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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 16th April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Labour Cards

O.304. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how many people obtained Labour Cards in each of the years from 1959 to 1962, and how many such people have secured employment through his Ministry.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor): The number of applicants who were given Labour Cards and the number of those placed in employment from 1959 to 1962 are as follows:—

Year	No. given Labour Cards	No. placed in Employ- ment
1959	109,287	5,177
1960	137,984	7,750
1961	134,772	8,413
1962	142,572	7,693

Registered School Leavers

O.358. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how many school leavers have registered for employment up to date and what plans he is making to solve the problem of unemployment in the country.

Mr Ezonbodor: At the end of February 1963, 6,491 Primary and 2,011 Secondary School Leavers were registered for employment at the Employment Exchanges operated by my Ministry.

On the question of the solution to the problem of unemployment, the Minister refers the Honourable Member to his answer to Question No. 141.

School Certificate Applicants

O.438 Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he

will state how many applicants with School Certificate have been unemployed in the Federal Territory since the attainment of Independence.

Mr Ezonbodor: Between 1st October, 1960 and 31st March, 1963, 11,256 applicants with secondary school education registered at the Juvenile Employment Exchange in Lagos. 2,483 of these were placed in employment. Of the 8,773 who remain on the register as unemployed, 8,043 failed to renew their registrations monthly as stipulated because they have either left the Federal Territory or got jobs on their own. However, at the end of March 1963, there were only 730 unemployed secondary school leavers on the "live" register.

MINES AND POWER

Aba South Oilfields

O.228. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he is aware that in Aba South there are two oilfields already being worked and if he will state the amount of the yield of oil from the two fields last year.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (M. Ahmadu Fatika): The Minister presumes the hon. Member is referring to the oilfields at Imo River and Oza.

The Imo River field is an important field in which nineteen wells have already been drilled; Crude oil production from this field during 1962 was some 2½ million barrels.

At Oza only two wells have been drilled so far; and at present the Company is concentrating its drilling effort on more favourable prospects. Crude oil production from this field during 1962 was some 166,000 barrels.

Mr Ememe: Will the hon. Minister tell us what compensation the Government is giving to these people in the areas from where such a heavy quantity of oil is being mined?

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuf Maitama Sule): The hon. Member is already aware that there is provision in the Nigerian Constitution whereby the royalty is shared between the Regional and the Federal Governments. I do not wish to add anything to that. Unless the Constitution is changed, there will be no change in that policy.

Natural Gas

*O.229. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Government has any plans within the Six-Year Development period to extend to towns like Obigbo, Ogwe, Akwere the supply of natural gas which has been found in abundance in Aba South.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : There are no plans in the Six-Year Development period to supply natural gas to Obigbo, Ogwe and Akwere.

The natural gas is to be supplied for specific projects of which Afam Power Station and the Trans-Amadi Industrial estate are two in Port-Harcourt area. Natural gas can only be transported economically by pipeline if the demand is substantial and fairly constant.

The Ministry has the problem of the utilisation of natural gas under constant review. Any general distribution of natural gas is not contemplated in the immediate future, except in industrial and thickly populated areas where the demand is substantial and economic transportation of gas can be achieved.

Oshun Minerals

*O.359. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when he will conduct an aerial survey of Oshun Division in order to find out its mineral potentialities.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The hon. Member is referred to the answer to the question No. 257 published in the Parliamentary Debates of 9th April, 1963, page 28.

Indigenous Miners

*O.360. Mallam J. M. Damla asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will advise and assist indigenous miners to form companies.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The hon. Minister has already made several visits to the Minesfield.

He met and advised the indigenous miners to amalgamate to form companies or co-operatives.

He emphasised in his advice to the indigenous miners that only by forming larger units can they expect to obtain aid from the Federal Loans Board.

Officials from the Ministry and the Federal Loans Board have met on a number of occasions to examine the question of loans to indigenous miners.

Ahoada and Elele

*O.361. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon Ahoada and Elele townships will be supplied with electricity.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The hon. Member is referred to Question No. 81 published in the Parliamentary Debates of the 2nd April, 1963 at page 7.

Elele town appears not to have been included in the list of towns submitted for possible development by the Eastern Regional Government.

Enugu Minerals

*O.439. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether any other minerals have been discovered around Enugu and, if so, how soon he hopes to tap them.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The Coal industry is centred on Enugu, iron ore is found in the vicinity, lead-zinc deposits occur at Abakaliki and limestone is found at Nkalagu which is being utilized for the manufacture of cement. Silica sands suitable for the manufacture of some kinds of glass are also found near Enugu.

The Minister of Mines and Power is responsible for the Geological Survey of Nigeria, whose task it is to discover minerals and, in the event of such discovery, to estimate the extent of the deposit. But he has no responsibility for tapping minerals. I am, however, happy to inform the hon. Member that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry has the question of industrial development and promotion in the forefront of his programme.

Udi Division

*O.440. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what minerals or gas deposits were discovered by the Shell D'Arcy Company in Amansiodo, Oghe, Udi division in or about 1956.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : An interesting show of gas was struck by Shell-BP in or about 1956 in Amansiodo No. 1 well, but after extensive testing of the formation it was concluded this deposit was not sufficiently large to be economically tapped.

The well was plugged and abandoned.

New Users of Coal

O.441. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if any part of the £500,000 set aside for research into other uses of coal has been released and if he will state how far work has gone.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The sum provided in the Capital Estimates under Head 222.—Trade and Industry, Sub-head 261.—Nigerian Coal Corporation : grant for research into new industrial uses for Nigerian coal is actually £250,000, not £500,000. Any amount needed for research by the Nigerian Coal Corporation will be released on the receipt of concrete proposals by the Federal Government. The Federal Government has under consideration a number of schemes: (1) the proposed Fertiliser Industry and (2) the Iron and Steel Industry to mention only two.

The Minister has recently received an offer from the Government of India to carry out experiments on Nigerian coal.

Geological Surveying

O.442. Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Mines and Power whether he would increase the strength of the Geological Survey teams so that the country's mineral resources can be tapped to the full to meet the economic need.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : A number of increases were made in the establishment of Geological Survey in the First Supplementary Estimates, 1962-63. These comprised :

- 1 Senior Geologist and 3 Geologists ;
- 2 Scientific Officers and 1 Laboratory Technologist ;
- 1 Driller and 8 Junior Service staff of various categories.

In addition, a number of specialists are being obtained through technical assistance.

The Minister does not consider that any further increase is warranted at the present time.

Ibarapa Mineral Survey

O.443. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if the mineral survey made in Ibadan District of Ibadan Division two years ago has revealed any trace of mineral deposits.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : No economic deposits minerals were allocated during the recent geological survey of Ibadan. A detailed account of the survey is to be published shortly together with a geological map in Geological Survey Bulletin No. 31.

Electricity for Offa

O.483. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when it is intended to supply electrical lighting to the people of Offa, as the wiring of the town has already been completed.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The installation of electricity in Offa had been completed but the supply of light was delayed owing to the overloading at the Erinle Station at Oshogbo.

A new plant has been installed to cope with the increase and the connection of light to Offa township will take place as soon as the installation has been inspected and approved.

Ajassepo, Omupo and Oro

O.484. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when it is intended to extend electricity to Ajassepo, Omupo and Oro in Ilorin Division.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : Ajassepo, Omupo and Oro in Ilorin Province were not included in the number of towns listed for preliminary survey by the North Regional Government.

It is not therefore possible at the moment to know when these towns would be supplied with electricity.

Other Mineral Deposits

***O.485. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Mines and Power what efforts are being made to find out where there are mineral deposits in Nigeria with a view to exploiting them.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The hon. Member's attention is invited to the provision in the Development Programme for the Expanded Survey or Mineral and Petroleum Resources and for the Airborne Geophysical survey. The establishment of the Geological Survey has been increased in the Supplementary Estimates, 1962-63 and in addition, the services of certain technical experts have been provided under technical assistance and the services of others are being sought.

[AHMADU FATIKA]

A start has been made on the Airborne Magnetometer Surveys in the Ilesha and Maru areas of Western and Northern Nigeria, which will help in mineral exploration. These surveys are being provided by the Canadian Government through technical assistance.

The Government of the United States has already made available a team of water supply geologists for work on underground water resources in the Chad and Sokoto basins and it is hoped that further assistance will be forthcoming from the United States Government for a mineral resources survey. The Government of Italy has recently made an offer to supply a team of geologists. Detailed plans for carrying out these surveys are now being worked out.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Is the Minister aware that mineral deposits are strategic and therefore it is not safe to leave the survey entirely in the hands of the Governments of Canada, United States of America and Italy?

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): It should be realised that at this stage of our economic development, we have got to depend on certain countries for expert advice. However, we are trying to attach Nigerians to experts we get from these countries so that they may see how the work is being carried out and, in the long run, they too will be in a position to help the Government of their own country.

Coal Consumers' Council

O.488. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will appoint a domestic Coal Consumers' Council in Nigeria.

M. Ahmadu Fatika: It is not considered necessary at the present time to appoint a domestic Coal Consumers' Council in Nigeria.

The major consumers are Government Corporations with the exception of the Cement Industry at Nkalagu which is in close liaison with the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

Electricity for Uyo and Ikot Ekpene

O.489. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Mines and Power, when the supply of electricity to the townships of Uyo and Ikot Ekpene may be expected.

M. Ahmadu Fatika: The installation of electricity in both Uyo and Ikot Ekpene is well advanced and would be commissioned as soon as the installation is completed, inspected and approved.

Future of Coal

O.490. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will make a statement on the future of the Coal Industries in Nigeria.

M. Ahmadu Fatika: The Federal Government has already appointed two Consultants under the technical aid schemes of the United Kingdom and the Federal Government of West Germany.

These Consultants are to advise on the future of the Coal Industry.

Oyo South Mineral Resources

O.491. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he would order investigations on the mineral resources of Ilora, Fiditi, Awe and Iware in Oyo South District Council Area.

M. Ahmadu Fatika: The towns lying within the Oyo South District Council Area have been recently geologically surveyed. It is expected to publish the geological map of this area, together with the explanatory bulletin in the near future. No economic deposits of minerals were allocated during the survey.

Electricity for Lafia

O.492. Mallam Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether in view of the importance of Lafia Town he will consider the inclusion of Lafia among the towns to be provided with electricity in the Six-Year Development Plan.

M. Ahmadu Fatika: Lafia Town is one of the towns already listed in Group 'B' for preliminary survey with a view to supplying it with electricity.

Niger Dam Project

O.493. Mallam Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether Benue Province as a whole will be among the areas to enjoy the benefit of electricity from power provided by the proposed Niger Dam.

Mr. Fatika : The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is not directly responsible for the Niger Dam Project. It is not possible at the moment to assure the hon. Member that the whole of the Benue Province will enjoy the benefit of electricity from the dam to be provided by the Niger Dam.

It may, however, interest the hon. Member to know that some towns in Benue Province are already listed as part of those to be surveyed for possible development for supply of electricity.

INFORMATION

External Broadcasting

***O.305. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Information, whether in view of the fact that news reading on the Nigerian External Broadcasting Service is not up to standard, he will take steps to effect improvement.

The Parliamentary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : I assure the hon. Member that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is making efforts to raise the standard of newsreading in its External Service. It is very difficult to recruit good newsreaders and many hundreds of possible candidates have been interviewed. There are plans to expand the External Broadcasting Service and the quality of the staff for newsreading is being given urgent attention.

The Publication Act, 1950

O.362. Dr Kalu Ezera asked the Minister of Information, whether he will consider amending the Federal Government's Publications Act, 1950, to enable legal depository rights for all publication made in the Federal Territory of Lagos and the three Regions to be conferred on the various University Libraries in the country.

Mr Yerokun : Yes, some consideration is being given to an amendment of the Publications Act. Discussions are proceeding among all concerned, that is to say, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information. The hon. Minister is, however, not in any position to give any form of assurance to my hon. Friend, Dr Kalu Ezera, as regards extending the legal depository rights to all the Nigerian universities.

We must note that there are already 5 universities. There are also the Nigerian National Library and the Regional Libraries to consider. Extending the rights to all these new institutions would mean that a publisher would be expected to deliver, at his expense, an additional 16 copies of any publication.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Is the Minister aware that such a move is long overdue and that to be afraid of expenditure on the part of Publishers, 16 copies of books to any publisher who prints about ten thousand or twenty thousand are nothing? This is overdue and the Minister is not sure now when he is going to introduce such a Bill.

Newspapers and Periodicals

O.363. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Information, how many newspapers and periodicals there are in the country.

Mr Yerokun : There are approximately 60 newspapers and 46 periodicals in the country.

The hon. Member will appreciate that each of the three Regional Governments has, since the 1958 Federal Newspaper Act, passed a Newspaper Law regulating the registration of newspapers and periodicals in each Region outside the knowledge of the Ministry of Information.

Accordingly, it is not possible to be exact as to the number of papers published, as some new ones might be registered for publication, or an old paper might cease publication with the knowledge of only the Regional Ministry of Information.

Overseas Publicity Media

O.364. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Information, what overseas media of publicity are there to propagate and put Nigeria and her activities on the world map.

Mr Yerokun : Three media are available for the external publicity of Nigeria :—

- (1) Magazines and publications
- (2) Nigerian Missions Overseas
- (3) Broadcasting : N.B.C. External Service.

The Information Division of the Ministry is responsible for producing magazines and various pamphlets, booklets, wall charts and handouts. "Federal Nigeria", a monthly

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): May I know whether he is the Labour leader number one or number two?

Mr Speaker: I have already said that Question Time is over.

Mr Ekanem: We appreciate the anxiety of the Government to adjourn the House within a few minutes' time. We have already indicated our willingness to have night sittings at any time it is brought up, but I want to make a point which I made last week.

To-day is Private Members' Day. Already we have so many Private Members' Motions coming up and yet a part of to-day is going to be used by the hon. the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice for Government Business. This is an infringement—a trespass on the rights of Private Members. I will urge the hon. Minister of Finance, the Leader of this House, to amend his Business Statement to include a night sitting to-day in order to enable Private Members' Motions to be fully debated in this House, otherwise, I will construe it to be a device by himself.

The Government, the Cabinet, the whole Government have conspired to frustrate the rights of Private Members. The Council of Ministers do not want Private Members' Motions to be debated in this House. As to-day is specifically earmarked for Private Members, I once again urge the Leader of the House to please amend his Business Statement.

The Minister of Finance: When a Labour Leader cannot be located as to what place he occupies, whether it is number one or number two or three, then, it is obvious that the Labour Leader has conspired against the workers.

Mr Ekanem: This is an improper motive, I can never, *repeat* never, conspire against the workers.

The Minister of Finance: Sir, my hon. Friend, the Member for Enyong South (*Mr P. E. Ekanem*), certainly was so happy to go away on Easter holidays, that he forgot what happened here on Thursday. If my hon. Friend will look at the proceedings of the House of Thursday, he will find there that we moved a Motion allowing night sittings to-day and

also making a provision for Private Members Business to take precedence over that of the Government.

