total of £84,626 was spent in 1960-61. The Contractor was Messrs Costain (West Africa) Limited.

Soil Survey

O.510. Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: If he will consider the possibility of including on the list, Udi East area, as one of those places to be visited by a team of Surveyors to carry out soil-survey in the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Ministry is not responsible for carrying out the soil survey to which the hon. Member refers. The Minister is, however, making enquiries from the Regional authorities and will inform the hon. Member of the outcome.

Okigwi-Awgu Road

O.511. Mr F. U. Ihe asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: When danger signs will be placed at Mile 2 from Okigwi on the Okigwi-Awgu Trunk A Road, in view of the fact that this place is dangerous to motor drivers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Federal Minister fully agrees with the suggestion of the hon. Member and instructions have been given for the placing of the signs.

Umuahia-Owerri Road

O.513. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: If he will consider the advisability of taking over, widening and tarring the road (30 miles approximately) joining the two Provincial Headquarters Umuahia and Owerri and passing from Mile 7½ on the Onitsha-Umuahia road through Ahiara, Nguru, Enyigugu, Emekuku to Owerri.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: No, Sir. It is considered that this road, although most important, is properly a Regional one.

Lafenwa Bridge

O.514. Mr J. D. Odeunmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what steps he proposes to take to ensure that the Lafenwa

Bridge at Abeokuta is properly drained so as to prevent water from collecting on it during the rains.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The bridge has been inspected to find out the reasons for the unsatisfactory drainage. Remedial measures are to be carried out shortly.

Abeokuta Trunk A Road

O.515. Mr J. D. Odeunmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he is aware that the Trunk A Road passing through Abeokuta is dangerously narrow, and what steps he proposes to take to widen it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The possibility of widening this section of Trunk Road A.9 passing through Abeokuta has been carefully examined. Because of the high cost and the disturbance that would be involved it is not practicable to widen the road. Subject to the agreement of the other authorities concerned, it is hoped to introduce a system of one-way traffic to avoid the worst part of this narrow road.

Lagos-Asaba Road

O.516. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Works and Surveys; Why the section of the Lagos-Asaba road which is in Benin-City is not tarred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Trunk A Road running through Benin City is tarred and improvements have been carried out recently.

Commercial Trunk B Roads

O.517. Chief R. A. Orok asked the Minister of Works and Surveys; whether he will take over some of the important commercial Trunk B Roads in the Regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: A review of Federal obligations for Trunk A Roads is at present being undertaken in the light of the finance likely to be available for road works during 1962-67, and in the light of representations from other Governments of the Federation.

Nsukka-Idah Road

O.518. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider taking over the Nsukka-Idah inter-regional road and developing this major link between the North and the South.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Minister has carefully noted the suggestion of the hon. Member. The other Governments of the Federation are making proposals as to the roads they would seek to transfer to Federal responsibility. The Nsukka-Idah road has not hitherto been brought to the attention of the Federal Government, and the hon. Member might care to take this matter up with the Ministry of Works in his Region.

Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road

O.519. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when the Benin-Ijebu-Lagos road will be completed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The work on the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin section of the road is expected to be completed by December 1963. Improvements to the Lagos-Shagamu section of the road will depend upon the finance that can be devoted to this work in the next Programme.

Ibadan-Ife Road

O.520. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys: When he proposes to straighten the section of the Ibadan-Ife Road at Mile 15.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys: The Minister has noted the Hon. Member's complaint. £40,000 has been allocated in the current financial year for special road improvements of this type in the Western Region. The Ministry of Works and Transport, Ibadan, has been invited to advise upon the relative priorities between this and the many other improvements needed. Should that Ministry give this particular improvement a sufficiently high priority the work will be carried out.

River Niger Bridge

O.521. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when work on the proposed River Niger bridge is expected to start.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Work has started. A large amount of earth filling to make a working area has been undertaken and much heavy plant has been, and now is being, moved to the site. The construction of the approach roads should begin in November, and it is hoped that bridging work will commence as soon as the wet season is over.

Victoria Island Flats

O.522. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider adding two more railings on the portico of members' flats at the Victoria Beach to reduce the gaps now existing with the two railings, in order to protect children of members from a possible slip through the two big gaps now existing on the portico.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : Yes, Sir. The work will be carried out after the present meeting of the House.

Trunk 'B' Roads

O.523. P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he has plans to convert more Trunk 'B' Roads into Trunk 'A' Roads ; and what roads are going to be affected in the Regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : As the House has been informed on several occasions a review of Federal obligations for main roads is being undertaken. It is not possible at the present stage to indicate the roads that will be affected, particularly as the availability of funds for road works during 1962-67 is still being examined.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS**Registered Trade Unions**

O.409. M. Haliru Gwandu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs how many registered Trade Unions were there in each of the years 1959 and 1960, and what was the strength of each union in each of these years.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : In 1959, there were 349 Trade Unions on the Register and in 1960—358.