In others words, we will deal with private Members Motions this morning first and if we finish, we can go to Government Business. This was done on Thursday last. From now to 6 p.m. is your allotted period and after that, 9 p.m. to 12 midnight will be for Government Business.

Mr Speaker: Order! In fact all this is out of order.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit *Tomorrow* from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.; from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. and from 9 p.m. till 12 midnight.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

PROPOSAL FOR REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): These are trying times. There is no doubt whatsoever that there is very great interest in this Motion, judging from the crowd of people both in the Gallery and elsewhere. However, Sir, I am excessively aware that the hon. Prime Minister will make a statement sometime later and that this statement is likely to cover all grounds. For this reason, with the leave of Mr Speaker and this honourable House, I do not move.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

10.40 a.m.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POST OFFICES

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): I rise to move the Motion, That this House calls upon the Government to build post offices in each Federal Constituency in the rural areas giving priority, to those places which have been able to build their own post or sub-post offices through communal effort, such as Ekpoma town in Ishan Division.

Mr Speaker: Order! The House should listen to the Debate in silence. There is far too much noise for business to continue in good order.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): On a point of information, a public Motion was coming up to-day: I filed an Amendment to

[DR OKEKE]

it and brought these books to persuade this honourable House to pass the Motion to change the name of Nigeria to Songhay.

Mr Speaker : It is indeed amazing that a person who is entitled to speak for only 30 minutes prepares to make reference to 30 books.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, I think that this country is paying too much for a rubber stamp. This Parliament is a rubber stamp. It is being misused and we are not doing our work. This is a rubber stamp. A Motion has been filed in the interest of the country and now somebody comes here to try to forestall the efforts of the hon. Member who is to move the Motion.

Mr Speaker : Order. I am sure the hon. Member, Mr Ukegbu, is entitled to move such a Motion in this House.

The Minister of Finance : With your permission, Sir, I must say with very great respect to my hon. Friend, Mr Ukegbu, that I think that it is not fair to make remarks in this House that will not only cast some aspersion on the House and the Government but also on very respectable debaters. This Motion is filed by the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*), well known for his frankness and fearlessness in Debates on the Floor of this House, the hon. Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*), the stormy petrel of Enugu and one that speaks fearlessly on the Floor of this House; the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*Mallam Ibrahim Gusau*), one of our very best Front Benchers and an able debater; and the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*), a well-known Barrister-at-Law and debater here. If there are certain people who never listen to reason they should not blame others who are reasonable.

Mr Speaker : Really, the younger Members of this House should make sure of what they say on the Floor of this House.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, I would like to know if the House asked hon. Chiedozie, hon. Muojeke and others to state their stand in this matter and whether they are agreed to—

Mr Speaker : Order. We have passed that Motion now.

Chief Dame-Oboh : I said that since our election to this Parliament on the 12th December, 1959, we have come here many times. Every hon. Member before winding up his speech has always tried to mention post offices and telecommunications. Members of this honourable House have for long been demanding that every Constituency be provided with a post office. I put up this Motion in order that the Minister in charge may know that all Members are very much frustrated over this demand. During Questions and during debate on Motions Members have continued to make the same demand, shouting that every Constituency be provided with a sub-post office or post office.

By the words, "giving priority to those places which have been able to build their own post or sub-post offices through communal effort," I mean that in some areas the people are so ambitious that they raised funds by communal effort and used communal labour to build their post offices in order that the Government might take them over or in order that the Government might convert them to full-fledged post offices. In those areas, nothing has been done. An example is Ekpoma Town in Ishan Division, a rural area from where I come. We have our own sub-post office built by communal labour. We have been demanding, sending petitions to the Minister in charge and to all the officials concerned. Up till to-day we have not got a better answer. The reply to my last Question to the Minister of Communications was that it was going to be built and that it would be Type D. We have continued to expect this Type D post office but in vain.

I further asked whether it was going to be among the 14 post offices the Minister proposed to build. There was no reply. The Minister went so far as to tell us that before a sub-post office or post office can be made a full-fledged post office it must acquire 24,000 units. This Post Office at Ekpoma, I can say without fear, is up to 24,000 units, if not more. There are so many constituencies like that. Throughout the whole Federation, people suffer to get their letters, people suffer to receive their telegrams. Now that we are all here in Lagos, some have got the opportunity of tele-

phoning their people in their homes. For others, if even they write a letter or send a telegram they themselves will get home before the addressee receives it.

I am saying that it is the desire of every constituency to have a post office. There are so many post offices built by the Minister of Communications in various places which in fact have not acquired 24,000 units. Some post offices exist in some places not really because such places deserve to have them. I will give an example if this honourable House wants me to do so. At any rate the Minister of Communications knows those people who are his friends and in whose area he has recently sited a post office, and also those of his friends whose sub-post office he recently upgraded to a full post office.

During the colonial days we often cried that the colonialists did come to this country only to dominate and exploit us. Now that we have got our independence we cannot say that we are being exploited by the colonialists. But what is happening now is that something similar to exploitation is going on in this country. That is to say, the Ministers do anything they like. They pay attention to developing their respective constituencies only at the expense of other areas of this country. After all what can the Federal Government do for the people of my area other than provide them with a post office? The people will thereby know that the Federal Government exists. The Regional Government has done well for the people of my area.

Since the appointment of the Minister of Communications he cannot claim that he has ever toured the rural areas to see for himself how people in the rural areas are suffering from lack of communication facilities. The only places the Minister visited are Benin, Port Harcourt and Kano.

I am not moving this Motion for the interest of my constituency alone. I am speaking on behalf of all the people in the rural areas. In view of this I beg to move.

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu): I rise to second this Motion. This Motion is very timely and this is an opportunity for us to tell the Minister of Communications of the necessity of installing

sub-post offices and post offices throughout the Federation.

In the first instance the development project we are trying to carry out cannot materialise unless post offices are sited in the rural areas. To give an example, if a man wants to establish a salt industry in a rural area and there is no post office, by what means can the investor communicate with the outside world? How will he be able to deal with all the affairs connected with that salt industry? I think this is one of the reasons people in the rural areas are saying that industries are being centred only in townships. It will be practically impossible for a man to site an industry in an area where there are no communication facilities.

Another instance is that telecommunication has come to be the most important—at least one of the most important—things affecting all of us, the Legislators who are the representatives of the people in the various parts of this country. For example, if a Member wants to telephone his constituency to tell his people that he has achieved something for them during the sitting of this House, he cannot do so because telecommunication may not exist in his constituency. One ought to sympathize with the people in the rural areas when one comes to know that people there travel a distance of up to 30 miles for the purpose of posting letters.

In view of the realization of the necessity to have at least a sub-post office the people in my area gathered together and through communal effort collected up to £4,000 for the purpose of building a sub-post office for themselves. People in other villages do the same thing. But when they ask the Minister of Communications to upgrade their sub-post office to a full post office the Minister often turns a deaf ear. I think these people should be congratulated on doing something that the Government should have done. They are in fact helping the Government. I know the Minister of Communications has multifarious work to do, yet he ought to come down to us to help us.

Look at the North for example, which is a vast Region. It takes a man more than 30 miles to get to a post office. I wonder how the life of the people in such places would be. Take Eastern Region as another example

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

where so many villagers gather together and collect money through communal effort to establish for themselves a small post office, to show really that they want to help the Government and then ask the Government to do the rest. Unfortunately the Government does not encourage these villagers.

I am appealing to the Minister of Communications to establish more and more post offices in the country. Every constituency should have at least one small post office. There are some places with a heavy concentration of population, there are some very high industrial areas and they want more post offices. A Federal constituency which is large enough should have at least one major post office. I want to appeal to the hon. Minister of Communications that we are going to vote for him if he will assure us on the Floor of this House that all the post offices which have been put up by the people will now be converted into first class post offices. That is one point.

Another point is that expert investigation should be carried out in the various constituencies of this large Federation to find out how to site these post offices in every Federal constituency before this House is dissolved to ensure that we do the job very well. We are not saying that the Minister is not doing his work but the responsibilities facing him are very many and we want him to come down. How many times has the Minister toured the Federation? It is not just a matter of coming to a township. This is a matter of coming to see the people. We have won our independence and we should let our people know that we are helping them. I am not castigating anybody, but I think that our Minister has got much work to do on this question of postal facilities.

I will give you an instance. At Enugu we have been clamouring for the past six years for a post office for Ogbete. The post office has not been established. The land was surveyed and everything marked out. Every year the Minister says that efforts are being made. How can we continue making efforts *ad infinitum*? I am saying with all respect that one of the things that we can show the people as what we have provided for them is a post office. How can a man who treks 30 miles to post a letter vote for an hon.

Member in the next election? He will not vote. We are saying that this is an opportunity for us to tell the Minister the naked truth about the problems facing us in postal communications.

I beg to second this important Motion.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) *rose*—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I have my name on the Order Paper to move an Amendment to this Motion.

Mr Speaker : You have not lost your chance of Amendment. I would like to hear the Government's view on that before moving any Amendment.

Mr Ekanem : I am speaking in favour of this Motion. I associate myself entirely with the views expressed by my hon. Friend, Mr Chiedozi. After all, there will be no Government through the ballot boxes if there are no rural areas. The Minister of Communications in particular is from a rural area, and he will agree with me that the building of post offices in every Federal constituency, including the Minister's constituency is a very important amenity. For the first time, I must thank our imperial masters because without them most areas, most townships, would have had no post offices. If the Minister of Communications wishes to contradict what I say, he should tell this House categorically, where he has built a post office since he became a Minister. To expand and renovate post offices built in the early 20's is not a credit to the present Minister.

I come from a rural area like most of the hon. Members. But hon. Members will agree with me that when they arrived for the present Session of the House a great many of them did not get the Estimates, and yet we were coming here to debate it. We were only given copies here to enable us to debate the Estimates. Why was that?

Mr Speaker : That is not relevant.

Mr Ekanem : What is the cause of that? It is because there is almost a distance of 24 miles from one town to a post office in a constituency. Let me take an area with which I am conversant, unless the Minister of Communications, who is sitting here at the moment, will say that it is not so. What is the distance from my constituency to Itu itself?

It is a distance of not less than 25 miles, and you can imagine somebody at the tail end of my constituency trekking to post a letter. I am only citing an example.

The Regional Governments have tried their best and we must remember that telecommunications is not in the Concurrent List, it is a Federal subject. I have been saying it in this House that a good father should not discriminate against his children, and if the Federal Government, or the Minister of Communications, to use the official designation, is worth his salt, he should see to it that every Federal constituency in this country has at least a post office.

Coming to the details of this Motion, it is not only the post office in Ekpoma in Ishan Division, Benin Province, that has been built with communal effort but also all the post offices throughout the rural areas. We have been crying to the Federal Government through the Minister of Communications on the Floor of this House, times without number, to come over to Macedonia and help us, to lend a helping hand. We have an adage in my area which says, "He that goes to draw water will ask for help only after lifting the pot to the level of his knee". These people have built post offices out of their own communal efforts and are now calling on the Government to come and help. Will the Government not hearken to this call? If the Government does not hearken to this call, I do not know how we will form another Government. I do not even know how the Federal Government will be able to communicate with all the electoral officers in the rural areas.

I would not like to belabour this Motion except to commend it, in the language known to this House, and to say that he who opposes the Motion is not worthy to be a Member of this House. He should not even be expected to come back to this House, for we shall use it against him, be that man a Minister, an Opposition Member, or a member of any political party.

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile): This is a threat. I think the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) should withdraw his threat.

Mr Speaker: Order. It is, probably; but it may not be effective.

Mr Ekanem: When one has a guilty conscience one is afraid of even one's shadow.

As I was saying nobody can be a Minister, and nobody can be a Member of this House without the suffering people of these areas, and in order to eliminate some of these sufferings—post offices and telecommunications facilities in the rural areas must be regarded as a great necessity. It is not enough to fly to Enugu or to Calabar or to drive in a big limousine to open a post office in Enyong. It is not enough to fly to Okitipupa to open a post office. It is not enough to fly and see the extension and the renovation of existing post offices. Where are the new post offices the Minister has built in the rural areas?

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): Will the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) address the Speaker?

Mr Ekanem: Everyone of us, every Minister in this House, is capable of leaving a footprint on the sands of time. And, therefore, the only footprint that the Minister of Communications, and this Government, would leave on the sands of time of the rural areas would be for this Government to establish post offices throughout the rural areas and not only industries. Post offices should be established not only in Kaduna, not only in Enugu, not only in Lagos, Ibadan, Jos, *et cetera*, but in all the rural areas.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South): I rise to support this Motion. It is a fact now that should be understood by our Government that whenever any matter which touches the rural area comes to this House, it receives our wholehearted support. This is because some of us who have been here for about four years—some of us were elected into the Parliament in 1959—after the life of this Parliament has expired, will find it rather difficult to go home to the rural areas and be able, at the end of the five years in this Parliament, to tell our people and show them that we have done some concrete things for them.

[MR ENEFOLA]

It is nice to come here and listen to the Government give account of their stewardship, but it is time for us to show our constituencies something concrete which the Government has done for us during the time we have been in this House. And the time is getting shorter and shorter every day. It will be very bad if we are unable to show them anything, and there is no need coming to tell the people, "Vote for me again, send me to Parliament again", when we cannot tell them what we have done for them all these years. The Ministry of Communications is one of the major means by which we shall be able to do something for our people which they can see.

I am going to advance three reasons why rural areas should be served with postal services—post offices and postal agencies. Often we come here and ask when a post office will be built for this or that town, and what we hear is "units" and so on. They tell us about 24,000 or 18,000 units, and so on, before any area can be eligible for a post office or postal agency. I would like to remind the Minister of Communications that education is expanding rapidly in this country. Since education has been regionalised, more schools are being built so that within a year or so, it will be found that those who have not been awakened to education are fast catching up now and will soon level up.

It is not good to have so many schools situated in an area and when these children are taught about postal services and post offices they are not able to see a post office. I would like the Minister of Communications, in consultation with the Minister of Education, to try to take statistics of how many schools are being built and how they are expanding, so that where we have a constituency with about twenty schools—perhaps in 1959 there were only about five schools and it is possible now that within a year we can have about as many schools built in many other constituencies—the Minister of Communications should provide at least one post office for such an area. In these areas, these school children often have to walk about forty to fifty miles in order to reach the nearest post office. In addition, it will be actually difficult for teachers to labour in the classrooms telling children about how to post letters and so on, when

they have not got any facilities where these kids can experience practically all these things that they are taught.

The second point is that now that industries are concentrated in the towns and we are crying that they should be established in the rural areas, it is particularly difficult to get these demands of ours through. With the establishment of industries in the townships we find a mass exodus of people from the rural areas into the towns. Many are just leaving the rural areas and going to the towns. All these people will obviously like to be linked with their families at home, and the only way they can get in regular contact with their people is through the post office. There are so many people who leave the rural areas, come into Lagos here, and cannot write a letter home to their people. Sometimes they write letters and these letters get lost in transit. Sometimes, too, they send money to their people and the money is lost in transit. There are all these troubles and complications with regard to the postal services and facilities.

If because we are concentrating industries in townships, factors that would have helped industries in the rural areas are neglected, then let these people who come to work in these industries have a means of contacting their people at home. If they have more postal facilities in their areas, they will surely be able to get in contact with their people. There are people who have lost contact with their children, their families, *et cetera*, because they have left the rural areas for urban areas.

The third reason is that while we are talking about savings, if we are to save and give the people in the rural areas the facilities for saving, postal services will be one of the ways of encouraging savings. Where we have no bank and we have a post office in a rural area, we can still save in the post office. In some more advanced countries like Great Britain, children start saving their money from school. They save in pennies and three pences, by buying stamps and stamp books which, after they have left school, they can change into money. Without post offices and postal services, savings will be very difficult, and it is, I think, a lot easier to build a post office in the rural areas than to build a bank. Without a bank or a post office, how can we try to make

the people save? Where will they save this money that we want them to save? To make people in the rural areas participate in our projects by savings, we must either have post offices or banks.

Enough cannot be said about these rural areas. It is high time we should have the rural areas attended to. Otherwise, it only means that we come here to vote money for the Government to work with, without anything which we can point to our people as something which the Federal Government has done for them during this time that we are representing them in the Parliament.

I beg to support.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Agbaja and Ngwo): I think this is an occasion in which we shall have to pay tribute to the former Minister of Communications and Aviation, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe. We realise that in 1955 the Federal Parliament passed a motion calling on the Government to establish post offices at all the headquarters of every division in this Federation. Not only that, we also called on the Government to establish telephone services at all the headquarters, county councils, *et cetera*, in the Federation. As a result, various White Papers were produced and were being executed.

Well, the efforts of Dr K. O. Mbadiwe can be seen by the various post offices that are being opened now by the present Minister of Communications. It will be interesting to note that since the present Minister took over the portfolio of Communications, he has not, repeat he has not, taken it upon himself to project any new post office in any of the rural areas in the Federation.

Several hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr Eneh: It is the intention of this House to-day, to call on the present Minister not only to open post office, but also to accept the challenge thrown to him in this House to see to it that every constituency in this country—every Federal constituency—is provided with at least a post office.

Several hon. Members: Not only one, about two or three.

Mr Eneh: I am following the wording of the Motion. The Minister of Communications should be congratulated at least—

Several hon. Members: No! No! For what? Do not contradict yourself.

Mr Eneh: At least in 1955, the revenue that was being derived from that Ministry was under £2 million. But to-day, this has risen to more than £6 million. We have this recorded—from stamps £1.5 million, payment on telephones roughly £4 million. But those were the expansions which were projected by the former Minister of Communications. This honourable House is now calling on the present Minister to establish new post offices in the various constituencies.

I am now going to give an example of what I mean. There are so many official red tapes in the Ministry of Communications. If people build a post office in their area, the Ministry will not agree to take it over; if people, through their own effort, build a postal agency, the Ministry will not agree to take it over; and where even the people have built and staffed a post office by their own communal effort, the Ministry will still refuse to connect it with the major post office that is nearby. Why should the Ministry refuse to approve a post office which has been built by the people by their own effort? Why also should the Ministry refuse to connect such a post office with the Federal post office? Every time, we see the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister reading his catechism here that under Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 the Government is tied down. He repeats it so often that one feels that the statement has become a government catechism, and it appears to me that this government catechism never changes.

I think that the Minister of Communications should come along to the rural areas to examine whether the figure of 24,000 is not too much to ask for in respect of a postal agency in the rural area. I am wondering why this figure has not been reduced to 15,000.

Several hon. Members: Or 10,000 units.

Mr Eneh: Yes, or even 10,000. As my hon. Friend the Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) has rightly pointed out, the only aspect of the Federal Government's activities that one sees in the rural areas is the Posts and Telegraphs Department. If we fail to give the people the services they require, how can they know that this Federal Government exists!

[MR ENEH]

Another hon. Friend of mine in the Northern Region once told a person who intended to telephone him, that if the call was made via Bida he would not get it because he lives 85 miles away from Bida and the nearest Postal Agency is sixteen miles from his house. I was shocked, and I am sure it will shock everyone to learn that a Member of Parliament is 85 miles away from the nearest telephone exchange. This is unheard of. There are people whose position is worse than the one I have just mentioned. I think a good reappraisal of this matter should be made by the Government. It is not only a question of passing a Motion in this House and the Government tucking it away in the pigeon-hole somewhere, but rather it is a question of examining every constituency in the rural areas of this Federation with a view to supplying it with adequate postal services.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile) : I think it is a matter for regret when hon. Members of this House who are respected for their length of service here and who are therefore expected to understand the working of Government show such dismal lack of understanding of what is happening. (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members : That is an insult. Withdraw it !

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : On a point of order, I am raising a very strong objection to the expression just used by the Minister of Communications. We are not schoolboys, and the Minister is not here as a teacher to teach us. I am, therefore, asking, with your permission, Mr Speaker, that the Minister should withdraw that expression.

Several hon. Members : Yes, yes !

Mr Speaker : I do not think that the hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) listened to the expression properly.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh : I think the Minister of Communications should be polite enough to withdraw that remark, otherwise we are prepared to give it back to him. He has no right to come and bully us here.

Mr Speaker : Yes, this is not the Nigerian Army.

The Minister of Communications : The hon. Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr Eneh*) was probably here in 1955, and he knows that in that year this House approved a programme for the next six years and also approved the funds for each item brought by my predecessor, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe. Since then, successors in that Ministry have been engaged in carrying out the contents of that programme and using only the money that was made available in 1955. Again, it was not only that the programme was made for 1955 to 1960, it was further extended to 1962. When that happens, Members of Parliament expect that officials and Ministers should carry out a programme which has been laid down, without injecting anything into it.

That apart, Members of this House are also aware that the various Ministries are producing, for their consideration sometime this year, a programme which the Government will interpret in the country from 1962 to 1968. That programme has not come here and I think, therefore, that I cannot accept responsibility for what has not already been done or embodied in the programme which was made in 1955.

Be that as it may, I will also say that in 1957, a Policy Paper on the cost of development of postal and telecommunications services was brought here by the same Minister—I am referring to Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. I have indicated in this House that I consider that that Paper has now been overtaken by time and that I am bringing forward this year for the consideration of this House a new White Paper. (*Interruptions*). If hon. Members will only listen. After all, we all belong to this House together, and it does not belong to anyone of us.

An hon. Member : We have only made you a caretaker !

The Minister of Communications : I have indicated that along with the new programme, I should be bringing here a Policy Paper on the future development of postal services which will show a liberalisation of the policy which we have carried out so far. (*Hear, hear*).

Apart from that, I think it is right that Members of Parliament, as leaders of our country, such as they are, must guide the public about what the Government is seeking to do, so as to make sure that whatever money we have in this country is spent to make the wealth of the country increase as rapidly as possible, so that social facilities can be expanded equally rapidly. (*Hear, hear*).

The development of postal and telecommunications services is intended to run ahead of other stages of our development because without an improved system of communications, it will not be easy to carry out the major development which we have on hand. Hon. Members have suggested that there is £670 million to be spent. I would be amazed if any hon. Member should suggest that £670 million should be spent on producing only postal agencies and post offices and leave industries alone. That is the implication which has been given. To that extent, may I say that when you, Mr Speaker, give me the facility sometime this week to speak on my own Head of the Estimates, hon. Members will feel reasonably satisfied that we are putting in hand the machinery to help them not only in their constituencies but also to help the country to make the rapid economic advances which it deserves.

Coming to this Motion, I would like to advise the Mover of the Motion to withdraw it at a later stage in this Debate.

Several hon. Members : No, no !

The Minister of Communications : If he does not, I will ask the House to reject the Motion. May I proceed with my reasons. Firstly, I should make it clear that I am going to make this move for two reasons and on two grounds. The first ground is that the Motion, as it is presently worded, is vague, is contradictory and is certainly not helpful to the rural areas. My reason is that the first half of the Motion calls on the Federal Government to build post offices in each Federal constituency in the rural areas, thus giving the impression that there are still certain Federal constituencies in this country which have no postal facilities at all. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, I challenge each and every hon. Member here to show to you, Sir, and to show to this country that in their whole Federal constituency there

is not a single postal facility. That is what the Motion says. Postal facilities means post office in one form or another.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : On a point of order, I accept the challenge, there is no post office in my constituency. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : The volume of interruptions is getting greater and greater. I would like hon. Members to please co-operate.

The Minister of Communications : The second ground is that this Motion, which may have been calculated in the mind of the Mover to assist the development of postal facilities in the rural areas, will have quite the opposite effect because the second half of the Motion calls on the Federal Government to give priority to those places which have been able to build their own post or sub-post offices through communal effort. If I may explain. The implication of this Motion had never been fully studied by the Mover because the first half contradicts the second half in no uncertain terms, and because the ultimate effect of this Motion, if carried, could ruin the present harmonious development of postal facilities in the rural areas in favour, firstly, of those Divisions with a great number of constituencies irrespective of—(*Interruptions*). And here, with your permission, I would like to quote the Motion again—

“That this House calls upon the Government to build post offices in each Federal Constituency in the rural areas giving priority, to those places which have been able to build their own post or sub-post offices through communal effort, such as Ekpoma town in Ishan Division.”

What it says is that it should be built in those Divisions with a great number of constituencies irrespective of the number of illiterate population in this constituency and, secondly, in favour of those areas which, for some reason or the other, have traditions for communal effort. Again, irrespective of the illiterate population of the constituency concerned. If we stretch the argument of the hon. Mover of this Motion, the hon. Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) to its logical conclusion, it means that in a rural area where there is enormous concentration of population over a small area, there would be as many post

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]

offices as there are constituencies irrespective of the number of illiterate population, commercial or industrial growth of this constituency.

The other interpretation of this Motion is that where a Federal constituency covers a large area of land because it is thinly populated, the Mover considers that the problem can be solved by building only one post office. It is obvious to this honourable House that in the first example, it will be preferable to build one large post office in the area and, in the second example, several postal agencies rather than a post office. That is the point. This means that he has not asked for postal agencies, he asked for post office and, therefore, if hon. Members want us to build post office they will get less postal facilities than they will get by our building postal agencies. This means in effect that far from assisting the rural areas, the effect of this Motion is to jeopardise their case and reverse the progress already made.

In regard to the second half of this Motion, let us suppose that there is a rural area in which people have a tradition for communal labour, and for some reason or other, there is a second rural community where there is a strong labour force and where people will be reluctant to join in a communal labour effort. In accordance with the views of the hon. Mover of this Motion, all communal efforts should be automatically rewarded irrespective of the actual need of that community or communities as a whole. I must remind this House that not all communal efforts are sustained over a long period of time. Do we then in the first instance build post offices and sub-post offices which will fall into disuse, and refuse the demand of the community engaged for example on a plantation scheme in Ikom; a rubber estate at Oban; mining area at Bukuru, or petrol work in some rural areas? I say that the arguments are completely contradictory.

Clearly, the second half of this Motion does not favour the interest of the rural areas as a whole. Worse still, the first half of this Motion is irreconcilable with the second half of it. The reason is this. If we are now to undertake to build post offices in each federal constituency as a matter of policy, then how can we carry out this policy in those constituencies which for some reason or other do not and cannot carry out communal projects on

their own? I have tried to show the House that the purpose of this Motion is misconstrued and unjustifiable because it cannot withstand the test of reason, nor is it in the best interest of the rural areas.

I have on more than one occasion referred to Dr K. O. Mbadiwe's Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 which forms the basis of the existing Government policy on the building of new post offices. Without wasting more time of the House I would draw the attention of the Mover of this Motion to the relevant paragraph of that Sessional Paper. What I wish to do instead—although I hope to have an opportunity to discuss post office matters shortly during the discussion on the Appropriation Bill in the Committee Stage—is to introduce shortly too a white paper on postal development which will liberalise the standards laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The effect of the new policy would be to expand postal facilities to many rural areas in a way and manner which will benefit every area and reduce Government expenditure and increase revenue.

I will let out a secret to the House and say that when the new policy comes into effect 100 of the existing postal agencies will qualify for immediate conversion with 40 more to follow shortly after. About 45 new post offices will be built. Incidentally, £7,000 will be expended on the existing sub-post office at Ikpoma to bring it up to a larger post office. I hope that my last sentence will effectively give the light to the constant repetition in this House of a certain section of Members of Parliament that they are discriminated against, or that some people only look after themselves. I think that the time has come when Members of Parliament, and particularly when they belong to the Opposition, must never forget that when they speak in this House they speak to the world about Nigeria and therefore must weigh carefully the sort of things they do say. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order. This heckling is getting more and more serious. I think it is time it was stopped. The hon. Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) must keep silent.

The Minister of Communications : Extension to ten existing post offices will take place and altogether a sum of £1,633,000 will

be committed to the new project. All this scheme will be carried out with the right emphasis on the development of postal facilities for rural areas and without any detriment to the finances of the Federal Government. This will require careful and thoughtful planning so as to ensure that demands based on the rate of literacy, commercial and industrial needs, are met *pari passu* with the yearnings of the rural areas so that our gains from the development zones will be carefully weighted with those of the under-developed areas of our country. In this way, the Federal Government will continue to give more and better services without any additional cost.

If we should accept any hazardous and ill-considered plan then we would be courting disaster because what we can do better and cheaper will be sacrificed for expensive and unproductive schemes. Therefore, in the interest of the rural areas, I would call upon the Mover of this Motion to withdraw it, or the House to reject it.

11.47 a.m.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): All of us here represent different areas. We agree that when we speak in this House we speak for our nation. But at the same time charity begins at home. We all have constituencies to which we are responsible. And we believe also that the development of any of these constituencies is the development of Nigeria as a whole.

Now, those of us in this House are placed at a disadvantage. Members of the Regional Houses of Assembly have all sorts of facilities which they can take to their various constituencies. We here are placed at a great disadvantage and we should have thought that the Government would come forward to help us. If we ask for electricity we cannot get it. We now ask for post offices and we cannot get them. After all, there are only 288 constituencies in the country. I think that there must be already in existence a hundred post offices. Therefore what is required to be built now is not up to 200 post offices if we are going to have one in every constituency. But I think that it must be appreciated that the wealth of Nigeria comes from the rural areas. It is the agricultural products which this Government relies upon for its wealth. It

is with the wealth which the rural areas provide that the Government is able to feed the cities—Lagos, Kano, Ibadan and other important towns in this country. For God's sake, I think it is high time the Government did something for the rural areas. If the people in the rural areas cannot post their letters in good places, places where there is efficiency, how can they develop? If we say that all the money that we make must be put into areas that have already been developed I think it will be wrong.

I said earlier that I accept the challenge of the Minister. In my own constituency there is no post office, and there are 130,000 people in that area.