The hon. Member will not wish to listen to a long recital of each Union's strength and I am arranging for the details to be sent to the hon. Member direct.

Wardresses

O.537. Chief R. A. Orok asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many wardresses are employed in the Prison Department throughout the whole country ; and how many of them are Senior Officer.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : There are 189 wardresses of whom 6 are Senior Wardresses 67 First, Second and Third Class Wardresses, 3 recruits and 113 temporary staff.

Wardress is not a Senior Officer rank.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Population Census**

O.529. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Economic Development how soon it is proposed to carry out a complete census of the population of Nigeria ; and what steps are being taken to ensure that accurate figures are obtained.

The Minister of Economic Development : A census will be held throughout the Federation in May 1962 and careful arrangements are being made by the Federal Census Officer in consultation with the Census Officers appointed by the Regional Governments to ensure that it is carried out with the greatest accuracy.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**Pioneer Industries**

O.551. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state the number and names of the industries granted the status of Pioneer Industry in each of the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960, and what are the nature and extent of tax relief granted to each of such industries.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : The Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Ordinance 1958, as did the Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance of 1952 which it superseded, operates in two stages. The industry is first declared "pioneer" and it is

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then possible for pioneer certificates to be granted to companies wishing to establish such an industry, provided certain conditions are fulfilled.

In 1957 the following nine industries were declared "pioneer".

- the manufacture of pharmaceuticals,
- the manufacture of carbon dioxide,
- the manufacture and assembly of lead-acid accumulators,
- the manufacture of matches,
- the machine-cleaning of Kapok,
- the manufacture of agricultural fertilizers,
- the manufacture from natural and synthetic fibres of sacks, bags and textiles including preparation, spinning, weaving and finishing,
- the manufacture of footwear, and
- the manufacture of goods made wholly or partly of rubber.

In 1958 four more were declared :

- the manufacture of goods made wholly or partly of metal other than precious metals, bone crushing,
- the manufacture of cosmetics and toilet preparations (other than perfume), and
- the manufacture and processing of iron and steel.

In 1959 five :

- hotel keeping,
- the manufacture of salt (sodium chloride),
- the cultivation and/or processing, blending and packing of tea,
- the processing of oilseeds, and
- the manufacture of articles of pulp, paper and paper board,

And in 1960 a further five :

- the manufacture of bakery products,
- the growing and processing of sugar cane ; manufacture and refining of sugar,
- the manufacture of industrial and medical gases,

factory scale reconstitution and processing of powdered milk, and

the mining and processing of barytes and associated minerals,

Making a total of twenty three in the four years.

In the four years thirty pioneer certificates were issued to the following companies :

1957 Nigerian Plastics Company limited,
Nigerian Tarpaulin Manufacturing Co. Limited,

1958 Crittall (Nigeria) Limited,
Apapa Chemical Industries Limited,
Williams and Williams (Nigeria) Limited,
Nigeria Foam Rubber Company Limited,
1959 Glaxo Laboratories (Nigeria) Limited

The Nigerian Carbon Dioxide Company Limited,

Seidler Nigerian Limited,
Tower Aluminium (Nigeria) Limited,
Asbestos Cement Products Nigeria Limited,

Nigerian Aluminium Products Limited,
West African Portland Cement Company Limited,

Victoria Beach Hotel Limited,
West African Asbestos Company Limited,
British Paints (West Africa) Limited,
Nigerian Embroidery Lace Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

1960 Swedish African Milk Company (Nigeria) Limited,

Aluminium Manufacturing Company of Nigeria Limited,

Port Hacourt Gas Producers Limited,
S. Raccah Limited,

Northern Enamelware Company Limited,
Odotola Tyre and Rubber Company Limited,

Nigerian Enamelware Company Limited,
Nigerian Box Factory Limited,
Nigerian Textiles Mills Limited,

Biscuit Manufacturing Company of Nigeria Limited,

Arakat Industries Limited,

Pioneer Biscuit Company (Nigeria) Limited,

Flour Mills of Nigeria Limited.

Of these companies twenty-one are now in production and will be relieved of the liability of paying the profits tax of 8s-0d in the £ under the Companies Income Tax Law 1961 for periods of between two and five years. The number of years of such relief will depend on the amount of capital spent on qualifying assets. No other tax concessions are given under the "pioneer" Ordinance.

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Com. = Committee

Q. = Question

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