The Minister of Communications: On a point of order, the hon. Member says that there are no postal facilities in his constituency.

Mr Speaker: I think he made it clear that he was referring to post office, although I quite agree with the Minister that this matter should not be belaboured.

Chief Rosiji: There are many rural areas in the country. I do not know of Kano, I do not know of Gombe, but I know of Owode. This is not playing politics, this is a serious matter. Elections are coming soon; we all will go back to our rural areas and they will ask us what we have brought to these places. I think it is important that the Minister should appreciate the fact that a Government is not there just to make money. When you say that you are basing everything on what money the post offices can bring, and what trade is in the area, you are implying that the Government is here only to make money. It is not a commercial House. The Government is not a company. It is a Government of the people, for the people and by the people. I hope that the Minister appreciates that. So I implore the hon. Minister to accept this Motion.

When we leave here to-day our people will want to know whether they are to have post offices or not. I beg to support the Motion.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): I filed an Amendment to this Motion—

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North): On a point of order, I just want the House to take notice of some hon. Members of this House who are now used to filing Amendments on every

[MR CHUKWU]

Motion without giving notice to the original Mover of the Motion. If you go through this Order Paper, you will see that Dr Okeke has filed an Amendment on every Motion. In the first Motion on the Order Paper he wants the name of Nigeria to be changed to Songhay. I do not know what he means by this.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Member is entitled to such Amendments.

Dr Okeke : I have read through the Motion. It seems that the devil is in this Motion. The Minister of Communications has tried to explain how clumsily worded the original Motion is. I tried to amend it and asked for the words, "post or" to be deleted, but this Amendment did not come up. I asked to leave off from "such" to the end but the Order Paper says "leave off from 'effort' to the end", which makes nonsense of the Amendment. This shows that either there is a mistake on my part, or there is a mistake on the part of the people in the office, but something is wrong with this Motion and the Amendment and in the spirit in which the Minister has just explained things, it is better withdrawn so that we may start all over again. There is no need carrying new wine in old bottles because you spill the new wine and ruin the old bottles.

I withdraw my Amendment because we shall go back again. I am supporting the Minister's statement that the original Motion be withdrawn because this Motion, as it stands, cannot be amended as everything is wrong with it. I tried my best but it did not come out right.

Mr Speaker, I withdraw the Amendment.

Mr V. L. Lajide : (Ogbomosho South) : On a point of order, may we know whether the doctor of Amendments is withdrawing all the Amendments in the Order Paper or just one.

Mr Speaker : What some hon. Members do not realise is that doctors always amend.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Original Motion put and negatived.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : I beg to move the Motion which stands in my name on the Order Paper, That this House deeply

conscious of the human tragedy that is behind the continuing high level of road accidents, urges the Federal Government to take prompt steps whether by Legislation or otherwise calculated to reduce drastically the number of these road accidents.

I am surprised that the Minister wishes to amend this Motion. The Motion is simple and straightforward, and I thought that that would have commended it to the Members of this House and to the Government as well.

Apart from the slave trade no other scourge or plague has cost our country more precious lives, both quantitatively and qualitatively than road accidents. The astronomical rate at which road accidents mount day by day is as alarming as it is distressing. Our daily news, whether from the radio or from the press, is never complete without the ghastly news of these accidents from one part of the Federation or the other.

I will only give a random example of the nature of our road accidents : Hon. Members will remember that along Ikorodu-Lagos Road a vehicle was reported to have plunged into a stream with all the passengers and the loads perishing in the stream because the bridge collapsed. Again, at Onitsha, a vehicle, fully loaded and travelling from Lagos to Onitsha was being carried in a Government-sponsored ferry when it dropped into a stream with everything inside it. Many lawyers who happen to deal with fatal accidents know very well about this.

There was the case of a vehicle which was travelling from Jos to Kano. It so happened that it ran from the main road into the bush, collided with a tree and stopped. The passengers and loads all perished. Some time last year there was a very big flood and the bridge across the Trunk 'A' road at Ugwuoba in Awka Division was carried away by the flood, with the result that on-coming drivers did not notice that the bridge had been swept away and then they plunged their vehicles into the stream. With these examples, it could be seen that road accidents in the country are mounting day by day. They are on the increase, not on the decrease—that is the special feature about our road accidents.

Reference could also be made to the fact that most of our illustrious sons have perished in road accidents. In this connection I might

mention the case of a member of the Western House of Assembly who was very famous, very well-known and very dynamic. I have in mind the late Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu. We are not talking about him as such but I just want to mention the point that he perished in a road accident.

Again, I will mention a case that took place only two months ago involving an educationist who was given an appointment in the United Kingdom. He was travelling from Onitsha to Lagos to take a plane bound for U.K., but even before he reached Ibadan he sustained an accident. I have in mind Mr Erinne. In fact, there are examples galore. There is another case of the Chief Whip in the Eastern House of Assembly. He was on his way to perform the funeral ceremony of his relative in his area when he was involved in a road accident, even before reaching Onitsha; and on my right a seat has been left vacant not because the Member has resigned, but because he perished in a motor accident, and that is Mr L. N. Ezeani, the Member for Onitsha North. May his soul rest in peace.

Indeed, most of our Members have experienced motor accidents in one form or the other either their cars have been smashed or they have been left stranded on the roads because of a motor accident, which, perhaps, had involved some passengers with their heads smashed to pieces and with bruises all over their bodies.

We all know that both the Federal Government and Regional Governments are doing their very best (there is no doubt about that) to reduce the number of road accidents. I remember that at the grave side of the late Mr Ezeani the Premier of the Eastern Region, Dr M. I. Okpara, with his eyes in tears, promised to do something about it. In fact, the Eastern Government has done something about it. But what did they do? They have passed a legislation whereby people who are guilty of reckless driving will have greater punishment. They have given the Courts power so that even where they discharge someone who is guilty of manslaughter, they still can inflict severe punishment on the discharged person without necessarily bringing him back to face another trial. They have the power to punish people for reckless or dangerous driving. That is what the

Eastern Region has done, and it goes a very long way to minimise, at least, the incidence of road accidents on our roads.

By introducing an amendment to this Motion the Federal Government gives the impression that it prefers to fold its hands and remain unconcerned on the question of road accidents. It is to me not a happy thought to remember that in this important matter the Federal Government allows itself to be led by the Regional Governments. Whatever steps the Federal Government wishes to take, I want to make some suggestions.

The fact should be remembered that most of our roads, even Trunk 'A' roads, are filled with pot-holes and ponds. You need only to travel from here to Ibadan to see what I mean. The result is that drivers are in constant trouble to maintain their steering wheels on the roads. One is always fighting to keep his steering steady and at the same time trying to avoid the pedestrians that are on the roads, with the result that, invariably, one runs into an accident.

Again you need only to travel from Benin to Owo to see the nature of our roads. There are so many corners and bends. These were constructed when we had not sufficient number of vehicles on our roads, but now our vehicles are daily increasing. It is for our Government to do something, at least to straighten those corners and bends; or still to complete the short route between Shagamu and Ikorodu which the Federal Government keeps promising every time we come to this Federal House.

An hon. Member : Is the hon. Gentleman sure that the Shagamu-Ikorodu route is the correct route?

Mr Muojeke : I mean the Shagamu-Benin road—the route which the Minister started as far back as 1958. I had thought that by the time we reach this new Parliament we shall hear the happy news that that road has been completed. The same promise was made to us two years ago, even three years ago.

When you travel from here to Onitsha any time you must witness, at least, five fresh accidents, and what applies on the Lagos to Onitsha route applies equally to the Onitsha to Jos route. You need only to travel to the North to see what I am talking about. At least the road thirty miles to Makurdi is a danger zone to

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users of the road. You will hardly return with the vehicle in which you had travelled to Makurdi in perfect order. There, too, the bridges are narrow and there is no sign to warn you that you are approaching a very dangerous narrow bridge.

While on bends and corners, and the narrowness of roads I should mention that our roads, even Trunk 'A' roads, are not wide enough for the number of vehicles which they are supposed to carry. The Federal Government can instruct the Regional Governments that before any road is taken over by them such road must be of a certain width. They can do that. It is a question of instructing them to carry it out. They will realise that it is not only for the benefit of the Federal Government, but also for the benefit of the Regional Governments and, in fact, that of the country as a whole.

The nature of my complaints about the roads will determine the nature of the remedy which is necessary. In the case of recklessness by drivers or dangerous driving or drivers driving while at the same time smoking or under the spell of alcohol, I think that the Federal Government will take a lead in bringing a Bill for us to pass in this House increasing the penalty to be inflicted on any person found guilty of reckless driving, dangerous driving or driving at an excessive speed.

As I have said, the Motion is non-controversial, it is very important and it strikes at the very foundation of our well-being. I wholeheartedly commend it to the House and the Government.

I beg to move.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : This Motion has been very ably introduced by the hon. Mover, and all I can do is to give my blessing to some of the things which have been very wisely said by him and to make a few other contributions to the Motion.

As we all know, in addition to the maintenance of peace and order in a country, one of the fundamental responsibilities of a Government is to create an atmosphere in which an individual man or woman can pursue happiness so long as that does not create an obstacle in the way of the other citizens. Once this fundamental assurance of the protective functions of the Government is violated,

man's basic instinct of feeling of security or self-preservation becomes threatened, and psychologically man finds himself on the verge of barbarism. This is the mental image of anybody who is travelling on Nigerian roads to-day : jungle barbarism, lawlessness, people holding their lives in the two palms of their hands the moment they step into an automobile.

Everybody here knows what we are talking about. This is not a Motion in which one is expected to play politics. We all know that the Government is doing something, but we must urge the Government to do more than it is doing at the moment, to give us this basic assurance that in travelling from our constituencies to Lagos for parliamentary meetings, our lives will be safeguarded, otherwise law and order will break down and we will get into a barbarous state of emergency from the beginning to the end of our journeys.

If I were a soothsayer and a client came to me for a consultation on the rules of longevity in Nigeria, the first formula that I would give him would be, "Do not drive in Nigeria", before I go on to ask him to eat well, sleep well, rest well and work hard. The moment one gets into a car in Nigeria, one's life is exposed to danger. We all know what is happening in Nigeria. There is no question of saying that we are trying to expose the Government. We know that many of the drivers on Nigerian roads (I am speaking particularly of professional drivers) buy their licences, right here in Lagos, in Northern Nigeria, in Eastern Nigeria, in Western Nigeria, everywhere in Nigeria. Everybody knows this ; the Minister knows it.

I am saying this, accepting full responsibility for it, that all we have to do to get a licensed driver is to follow him round for two or three months, go to the Police, pay them £30 or £40 and obtain a licence for him. We all know that. For every such licence sold, so many lives have been sold, including the life of the Minister, that of the Prime Minister and that of my humble self. I have never heard of any nation where traffic in human lives is still legalised. The Inspector-General of Police knows what I am talking about. He knows all about it. There is no need fooling a person like myself, saying that the Police are doing well, that they are very wonderful, that they are doing their best for us. They are corrupt to the core,

If a policeman, for example, takes money from a person who has stolen, God bless him and the person who has stolen; if a policeman takes money from somebody who has committed a minor crime, God bless them; but if a policeman takes money from a novice, a barbarian from the jungle, gives him a driving licence and then turns him into the Nigerian highway, it is time for us to think twice about the safety of this nation.

Just last week, two young boys and a girl in my own village were knocked down and killed by a driver in a broad day light. These drivers had no genuine licences. They buy their licences in order to operate their vehicles in the highway. We have no apologies to offer. We all know that. Right now, in the Lagos Town Council, people are selling licences. They are selling ordinary automobile licences. If one fills a form, one cannot get a licence unless one goes to those who are known as agents to pay them, first 5s and then £1-10s-0d. I am sure hon. Members here have had this experience when renewing their licences. Some people are driving their cars without renewing their licences because they have no money to offer.

I think it is high time we really stopped playing this game of politics with a matter as fundamental as our own lives. We cannot be fooling ourselves everyday by talking about this thing.

We know that many of our professional drivers are still illiterate. I have no objection to an illiterate driving. But I know that in civilised countries of the world, while a person is tested in the manipulation of the steering, he is also tested in sight and hearing.

The other time at Enugu, somebody hit my car in the broad day light and afterwards it was discovered that one of his eyes was bad—he was blind of one eye and he had an artificial eye. When the natural eye begins to conflict with the artificial eye, he cannot behave normally. He hit my car and I did not want to take him to the Police because if I did, the Police might ask me for money, and I have not the temperament to give bribes. I do not know how these things can continue in a country like ours, and I am very much bothered.

Many of our drivers, when they get on the steering, behave like engines. It is a common assumption in Nigeria that only ruffians drive and, as such, these boys have undertaken to be professional ruffians. When they get on the steering they insult all the women they pass on the road.

Coming back to accidents, I would like the Third Party section of the law to be strictly enforced. Even though there is a law relating to third parties, it exists only on paper. The lawyers can bear me out. I have a relative who lost his hand about eighteen months ago. He was given no compensation; he has been going about with only one hand; he has a family to maintain; he had no money to retain a good lawyer, with the result that he lost his job. I would like the Government to think about this matter of trial seriously.

As already mentioned by the Mover of this Motion, our roads are terrible. Most of them are cow lanes. That is the type of road that we have in some parts of Nigeria, and the Government made a grave economic error by tarring these cow lanes. The roads, moreover, are crooked and tar is just poured on them as if the Government was rushing to the end of its life. These things need some thoughtful, wise and mature re-appraisal. It is a sheer waste of money pouring tar on these roads. It goes to show myopia on the part of Colonial Government. I would advise the Government to construct roads with double lanes so that people going on the right will have their own way and people going on the left will also have theirs.

The most difficult road on which to drive in Nigeria is the Miliken Hill at Enugu, but there no accident occurs because the road is very well demarcated, and drivers are very careful. Speeding problem stops as soon as drivers get there. This means that if this type of thing can be avoided on such a dangerous place, then accidents can be avoided on straighter roads if only people will learn to be a little bit sensible and careful.

In Nigeria, the penalty for reckless driving is out of proportion to the offence committed. I would say that once a driver is convicted of reckless driving, his licence should be taken away from him for at least seven years. I would also like to advise for the consideration

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of the Government that all professional drivers should be re-tested and those who show any symptom of inefficiency should lose their licences indefinitely. Tests should also be taken away from junior officers in the Police Department and given to the high ranking police officers, or better still, taken away from the police altogether. I would like to say that the hon. Minister in charge of Police Affairs should take upon himself to conduct these tests. (*Laughter*).

I would like to advise that the Government should have a driving training school so that those professional drivers who have got their licences overseas could go back to the school to do a refresher course for at least two months before they are allowed to drive on Nigerian roads.

Last year, I made a point on the Floor of this House suggesting that police traffic officers should be drastically scrapped off. They are very corrupt. As soon as they stop lorry drivers on the road, the drivers say, "How are you, Sir" and they toss two shillings to the policeman. It happens in Lagos, in the Eastern Region, in the Western Region and in the Northern Region also. These policemen take small amounts of money from the drivers instead of checking over-loading, road-worthiness, etc. They simply stand by and collect money from the drivers and the drivers go away—

Minister of State for Police Affairs (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I would like to say that what the Seconder of the Motion is alleging is correct.

Mr O. J. Eminue (Eket East): On a point of order, I think hon. Members could give a guarantee to the Minister for Police Affairs, if he could disguise himself and travel in one of these lorries, say, from here to Ibadan and he will actually see what is happening.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Dr Nzeribe: I want to congratulate the Minister on being bold enough, for the first time, to accept that what I am saying is correct.

Minister of State for Police Affairs: The hon. Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is misquoting me. I did not say that it is correct that the police are corrupt. What I said was that the police are not corrupt.

Dr Nzeribe: I think the House would bear me out that the Minister acknowledged what I said, and if he decides to withdraw what he said before, it is entirely up to him, but everybody knows that the traffic police are corrupt to the core and it is a conspiracy in the high places. We all know what is happening. There are so many hands in the business, and unless and until we are big enough and bold enough to say these things and be prepared to die for them, there is no hope for Nigeria.

I should like to say, however, that our women police have up till this moment established a very high record of efficiency. (*Cheers*). I am, therefore, challenging the Minister to post these women police to traffic duties, even though they are not strong enough, but that does not matter much.

Put women police on the road. At this moment women police have indicated a higher integrity than the men police who are now put on the road.

Finally, I think that at this moment the Government should establish a sort of minimum academic qualification for professional drivers. A professional driver should read up to Standard II or Standard III, or, at least, be able to read and understand simple road traffic signs.

With these few remarks, I second the Motion.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I rise to move an Amendment to this Motion as follows:—

Line 2, leave out from "urges" to the end of the Question and add—"notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Federal Government to reduce drastically the number of such accidents."

Provision already exists under the Road Traffic Act, Chapter 184, the Road Traffic Regulations and various Road Traffic (Control of Traffic) Orders, and the Highway Code, for the prevention and reduction of road accidents in this country. Most of the accidents on our roads are, therefore, not due to lack of adequate legislation, but to lack of co-operation on the part of road users generally. If all road users had been co-operating fully with the authorities and observing the existing rules and regulations, road accidents would have been reduced

drastically and the hon. Member would not have found it necessary to bring this Motion to the House.

A prospective driver is, for example, requested to pass a vigorous test before being granted a driver's licence, but it was only recently published that a racket was in existence somewhere through which some members of the public managed to obtain licences without passing their driving tests. I need not emphasise the seriousness of the matter, and hon. Members can imagine the consequences of putting a vehicle into the hands of an unqualified driver. However, the matter is already being adequately tackled by the Police. Similarly, it is rumoured that some lorry drivers often allow their apprentices (who are not well qualified drivers) to drive passenger lorries in rural places, and often with fatal consequences.

It is said that some irresponsible drivers often take alcohol or Indian hemp before driving their vehicles in the foolish belief that they will have greater strength to drive for longer hours. They do this without thinking of the evil effect the drinks and drugs have on the senses when driving.

The simple rule that drivers should, in this country, strictly drive on the left-hand side of the road is also not always obeyed by drivers. Many of us have seen accidents where vehicles have been involved in head-long collision, simply because some drivers would not keep to their own side of the road.

Similarly, many drivers refuse to observe road signs and some accidents have been caused because some drivers have foolishly ignored them. For example many drivers do not observe road signs at road junctions when attempting to drive from minor roads into major ones and have thereby caused many accidents.

There have also been cases of accidents being caused by drivers not being careful enough on the roads and bridges. Many drive far too fast, with the result that they lose control of their vehicles and plunge into rivers and ditches or fail to negotiate corners successfully. At night many drivers also fail to dip their headlights. Some of them also doze away on the steering wheel after long hours of driving.

But not all road accidents are attributable to the faults of drivers. Many are caused by cyclists and pedestrians. Many cyclists are often in the habit of riding two or three abreast talking to each other and oblivious to everything going on around them until they are knocked down by motor vehicles.

Often also they fail to give sufficient and adequate notice of the direction in which they wish to take, particularly when negotiating a turning. Similarly, pedestrians are not sufficiently careful when using the roads. In rural areas some walk right in the centre of roads, whilst in big towns many do not ensure that roads are clear before attempting to cross them, or they expect that they can run across before they are overtaken by cars.

In addition to the existing legislation, the Federal Government is taking concrete steps to ensure that road accidents are reduced to the absolute minimum.

In order to reduce the loss of life, commercial vehicles are regularly inspected to ensure that they are road-worthy. In some large towns, the numbers of taxis, for example, are actually limited.

Steps are also being taken to widen and improve bad roads. In a town like Lagos, because of the large numbers of vehicles on the roads, for example, traffic lights have also been installed and some roads have been converted into "one-way" traffic roads. Women police are also posted to schools close to major roads to help school children in crossing roads.

Proposals are also in hand to adopt the International Road Signs in this country, with slight adaptation to suit the Nigerian public.

Lectures are being given to school children on Road Safety, and I have no doubt that hon. Members have seen recent press reports on these efforts. They would also have seen campaigns being carried on at cinemas and on televisions, and would also have heard them on the radio. There are Road Safety Committees in the Federal Territory and the Regional capitals whose duty it is to make proposals to implement schemes to ensure the safety of every road user. These Committees meet regularly to discuss how best to reduce road accidents.

[MINISTER OF STATE FOR POLICE AFFAIRS]

However, all these efforts by the Government to ensure safety on the roads cannot be effective unless all road users, including motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, co-operate fully with the authorities to make life safer on the roads. It is absolutely essential that they should obey the existing rules and regulations and observe the various road signs. Owners of vehicles should also ensure that their vehicles are kept in good mechanical condition in order to reduce accidents due to mechanical faults.

Finally, in order to make these measures taken by the Federal Government on road safety more effective, it is the sacred duty of each member of this honourable House, as accredited representative of the people in each constituency, to join hands with the Federal Government and the various Road Safety Committees in the Regions to educate the masses so that they can abide by the Road Traffic Regulations, Traffic Orders, and Highway Codes which have been designed for the prevention and reduction of road accidents throughout the country.

I beg to move.

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

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North): I rise to support the Amendment to this Motion, and in supporting it I wish to point out that the following are the causes of road accidents to which solutions must be sought:—

(i) Bad conditions of vehicles and overloading of lorries are the causes of somersaulting of cars on many occasions.

(ii) Wreckless driving, carelessness of drivers by taking intoxicants and anti-sleeping drugs for strenuous journeys, and not observing the road signs.

(iii) The roads themselves need much improvements. The roads are too narrow and there are also dangerous corners and bridges.

These are my observations which I feel if carefully looked into will remedy the present situation.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): I beg to support the original Motion and to oppose the Amendment. I am in support of the points raised by my hon. Friends the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion, and in fact I have not been impressed at all by the arguments of the Minister in charge. I think our Ministers should always realise that those of us who come to the Floor of this House to represent our people have got the mandate of the people and we have got to speak for them, especially on matters concerning the safety of their lives.

Our Ministers always feel that when we move Motions in this House we are trying to discredit their work, and therefore most of the time they have some Amendments to make just to cover themselves. I think if good points are brought to the Floor of this House the Ministers' duty is to consider the points and approve of those points for the improvement of the country. I would like to offer some suggestions on this Motion because most of the useful points of criticism have been adduced by the previous speakers. These are some suggestions which the Minister should note down and consider seriously. May be the suggestions will help him in his work.

With reference to licensing, mention has been made of licences being issued out on corrupt bases and that some people who are not good drivers are given licences as long as they can give money to the testing officers. I am therefore suggesting that we have better plans of issuing out licences instead of allowing these corrupt practices to continue. I would suggest that if anybody goes to the licensing office for a driving licence that person should first of all be given a temporary licence, say for a period of five years.

An hon. Member: Ah! That is too long.

Mr Kolade: It is a suggestion; because a man who holds the temporary licence will know that it is only a temporary one, and this should be designed in such a way that everybody seeing it—

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): On a point of order, it is unfortunate that my hon. Friend (*Mr Kolade*) is not aware that we already have a temporary licence for motor drivers. We have the learners' permit.

Mr Kolade: I am not talking of the learners' permit. I know that when one is learning one needs a permit, but after a driver

has gone for and passed a driving test he is given a licence. What I am saying is that the first licence to be given after the period of learning should be temporary.

An hon. Member : That should be after one year ?

Mr Kolade : No, I am suggesting five years and I will give my reason for suggesting five years. This is to give the drivers the opportunity to travel around, to work hard in the country, moving up and down in the North, East and West, and then we shall be able to find out whether they have had accidents within the period of five years or not. Any driver who has had no accident during the trial period should be given a permanent licence which he can renew every year. But if there is a single accident in which he is involved during the period he should be ruled out entirely as a driver and should never be given a driving licence.

Another point is that before one goes for a driving licence one should see a doctor for a test, and be tested for eye-sight. Some drivers are far-sighted, some are short-sighted and there are others who cannot see at all and who just want to drive. If they go for a test a doctor will be able to certify whether their eye-sight is good or not. I think this will be of advantage to some of our drivers too. Still talking on the medical test, I have more suggestions to make. It is not the eye-sight alone that should be tested. The nerves too should be tested. Some people smoke a lot and these people have some diseases of the nerves ; if doctors certify that this type of people who are smoking or drinking too much will not be good drivers, I think such people should not be given any driving test at all. They should go and look for other jobs. I feel that if these measures are taken we shall have the opportunity of having some good drivers very soon.

The other point I would like to make in connection with licensing is that in the Regions there is no standard rule governing the testing of drivers. We should be able to standardize our driving tests. In some places the testing officers themselves are not qualified. Some times somebody who is in charge of testing may be a junior officer and he instructs another junior officer to do the test ; and of course,

we all know what happens. The junior officer may not be serious at testing people. When his palm is greased he will just issue out the licence. I think it is only the superior officers who should be allowed to test our drivers. There should be a law that the work should not be delegated to the junior officers. If we take some of these serious measures it will help us a long way. That is my suggestion with reference to licensing.

Another point is that I have noticed that driving regulations are different in various Regions. For example, those of us driving in the Western Region, when we reach a round-about we must wait for the traffic coming on the right to pass, but in Lagos it is a different thing. In this Federation of Nigeria, there should be only one single law which will embrace all throughout. If one reaches Ibadan one follows one law and when one is in Lagos one follows another law. I do not agree with that at all. It is not good for our stangers to come to Nigeria and find that we observe one law in Lagos, another law in the West and perhaps another one in the East. I think the Premiers should meet about this and take a decision. The thing is still existing up till now and I feel something should be done about it. We are in the same country and since we are trying to unite the country petty matters about roads should not disunite us.

Another thing is that the bridges are too narrow, and I appeal to the Government for these bridges to be widened. One cannot count on any bridge at all between Lagos and Ikorodu. The cause of accidents on this road is because the bridges are too narrow. I know that even if the bridges are widened careless drivers will still have accidents, but we shall be helping ourselves if we can spend a great deal more on the bridges between Ikorodu and Lagos.

It is a pity that the Minister of Information who is from Ikorodu has never spoken of the safety of those people around that area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Hon. S. A. Yerokun) rose—

Several hon. Members : Sit down.

Mr Speaker : Is the Parliamentary Secretary raising a point of order ?

Mr Yerokun : I wish to raise a point of information. It is unfair to attack the Minister of Information whereas the Minister of Works and Surveys is responsible for roads.

Mr Kolade : I know that, Sir, but the Minister of Information is from Ikorodu. He can speak for the safety of his people.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : On a point of information, Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that Ikorodu people have better ideas of safety than my hon. Friend from Ibadan (*Mr Kolade*).

Mr Kolade : No wonder a lorry ran into the river the other day very near Ikorodu! We all know that these bridges along Ikorodu road are too narrow. I am only taking Ikorodu road as an example. The Minister of Works and Surveys should do something about these bridges.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that there should be more road signs especially at dangerous corners. Some of the existing road signs cannot be seen clearly again. The paints are already washed off. I think they should be painted regularly and conspicuously too. Also these signs are not bold enough. Some drivers cannot see very tiny signs, may be due to bad eye sight and we do not test their eye sight before we give them licences. My present suggestion is that their eye sight should be tested. If there are very conspicuous road signs and if people know these signs and follow them, I think the incidence of accidents will greatly be reduced.

One thing is going on now which is a credit to the Federal Government and that is the widening of roads. But may I suggest this point, that while we are widening the roads, we should also straighten them. In history we learned that the Romans had very straight roads. I do not think we are trying to copy them in Nigeria. Even as we are now widening the roads we are still following the curves like that. This should not be the case. The roads should be straightened in order to reduce accidents at dangerous corners. These corners are so many especially if you travel from Ibadan to Abeokuta. In fact, I would suggest that we give priority to straightening the roads rather than widening them and leaving the dangerous corners. We shall

reduce some of these accidents if we straighten the roads.

Another point is that our drivers never dip their headlights and even on the Carter Bridge in the centre of Lagos where there are bold signs saying *Dip Your Lights* people do not obey. Every night when I pass through there I see these lights focussed on people's eyes and Policemen are all around and they do nothing about it. So I challenge the Minister of State who was defending the Police a few minutes ago to go there this night. He will see that so many drivers do not obey these signs at all. The Police should take such people to court. They must discipline them. As a teacher I know the essence of discipline. If you make regulations and you do not follow them up, these things will never stop, but when you discipline them, they will remember that in future. It is not sufficient to make regulations. You must follow by observation, by checking up yourself and then by awarding the necessary punishment. (*Hear, hear*).

I would suggest that some of these Ministers should be teachers before they can be appointed Ministers. (*Laughter*) If they had been teachers before, they would know what to do with reference to organisation.

Another point I am now suggesting is that there should be some laws against alcoholic drinks for drivers. Of course, those Members of this House who have drivers should be strict. I know some of our drivers are indulged. When masters take alcoholic drinks they pass some of these drinks to these drivers. I think it is very wrong to allow drivers to drink alcohol. When they drink excessively the tendency is for them to have accidents.

Before I conclude, I want to say this with reference to our women police. I agree with Dr Nzeribe that our women police are doing wonderful work in Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). They are a great credit to Nigeria. It makes me believe that what men can do women can also do.

Also I have noticed one thing with reference to accidents. I have never read in the papers of accidents involving women drivers. How many has anyone read of. I see so many of these ladies at Lagos, Ibadan and so on. They are very careful, they cherish laws and regulations, they do not want to get into

the hands of the Police. We men feel we are men, we feel bold to do anything against the regulations of the country and I suggest we must feel bold to die !

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion and condemn the Amendment from the Minister of State.

Dr P. N. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name. I want the word "deplore" not "conscious" because already this Government is conscious of the increasing accidents on our roads.

Now there are four points on which this issue revolves. Number one is Government apathy, and I will explain. That apathy could be explained from the way an Amendment was introduced by the Minister in charge of Police Affairs. Number two, Police corruption which has been properly expatiated by the Seconder of the Motion. Number three is recklessness of drivers which I want to dwell upon as soon as I finish making the key points. And finally, the poor condition of our roads.

The Minister, I thought, should have accepted this Motion whole-heartedly. When we criticise the Government it does not mean that we see red in everything they do but the mind of the African ; I mean, well, our own Nigerian mind, our own mentality, the way we take criticism is not quite conducive to a people who are progressing.

In America they simply ask you "How do you find America ?" and they want to listen to you to tell them their faults. In England they always appreciate you more when you tell them their mistakes their errors and their faults because they are willing to change. Here in this country, once you tell a Nigerian this is not right he takes you on a wrong score.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : The hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) is being irrelevant. What has conduct got to do with the Motion on the Floor of this House ? The Motion is on road accidents.

Mr Speaker : He is really collecting facts to support his arguments.

Dr Okeke : Not quite six months ago, a lady—one of the Peace Corps—alleged at

Ibadan, that people urinate everywhere, people eat everywhere and everywhere is a public latrine. We should accept that these things are true because if you go on the road, even here in civilised Lagos, every place is a public urinary ; it is true. We eat everywhere. We thought that when this Motion came up we were strengthening the hands of the Minister to tackle the increasing problems of road accidents—deaths on our roads.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3. p.m.

Dr P. U. Okeke : In the morning before we adjourned, I was developing the first point. I have noted that the words "conscious of the human tragedy" are not enough. I have amended it to read—"we in this House, deplore the tragedy"—human slaughter on our roads. I made four points in the morning which we must tackle seriously if we hope to curb the increase of road accidents in our country. The first is Government apathy, the second, Police corruption, the third drivers' irresponsibility and the fourth poor road conditions. I also said that if we looked at ourselves and pointed out some flaws in our own life, it did not mean that we were unduly critical.

I hope that the Minister charged with Police Affairs will see with us in this House that it is high time we registered our resentment over the murder—human slaughter of Nigerians on Nigerian roads.

We are not at all satisfied with the progress being made as the Minister would like us to accept. We shall not *note with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Federal Government to reduce drastically the number of road accidents* until such steps are translated into action and we see road signs at appropriate places on the roads, we see signs warning drivers of dangers as they approach steep hills or blind alleys, dead corners, narrow culverts and narrow bridges. Until we see all these things on our roads, we shall not begin to appreciate or note with satisfaction the effort the Government is making. Until we see that those drivers who cause our people to die on the roads prematurely are brought to book, we shall not note with satisfaction the effort the Government is making.

[DR OKEKE]

I would like the Government to shake up the Police somehow, shake up the drivers and shake up the Minister of Works to go on the roads and look around—take a tour. It would be something nice, something that would solve the problem in the minds of Nigerians, if all the Federal Ministers would one day just decide and announce to the nation that they are taking a ride, that they are going on a tour of Nigeria—riding on Nigerian roads; not flying in the air now, not going by waterways, but following the roads and riding to the East, West and to the North to see these things themselves. It would help to solve the problem in the minds of our people. I have developed my case on Government's apathy and I shall leave that.

Police corruption has been ably dealt with by the seconder of the Motion, Dr Nzeribe. I will not go as far as he did. I would only say that the Police need to do more than they are doing now.

Poor road conditions have been touched upon by my hon. Friend on the Opposition Side who spoke before me and I would like to speak of drivers' irresponsibility—the recklessness of our drivers, their apathy, their ineptitude, their stupidity and carelessness. It is not ordained that drivers should slaughter innocent Nigerians on our roads. But it seems that if there is any place—any avenue here in this country where people are careless, it is when they sit behind the wheels and this has been rampant not only in Nigeria but in other countries in Africa.

I have a book here written by a Mr Douglas Warner—he is a foreigner. We are prone to say that when we point out these things, foreigners will know what is wrong with our country and they may not bring their capital, they may not come to see us, they may not do this or do that. But they see us. They have their eyes. It was a European who wrote this book—Douglas Warner is not a Nigerian name. The book is entitled, "Ghana and New Africa". I would like to quote from this book and that was why I brought it. It was written by a foreigner who had seen our problems and said so; so that we are not hiding anything from anybody. Rather, we are saying these things about ourselves to reassure our foreign visitors that we too are human beings and that we can know our own faults. When we know them, we can correct them.

I quote with your permission, Mr Speaker :

The most obvious manifestation of West African irresponsibility, lack of discipline and lack of skill is on the roads. They are the worst drivers in the world. By comparison, the Italians are well-mannered and the English road-hog is an old-fashioned courteous gentleman.

R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : On a point of order, this book is heavily biased against the black Africans and should not be read here.

Mr Speaker : That is a point of information.

Dr Okeke : *They drive fast and carelessly. They sit askew behind the wheel, leaning against the door, a pose which allows them to put one hand on the steering wheel while leaving the other free to wave to friends or to pick an ear delicately with a matchstick. If a rear-seat passenger ventures to address them, they turn round courteously to listen and forget to turn back. They hug the crown of the road and cut their corners. They park wherever they happen to stop : over the crown of a hill, just behind a bend, in the middle of the road. The ditches of the Guinea Coast are littered with the rusting relics of the crashed vehicles, the decomposing witnesses of the risks that didn't come off.*

Now, anybody who drives knows that these things are true. For instance take a drive from here to Onitsha by night and see for yourself. I once asked a driver when I overtook him in the dead of night why he did not dip his light, but because he came from my village and knew me, he courteously apologised and in reply said :

No, if I do, I will be the under-dog. Only sissy drivers dip their lights. The effeminate drivers dip their lights. It is bravery to flash ones headlights on oncoming vehicles so that the other driver may not see and fall right into the ditch.

As you drive along you would see them parking accross the roads and anywhere they like and you would think that the police would be there to arrest them or catch the offenders. No, they would not catch the offenders, instead they would be checking overload. I would urge the Minister to take the Traffic Police off the roads because they are only checking overloaded lorries. Lorries carrying too many passengers or are carrying overload

do not contribute much to these accidents. It is when you park on the wrong side of the road, when you park on the steep hills, when you park near culverts; when you double park, when you do not give signals when you are turning to the left or right and when you do any kind of things on the road in the name of driving—that is when you commit these accidents.

There is something we have to do about it. If we can tighten up, if the Government will loosen up and face reality and the danger, if the Police will sit up and actually know that we are not being over critical, but that we are trying to help them to help us, and if the drivers will look up, then the number of accidents will certainly be reduced. I would suggest, if the Government would tighten up and the Police co-operate, that those irresponsible drivers who cause death to innocent Nigerians must be called to order. We have to keep a clear record of all accidents that are committed by every driver in this country. We should make laws or tighten the already existing laws. If the existing laws are weak, we put more teeth in them if they cannot bite. We should tighten these laws so that offenders who are involved in accidents or involve others in accidents by their sins of omission or commission during the course of a year could be brought to book in the following ways:—

A driver involved in a serious accident twice in a year will have his licence revoked for five years, so that if a driver has caused an accident through his own fault twice in one year his licence will be taken away from him for five years.

If a driver is involved in two fatal accidents in a year, he will be barred from driving for ever.

If a driver who parked his car wrongly in a corner, on a steep hill, the wrong side of the road, near the bridge or culvert, or who neglects the conventional road signs during driving, for example, failing to dip lights and parking without parking lights on, not giving signals or passing signal or refusing to yield passage of way and accelerating when a car is coming to overtake him, will be suspended from driving for six months for any such four offences in the course of a year.

Some hon. Members : Who will arrest him? Certainly not the Police!

Dr Okeke : The Police should be there to arrest those parking wrongly and behaving wrongly. The Police should take their numbers and report.

I think we have reached a vicious circle. Our Minister says the Police are all right, the public say *no* and urge that more laws should be made so that the drivers may be called to book. When these laws are made, who will see to the working of the laws? It is the Police again and, therefore, we have to plead to them, we have to beg them, we have to do everything we can to ask them to co-operate with us because no law, however strong, will be useful unless the Police will apply them. The Minister cannot go out to implement them. We can only talk here. We talk and go. Really it takes high spirited civil servants to actually come to our rescue and I want the Police to sense the danger and if they do sense the danger, something must be done about it.

In conclusion, there is nothing we can do other than to point out all these things and our Minister, the Government, the police and the Minister of Works should co-operate. I would ask that a National Road Safety Committee be formed in this country. The National Road Safety Committee will be nation wide. Right now, it operates in the Regions and even in the Regions it is much more atomised again. If we have a National Road Safety Committee which will sit twice, three times or four times in a year to pin-point all these things and begin to educate the public, advise the Minister, and begin to do many things we have just suggested, I think that our problems must have been solved seventy-five *per cent*.

I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : I am afraid, you cannot move because an Amendment is still standing.

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

Question that those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House deeply conscious of the human tragedy that is behind the continuing high level of road accidents, notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Federal Government to reduce drastically the number of such accidents.

Mr R. N. Muojeke : The Minister of State has received the views of the House and I hope he will also withdraw his own Amendment.

Mr Speaker : The Amendment has been passed.

SALARY REVIEW FOR POLICE CONSTABLES

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu) : My attention has been drawn to Standing Order 66 by the Leader of the House and my Leader in the Parliamentary Party, and I am quite convinced by the contents of the Standing Order and with your permission, I read :

The House shall not, except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General, proceed upon any bill, motion, amendment or petition which, in the opinion of Mr Speaker or other person presiding makes provision or requests that provision should be made for imposing or increasing any charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or other public funds of the Federation, or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it or for compounding or remitting any debt due to the Federation.

I know quite well that this Motion, as I am withdrawing it, is not to the liking of my constituency where a large number of the policemen live, but in obedience to the Standing Orders of the House and to my Parliamentary Leader who has advised me, I feel that the only way out for me is to write to the Governor-General to give his certification to have this Motion debated. I will really have to write the Governor-General to give me authority to move this Motion which I know is very important to me in particular and everybody in general.

Mr Speaker : Order. Actually, I did not know that you had no permission from the Governor-General. I would have ruled it out of order. It is therefore out of order to discuss this Motion. We can now proceed to Motion No. 8.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) : On a point of order, I would ask the House that in future, people who are not prepared to move their Motions and who do not find out

certain facts before moving their Motions should be barred from filing Motions in this House.

FIVE-DAY WEEK

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : I am grateful for the opportunity which I have in presenting my Motion calling for a five-day week. The Motion reads :

That this House calls upon the Federal Government to introduce in the Federal Public Service a five-day week as a progressive measure for its working population without prejudice to the existing total working hours per week.

First of all let me make it quite clear that I am aware that the general conditions of labour in Nigeria are governed by the Labour Code Ordinance Cap. 99 of the Laws of Nigeria. This ordinance is based upon the United Kingdom system of labour law and has two main functions. Firstly, it codifies certain aspect of the law of master and servant dealing with contracts of employment and, secondly, it provides for statutory enforcement of certain other provisions concerning the employment, health and welfare of workpeople. The ordinance however is supplemented by international Conventions.

Let us examine the question of output first. On the question of productivity, there are perhaps some employers who are yet to shake off the erroneous conception that Nigerian labour is inherently lazy, unintelligent and of low productive capacity.

In the highly industrialised countries, technical improvements and high standards of living created conditions for increased productivity. These factors have to be taken into serious consideration in judging events in Nigeria. As a matter of fact most of the employers who accuse their employees of laziness keep no records of output. The few who try to keep some records do not bother to analyse them, nor had they kept any reliable data on which to establish the comparative efficiency of their staffs. Government, as the largest employer of labour, is the worst offender in this matter.

However, let me refer to a few instances to illustrate my argument. In 1914, it was reported that labourers engaged in the con-

struction of the eastern section of the Nigerian Railways were so inferior and the people so primitive and undisciplined that it took probably two or three men to do the work of one labourer. There had been other adverse comments against the productivity of the Nigerian worker.

Let us turn to the bright side of this judgment. In 1918, Lord Lugard praised the aptitude of the native for work and referred to their performances in the arduous work of quarrying coal underground, even in the night shifts, and in spite of the fact that the colliery was opened in the district of primitive and turbulent pagans where no previous demand for labour had existed. In 1919, he reported that the Director of Public Works had estimated that the output of a Nigerian carpenter was from one-fourth to one fifth that of an English carpenter.

Let us come to more recent times. At the Saw-Mills of the African Timber and Plywood Limited, Sapele, it is generally agreed that the employees are so hard working and so efficient that the level of their production compares favourably with the highest standard of mill production anywhere in the world.

In February 1959, the *New Commonwealth* carried a review of expansion of industrialisation in Northern Nigeria which observed that *the old bogey about the inefficiency of Northern labour has been slain by the success of workers in these industries*. Two months later, the Chairman of the Lancashire Mill Group of David White Heads (who were partners in the Kaduna Textile Factory) paid tribute to the African workers whose performances had been so encouraging as to warrant the expansion of the productive capacity of the factory from 12 million to 18 million yards of cloth a year.

It is needless mentioning the high productivity of Shell BP workers who struggle day and night for eight hours shift with heavy pipes and machines in remote locations. Of course this Parliament had recorded its appreciation of their contribution in ushering in the present era of economic prosperity in the oil industry.

From the foregoing, it is quite clear that we have good reasons to reject the assumption of inherent laziness and inefficiency on the part of the Nigerian worker. At the same time we would be deceiving ourselves if we failed to

recognise that the Nigerian worker is not necessarily and at all times, as efficient as he should be. It varies from establishment to establishment, depending on prevailing circumstances. Sometimes we are told that one tribe is stronger than the other or that one is lazier than the other. Here we cannot say that the staff of Parliament are not giving us satisfaction. I am sure the House will agree that we are satisfied with their level of output, efficiency and devotion to duty.

The purpose of this Motion is not to effect any radical changes in the existing ordinance. The Motion merely seeks to provide for a five-day week of Monday to Friday for our working population.

Before going further I must remove the erroneous impression that the Motion seeks to shorten the hours of work in the Federal Public Services. The Motion is asking that the few hours of work done on Saturdays be absorbed in the five day week so that Saturdays could be free for other purposes.

In Nigeria, hours of work are determined by legislation and Orders in Council. We also have the Wages Board. Hours of work vary from establishment to establishment. For example, in the building and civil engineering industries, they do 8 hours from Monday to Friday and 4 hours on Saturdays. That is 44 hours *per week*.

The Government clerical staff do 34 hours *per week*, that is 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. Of course they are not entitled to any payment of overtime, even when they work extra hours.

The technical staff in the Printing Trade do 40 hours *per week*. Dock workers do 45 hours *per week* while the Catering trade do 54 hours *per week* with one day time-off in a week.

In the Mines-fields they do 48 hours a week of seven days with one day-off, in a week. They work in shifts.

In the retail and ancillary trades they are supposed to do 45 hours *per week* but some employers who have no respect for convention or law choose to disregard this. As a matter of fact Nigeria is bound by a 40-hour week convention of 1935 even though the implementation has been delayed.

Hon. Members may wish to know that the Federal Government as an employer of labour

[MR MBAH]

would be establishing no new record if my Motion is accepted for other employers had already introduced the five-day week in Nigeria.

Sunday which is regarded by Christians as a day of rest has ceased to be what it was meant to be. You hardly see a man resting on Sundays these days. He either attends religious functions, political meetings, family or tribal Unions. He has to attend to a lot of visitors and entertain friends because his religion forbids his working on Sundays.

A Muslim who is supposed to devote the greater part of Friday to Allah is equally interrupted by external forces.

Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East): On a point of explanation, may I explain to this House that Moslems are not forbidden to work on Fridays except when the Imam is leading the prayer.

Mr Mbah: Fortunately, this is not a Jewish country so that Saturday could be conveniently used as a free day by Christians, Muslims and everybody. In other words we are not bound to work on Saturday. On this day a worker may choose to augment his income by resorting to profitable ventures. He may go to the market to buy provisions and foodstuffs for his wife who may be a trader. If he is resident in Lagos he may travel to Agege, Ibadan, and elsewhere to purchase articles for sale or for consumption. He can make a profit out of this business. One may do one's washing and domestic cleaning on Saturday. Saturday could be used for recreational activities, visiting of patients, sight seeing and picnics. One can use Saturday for farming and this will prove a great asset to the family budget. He may go afishing. People in the lower income group could use Saturday for fetching firewood either for sale or for cooking. This too is a help.

Saturday could be used for gardening or shopping. If you can see your old parents or relatives more often and share your poverty and prosperity with them they will expect less from you when you return on your annual leave. There will be fewer requests for compassionate leave to see a relation in distress. Marriages and similar ceremonies could be performed on Saturdays without loss of a day's work as is now the case. Anyone who wants to celebrate a marriage will ask for a day

off, including those that will sponsor him; and the country will lose. Above all, free Saturdays could mean more leisure which workers could devote to improving their general and technical knowledge.

In calling for a five-day week I am equally calling for the complete abolition of the system of daily rates of pay. In a highly sophisticated society like Lagos the five-day week is overdue. But what exactly do people do on Saturdays? Traffic congestion makes it difficult for so many wage earners to get to their places of work before 9 a.m. In the Railways they close at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. There have been complaints that some people waste Saturdays on shopping, filling football coupons and so on. Others use the time to arrange social evenings. Why do we not scrap it once and for all and give it to the people?

I hope I have been able to prove that there are opportunities available to workers for utilising their leisure hours on Saturdays. If a worker is unable to make good use of his leisure hours he has himself to blame.

As I said earlier, I am asking the Government to follow the good example of the other employers of labour in Nigeria. I am advocating a practice which has been in existence in Europe and America. The five-day week is already in operation in the Nigerian Brewery, Mobil Oil, U.S.I.S., Tennessee Oil Company. What is the Federal Government waiting for? The Government of Eastern Nigeria has recently introduced the same thing. It is not always good for the Federal Government to be following the beaten track. We should be in the forefront of the best employers. I know that in other respects we should pay tribute to the Government because they can compete favourably with other countries in Africa.

In the five-day week there should be exceptions. Essential services, for instance have to be maintained as at present. I would like to make one thing clear to the House. It is not necessarily by working longer days or hours that we raise productivity. The important thing is to create employment opportunities for many and not to create longer days and hours for the working few.

The swampy island of Lagos was reclaimed by the Anti Malaria Unit in the 1940s at a terrific speed. The labour force was so

productive that a piece of work comprising drainage and sloping which was supposed to be completed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. was finished by 12 noon.

In calling for a five-day working week, I am calling for the abolition of the system of daily rate of Pay.

Finally, I want the Government to bear in mind that economic factors alone cannot determine days and hours of work. Human factors are perhaps more important.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): I rise to second the Motion, That this House calls upon the Federal Government to introduce in the Federal Public Service a five-day week as a progressive measure for its working population without prejudice to the existing total working hours per week.

This Motion has been very ably presented by the mover of this Motion, Mr Mbah. He has argued it in a most able manner; in a manner which leaves everybody, I am sure, satisfied that it is a worthy Motion for this House to support. The impression has been given that in this country workers have been following a system of 40 hour a week or 44 hour a week. But the Mover of this Motion has been able to indicate that there is such a mixture of hours of work in our labour system that there is nothing on which to base our calculation. Hours of work in a week for the clerical workers are different from those for the technical workers. The hours of work for the mining section are different from those in the printing sector, and so on. There is no uniformity of any kind. Our Motion seeks to bring some form of uniformity by removing the disparity that now exists and by introducing a system that operates in many parts of the world. In the commercial houses here in Nigeria workers on the whole work for 42 hours a week. In the morning they work for four and a half hours and in the afternoon they work for two and a half hours. In the public service however, from what you have been told, you will find that most of our workers are putting in 34 hours a week. The argument had been adduced in the past that it is impossible in a tropical country like Nigeria to work for more than 34 hours and

that is why we have been having a very short week indeed. But do we stop to ask why it is possible for Nigerians in the tropics to put in 42 hours a week in the commercial houses, and yet it is impossible for civil servants working in air-conditioned offices to put in the same number of hours of work in a week? There is no justification for the disparity.

I can state with authority that our men in the commercial houses are producing more, in spite of the long hours than our men who are in air-conditioned offices in the civil service. Therefore, there is no basis at all for the disparity; there is no reason for the fewer hours of work in the Government service. As a matter of fact it is reasonable to ask that in addition to adopting the five-day week, the number of hours of work should be increased to 40 hours a week. My reason is that the worker in the public service is more secure than the worker in the commercial house; he is better paid for that matter; he has better leave facilities; he has more security and in addition he has his pension and gratuity to look forward to. This is not always the case in commercial houses. Therefore, the public servant should be expected to put in more hours of work for his very good conditions of service. That is why I am departing a little from the Mover of the Motion. I am suggesting that—

An hon. Member: The hon. Member should not depart. He does not support the Mover then?

Mr Odigbo: I support his call for a five-day week. He is suggesting that there should be no change in the number of hours in the day.

Mr Mbah: On a point of explanation, I said in the course of my speech that Nigeria is committed to a 40-hour week convention of 1935. Even though the Federal Government has not been able to implement it in this country, I think the implication is quite obvious.

Mr Odigbo: I am insisting that the Federal Government should adopt that Convention forthwith and change over to a five-day week.

There is another reason to justify our Motion. The public service serves not only the Government, in reality, the public service

[MR ODIGBO]

exists for all interests in the Federation. It should serve commerce most for that matter. Commercial houses operate on the 8-hour day. During the day, unfortunately, they have only 4½ hours in which to deal with Government offices, that is, from 8 o'clock in the morning to 12.30 p.m. when they themselves close, and by the time they return from break at 2 o'clock the Government offices are shut. The result is that the commercial houses on which the weight of this country depends have only 4½ hours to deal with Government offices. This is unfair to that section of the community which is very essential to the wealth of the country. It means that a lot of work that could have been dealt with by Government offices in the interest of commercial houses is left over for the next day. In other words, the public service by closing at 2 o'clock every day is a drag on the commercial activity of this country.

An hon. Member : When the hon. Member was the Principal of his College he used to close at 1 p.m.

Mr Odigbo : We had no closing time. In fact, I would go further to say that this appears to be the only country in which the public service seeks to work in isolation of the commercial houses as if the service could exist without them. It obviously cannot. Therefore, any arrangement of working hours that does not take this aspect of the matter into consideration cannot be said to be in the national interest, and I am insisting that arrangement be made to make it possible for both commercial and public services to close at the same time. In other words, I am asking that there should be two shifts a day in the public service just as is the practice in the commercial houses, so that it will be possible for the commercial houses to have the full opportunity of transacting their business with Government offices.

An hon. Member : When does the hon. Member take his car to be serviced ?

Mr Odigbo : On Saturday.

Let us examine the question of productivity. It is an unfortunate legacy of the Nigerian civil service that at no time is effort made to calculate the productivity of the service in terms of individual output. In firms where costs are constantly balanced with output it

is easy to determine whether a particular worker is worth his pay or not. In the civil service even in the Public Works Division, there does not appear to be any means of determining the worker's output. Be that as it may, the need for increased output in the public service cannot be overstated. To my mind, this is sufficient justification for asking the public service to put in more hours. We are always told of civil servants who have returned to work after office hours. This is a sure indication of two short a working period, not of understaffing.

Any person who makes a cursory survey at the various offices will be amazed at the number of people who appear to be doing no more than read newspapers for the greater part of the allotted six hours. They pile up their work and return to do it when the office is quiet, giving the impression of understaffing. It is time a study was made on output in the civil service in order to reduce waste. What I am saying can be substantiated by anybody who cares to make a little survey himself ; let him go round the offices and he will see how many people are really working and how many are idling during actual working hours. After office hours you will find a great number of files piled in the offices and you assume people are working. Actually, they have come back to do work and we appreciate it, but if they do as much work during office hours as they do after office hours they will not come back to do it. That is an indication that, in fact, people would like to work for two shifts instead of one.

The question of what the worker will do with Saturdays has been argued ably by the Mover of the Motion, but I would ask also, what does the worker do with the afternoons left free to him ? What he does is sleep, is it not ?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Odigbo : To my mind this is a very wasteful legacy which we have inherited from the colonial era. The day is for work and we should make our people use the day for working.

I think the present system is unproductive and makes our people lazy. On the other hand, a worker could be better employed on Saturdays. He could attend to his garden or farm, he could

go on a picnic and get to know more about his surrounding. How many of our workers know anything more about this country than what they read from books and papers? They are unable to get out and know the country as we normally do at week-ends. This sort of thing would make it possible for them to get around and know something about the countryside. I feel also that a free Saturday in the place of six free afternoons would go a very long way to reducing the amount of loitering on the part of the workers, majority of whom nearly always utilise the six afternoons for loitering.

I think this is really telling on our morals. It is necessary that people should be given something to do to keep them from loitering. If a worker realise that he has a free Saturday to work in his farm or do anything he intends to do there is no doubt that he will concentrate all his efforts on his work.

We have, I am sure, given this House enough reasons why this Bill should be supported. We do not presume to have exhausted all the arguments that can be adduced to support this Motion. We are also aware that before it can be implemented consultations must be had with workers and every interested body of employers of labour. We can assure you that this Motion will gain the support of interested employers and in fact most of the workers. The workers who will oppose it will possibly be the lazy ones.

We ask this House to support and vote in favour of this Motion, one and all, and we urge the Government to accept it in the spirit we have moved it, in the spirit of national service.

Sir, I beg to second.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande): I rise to oppose the Motion. In doing so, however, I want to acknowledge that some of the points made by the hon. Members have merited commendation. But some are a little out of place when one considers the present economic position of this country.

In the words of his Motion, the hon. Member for Owerri North, (*Mr Mbah*) has called for a change from what now occurs on the ground that it would be a progressive measures. I am not at all convinced that what the hon. Member

proposes will result in this country in further progress. At the present time when we require a long and sustained effort to secure the success of our Development Plan, no slackening of efforts can be contemplated.

We have announced to the world that Nigeria seeks to escape from the status of an under-developed country and that with the co-operation of the wealthier nations of the world, we are going to strive, and mean to secure the success of our Development Plan, and thereby raise the standard of living of our people. It will be difficult, I submit, to convince others that we are really serious if instead of increasing our working hours, we actually reduce the number of days in which work is done. I am aware that at the present time the Government of Eastern Nigeria has introduced a five-day working week in the office of the Premier as an experiment, and I am looking forward to studying the results of the experiment in due course.

In the meantime, I think it should be more widely realised that a five-day working week is a luxury which generally and economically, only advanced countries can afford to enjoy, and as hon. Members are aware, these luxuries have been enjoyed by many of them only over the last decade or two. We are still laying the foundation upon which the greatness of this country will be built. Let us not slacken our efforts at this moment.

I do not wish to take the time of this House but before I resume my seat, I would like every one to be assured of one point, that is, that this Government in common with all Members of this honourable House, has the interest of the workers at heart, and we only seek to channel their energies in the right direction, so that they and their wives and children may have life more abundant in the course of time. I hope the Mover will withdraw the Motion.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr Mbah: In view of the explanation of the hon. Minister, and in view of the fact that he is presently to study the results of the experiment in the Eastern Region, I beg, under Standing Order 24 (1), to withdraw the Motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn

4.00 p.m.

USE OF NIGERIAN RAW MATERIALS
IN LOCAL MANUFACTURES

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

“That in order to increase efforts in the economic development of this country and to create more jobs for Nigerians, this House is of the opinion that a more vigorous policy be evolved by the Government for the economic use of all available useful raw materials by Industrial Establishments in Nigeria in the manufacture of their produce.”

The Motion is not only clear and simple but is very meaningful. It is very meaningful and very careful of itself. It has no intention whatsoever to embarrass the Government or the public. It is surely self-contained and self-explanatory.

We are all aware that about 95 *per cent* of our available raw materials in this country are exported raw and very cheaply, and, as a result, the country is losing a great deal. I am sure that if we determine to go all out and make a fuller economic use of our available raw materials, by refining and manufacturing them from now on, such a process will certainly bring increased wealth to this country.

The economy of a nation can be compared to the economy of two traders—one is a very hard working trader, and the other is just an average worker. The two traders go to the market and purchase a ten-pound weight of, say, palm fruits. The average worker's ambition is only to get a reasonable means of subsistence from his efforts and, therefore, sells his palm fruits to an oil mill factory or whoever is prepared to process it. But the other person who is the more ambitious and hard working man decides to sacrifice his time and energy to refine and manufacture his own produce before putting it out for sale. The result of all this is that while the former sells his products for one shilling, the latter who has put in more time and energy in order to obtain a greater profit, sells his products for three shillings. I have made this comparison in order to drive my point home more forcibly o hon. Members,

Refinery and manufacturing of Nigerian raw materials into actual commodities of trade in this country will definitely enhance the prosperity of this country. It will also bring about a solution to one of the most dangerous problems which have been retarding our economic ambition. Furthermore, it will reduce our invisible trade and will make more money to remain in this country. This is what is known as the retention of money under foreign exchange. This is one of the things that this Motion has set out to achieve. Secondly, it will help to solve the question of unemployment because, when we make more use of our available raw materials and there are more factories in this country, much of the raw materials now being exported will definitely undergo all processes from raw materials to finished products in this country. In consequence, we shall be able to satisfy our local needs and still have enough to spare.

As I said earlier on, the Motion is very careful of itself, because it has not committed itself or endeavoured to embarrass the Government because, in fact, the Government is trying its best. The Motion has not come out to condemn the Government. It does not say that a “vigorous policy” should be pursued, rather, it says a “more vigorous policy”—which point tends to show that the Government is already pursuing a vigorous step. It will, therefore, be seen that the Motion has taken notice of what the Government is already doing.

It goes again to tell us “to increase”; it does not say “let us have this and that”, but rather, it only urges the Government “to increase its efforts”. There again, it is conscious of the fact that the Government is hard working, and everyone will agree with me that the Government has really achieved a lot. In fact, the Government really deserves our praise. The achievement of the Federal Government within the past two years is about ten times our achievement during our colonial era. This is a very great achievement indeed. (*Hear, hear*).

Everyone of us has a family and we all know how difficult it is to manage a family, how much more, a nation. We all can therefore visualise the great task that devolves upon our leaders who have just taken over our affairs from our

erstwhile masters, in their attempt to make this country what it should be, that is, to make it a wealthy nation and to give life more abundant to everybody.

In order to improve the rate of our economic development, the Government is required to do certain things. The Government is required to put in more efforts to mechanise farming in this country. This will help us to increase the production of both our consumer and economic goods. The Government is already doing its best to give protection to indigenous industries. But when I say "indigenous industries" I am not referring only to industries owned by Nigerians, but to any industry established in this country and using our raw materials for its production of goods which automatically bear the tag "Made in Nigeria". I do hope that the Government will continue to assist industries both financially and technically.

And this brings me to the question of minerals. We have abundant quantities of minerals in this country, but no one knows exactly where they are. I have scanned through the Estimates for the past three years and have discovered that the Government has never voted sufficient money for the geological department. This important department is really neglected as not more than £120,000 has been voted for it each year. I think that a country, so mighty and vast, should have more geologists, more money to train laboratory technicians, scientists, field technicians and so on and so forth. If we vote sufficient money for the operation of this department, it will certainly enable us to have a proper analysis of our raw materials.

I also wish to say that geologists should be well paid. I repeat "well paid", These people, it must be realised, work in the bush, and if there is no encouragement, they will not like to remain long in the department. I wish to suggest that we should give more attention to the service condition of the workers there before we begin to talk of purchasing machines. Let us remember that it is the worker who is going to operate the machine; it is the worker who can help to lengthen or shorten the life of a machine; it is the worker who is going to implement the contents of any programme put up by the Government. I therefore hope that if the Government is

serious in pursuing its economic development programme, it should see to it that more money, at least five times the amount now voted, is voted for this department in order to enable the staff to find out the mineral deposits that we have in this country.

There is one disease from which we are suffering in this country: it is the disease of what I may call colonial mentality. Our people tend to think that anything made by European is decidedly superior to anything made by an African. I am, however, glad to note that a good percentage of the people in this country are now aware of the importance of placing our nation first, thereby showing their love and interest in our own things, whether they are raw materials or finished goods. This will definitely help us to retain our money in this country.

As I said sometime ago, it is difficult to fill with water a drum that has a big hole underneath. I really mean it. It is just like the economy of a nation. If we have a drum with a big hole in it, no amount of effort can fill it with water. This Government has a big drum to fill, and it is doing its best to fill it, but it needs the help and assistance of everyone in Nigeria to get the drum filled. When we say raw materials, what do we mean? There are two classes of raw materials: agricultural or primary products and minerals. Agricultural raw materials are timber, cocoa, bananas, raw rubber, crepe rubber, shea-nuts, cattle hides, goat skins, sheep skins, palm products, groundnut oil, benniseed, cotton seeds, *et cetera*. In the minerals we have coal, crude oil, limestone, lead, zinc, clay, gold, diamond, sand, tin, *et cetera*.

If I may illustrate this point. A Nigerian businessman is interested in the timber industry. He gets to a forest and is able to cut timber into logs; he tows them down to Port Harcourt, Calabar, Oron or Sapele or Lagos just to ship them overseas. Perhaps his profit may be just about £200. But this man may not be only a timber magnate, he may also be a trader. A few days later, he builds a house of four flats and wants to furnish it. He goes to U.A.C., U.T.C. or Leventis for this furniture. To furnish these flats means about £4,000 leaving this country. The timber this man sent overseas raw is now coming back to him as furniture and he is going to use it as a

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big man. He says to his friends, "I am a big man", not knowing that the timber he exported two or three months ago is what he is sitting on now. He made only £200 on his timber, not knowing that more than £4,000 has left this country.

I think we should be proud of Nigerian products. I am not proud because I seat on a big chair costing 50 guineas. What worries me is that this money is not retained in this country. We should establish more furniture factories in this country to manufacture furniture from our own local wood, and let the Government stop immediately the importation into this country of any foreign made wood-work. Efforts should be made in this country to see that any Minister who wants to buy any furniture should buy furniture made in Nigeria. We should patronise things made in Nigeria. If our cabinet makers make more furniture than we need, let us start exporting the extras.

The same thing should apply to rubber. We are one of the important producers of rubber in the world. At Port Harcourt in the Eastern Region, the Eastern Regional Government is having a joint business of tyre manufacturing with Michellin Tyres Limited, and we have some shoe factories using rubber in this country. We all know that any moving vehicle, be it an aeroplane or a motor vehicle, uses rubber. We also use rubber for domestic purposes. Instead of sending our own rubber overseas and then buying the finished product again, we should set up our own factories in this country to make use of the rubber we grow. I feel that there should be more factories for the manufacture of types, inner tubes, rubber bags and rubber materials. When we satisfy our own needs we can export the surplus.

I will now go to hides and skins. We have a lot of leather bags and leather boxes being imported into this country, we should invite the industrialists and capitalists who buy our raw rubber to come and establish industries in this country for the manufacture of leather bags, leather boxes, belts, *et cetera*. By investing their own money, they will make use of the available raw materials and also give employment to our sons and daughters.

Students of history will agree with me that in about 1620 one of the important items which made Britain by then to look for colonies was the question of unemployment. The people

who left Britain at that time to settle in America were called the Pilgrim Fathers. To combat this very important problem of unemployment, we should do everything possible to find jobs for our children.

There are other things we produce in commercial quantities, like cocoa and palm products. I do not want to dwell much on this point, but I think the Government should try to make more economic use of the available raw materials. To prove what I mean when I said that the Government should pursue a vigorous policy, I will cite one important example. This example is the efforts the Federal Government is making to refine our crude oil. The Shell B.P. between 1961 and 1962 exported about 21 million barrels of crude oil. That gave the Government the urge to embark on a joint venture of building an oil refinery at Port Harcourt. By this, petrol, kerosine, diesel oil and lubricating oil will soon be manufactured in this country to satisfy local needs. The Government cannot do anything more than what it has done already in this line.

I know that we have able and dynamic Ministers—the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry. The Prime Minister knew their personal ability before he gave them these two important Ministries. Instead of importing kerosine, petrol, lubricating oil, we shall have to export them now.

Another important item on which the Government has shown a vigorous policy is limestone. I could remember that about ten years ago in Awgu Division people were going to the court because one had thrown limestone into the other's portion of land. Limestone is very good for cement making and for the making of other things. I am happy that the Government has realised that limestone is very precious.

People have been hearing about gold and silver, without knowing that gold and silver are lying here and there undiscovered. Limestone has now become gold and silver to us. For instance, the abundant deposit of limestone at Nkalagu brought about the founding of the Nigerian Cement Company. There is also a cement making factory in the West. If these factories are worked to their optimum they will satisfy the needs of the people of this country.

But I want to sound a note of warning. In case of war there will be no cement because resin which is so important in cement making is imported. I know, however, that if the geologists go out to-day they will discover some deposits of resin, and this will go a long way to making the production of Nigerian cement independent of foreign materials. But as things are at the moment, if there is any war and we cannot import such chemicals, it means that we shall not have cement. I would only appeal to the Government to further pursue their vigorous policy in the field of cement manufacture and make it more independent by using all-local minerals.

There is yet another industry in which we would like the Government to be more vigorous. I can remember that during the life of the former Parliament there was a Motion, which the Government accepted, for the establishment of coaltar industry. Experiments were started and pens were thrown up and down with consultations here and there. But to-day where is the result achieved? Yet we have many miles of roads to be tarred. We want the Government to resume negotiations and introduce coaltar industry without further delay. There was a Motion this morning condemning the Federal trunk roads. Perhaps there is no money for maintaining these roads. But I am sure that if coaltar can be made from our coal, the cost will be lower.

This Motion confirms the creed of the Federal Government which, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I will quote from the Budget Speech of 1962-63, page 276 of the Official Report. This was read by the Minister of Finance.

"It is stressing the obvious to say that our policies in this situation must be designed even further to strengthen our overall balance of payments position. Our policies must take cognizance of the fact that Nigeria is a member of the world community of nations—a community which increasingly looks to international trade and commerce as a means of raising the levels of living of all peoples everywhere.

In this broad context the Federal Government's policies, designed to play our own part in the present international situation, can be summarized in a five point declaration—

First : to diversify our exports ;

Second : to develop new markets and to strengthen our position in existing markets ;

Third : to secure stable prices for our exports at a fair and reasonable level ;

Fourth : to reduce our dependence upon imported goods, particularly consumer goods ;

Fifth : to reduce the drain of invisible transactions".

Now, I hope that if the Regional Governments will continue to co-operate with the Federal Government, and if we come together and put down our feet to make more economic use of all available local materials we have in this country to manufacture finished products, Nigeria will be one of the wealthiest countries in the world within the next twenty years.

I beg to move.

4.25 p.m.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I would like to second this Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Mr Chukwu. The result of a geological survey in all parts of this country has shown that Nigeria is rich in mineral deposits. For instance, as has been mentioned by the Mover of this Motion, we have in abundance coal, tin ore, limestone, clay, diamonds, glass sand, natural gas and timber. Large quantities of these things are found in Nigeria.

One would ask oneself, how could we go about all these things? The first of the things needed is capital; the second is technical know-how. In the first place, Nigeria has not got sufficient man-power or sufficient technicians to work these raw materials. On the other hand, we cannot say that we do not have the capital required. Nigeria is a vast area and it has sufficient capital. If we want to have as many industries as possible anywhere in Nigeria, it is possible to do so within a year or two. But the fact remains that the Government is not very keen on seeing that industries are so scattered here and there, and our raw materials used in these industries.

The quantity of hides and skins that this country exported to the Commonwealth in 1954 was 5.7 million tons; 6.1 million tons in 1955; 5.2 million tons in 1956; 6.0 million tons in 1957; 5.1 million tons in 1958; and 6.0 million tons in 1959. The Federal Government

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should establish factories to make these hides and skins into finished products, instead of exporting these raw materials overseas and only getting them back at very costly prices.

Another thing is coal. The Coal Corporation at Enugu has been appealing to this Government time and again to come to its aid.

For instance, a few years ago many labourers were laid off because there were no countries that wanted our coal. Even Ghana here that used to buy some coal from us has stopped. It means that we should find ways in which to use our coal in this country. If factories are built, a large quantity of our Coal will be used. Further more, there are so many by-products from coal. They are so many that one cannot count them. We are asking the Federal Government to do something very soon in order to establish one or two industries at the places where coal is found.

Another thing is limestone. In Provinces like Sokoto, Benue, Kabba, Benin, Abakaliki and others, we have limestone in commercial quantities. Yet we have only two or three places where cement is manufactured in this country. We all know that cement manufactured in this country at present is not enough for local needs. Those of us who live near the ports like Port Harcourt, Lagos and other places often see the amount of cement that is being imported every day of the year. What I am saying, therefore, is that if we expand the cement industry in this country enough cement for local consumption will be available and we will have no need to import more.

Another thing is clay deposit. This is found in places like Mabajo, Papa Lanto in Abeokuta Province, at Ikorodu and Iju near Lagos, and also in every part of the Federation. My point here is that we must make use of these our raw materials. There is no need asking our geological surveyors to go out to survey these things when, after all, we do not make use of them. Why do they survey them? Why do they find them out? Government should make use of these things. We are wasting millions of pounds on researches every year and when we get the results, we do not make use of them.

The other thing is that in a place like Abagbara in Asu, Okigwi Division, Imo River, Ikot Item in Itu Division near Awo Omama in Orlu Division, there are also clay deposits.

Efforts should be made by our Government—

An hon. Member : Is that the hon. Member's constituency?

Mr Elenwa : I am coming back to my constituency. The Minister should do something at least, to show us that these raw materials got in our own land could be utilised here for our own use.

The other thing is diamond. We have diamond in the Northern Region. What has become of the diamond? What have they done with it? Has it been utilised?

Then there is iron ore. In places like Abaja, Kabba Province, and Enugu, there is iron ore. We have an abundance of raw materials in this country, so efforts should be made to utilise these raw materials instead of importing the finished products from overseas. For instance, one may say that we have a glass industry at Port Harcourt. But what of the raw materials used in this industry? The materials are all imported; and yet in this country, we have glass sand, which, if utilised can produce glass stones.

The other point is the natural gas. We really have natural gas in this country, in a place like Afam. The other day the Minister of Economic Development told us they have planned for the United States of America, Japan and other countries to buy our gas. Why not establish factories in this country so that our natural gas may be utilised instead of our looking for overseas market? We send our raw materials overseas and when they are finished, we buy them again. I feel the fund of this country is being wasted.

Sometime ago a Manager of one of these firms prospecting for oil in Ahoada Division told me that they had discovered so many of these minerals but they would not say anything about them because they went there for oil alone. They could not say anything about other things discovered because that is not in the terms of their agreement. So, I am asking the Federal Government to go right down to that Division and survey, get the geological surveyors to go right down to the ground and bring out these things.

An hon. Member : The hon. Member must go there with them.

Mr Elenwa : Oh yes, I will be there, and I will show them the way.

Another very important thing is our local gari. Government should encourage the processing of gari from cassava. If it is true that factories capable of producing up to ten tons of gari a day are being proposed and that detailed estimates for such factories are being considered, Government must not waste any time about it, and if it is expected that further development work will be required to make the processing more efficient such as providing a pilling machine, a different method of refining and drying, fermentation of the mass, then the Federal Government should not waste time.

What I mean is that if we have so many industries in this country the problem of unemployment will be solved. We know what is happening in Afam and other places especially where the Government has started an oil industry. I know how many Nigerians are being employed in these places. If many industries are scattered in this country, the question of unemployment will belong to the past.

With this, Sir, I beg to second.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, that is, to leave out from "House" to the end of the Question and add "expresses its satisfaction in the effort being made by the Government to ensure the utilisation of local raw materials wherever possible in the various industries that are being established throughout the Federation".

I really thought that this Motion, in the first place, was superfluous because when I made my speech to the House last Monday I made abundantly clear the detailed efforts the Government is making in order to bring more industries to this country. Industrialisation is on the Concurrent List.

It is not enough for people to cry that Government must do this and that. To enable Government to work successfully the people of this country must give active encouragement, that is, by patronising the industries that are established here. In this regard I have a very good example. There is a factory producing excellent models of radiograms, but what do we find? Although these radiograms are of better quality than most of the imported Japanese

ones, people prefer the imported to the ones made in Nigeria.

An hon. Member: Has the Minister one of such locally-made radiograms?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Yes, I have got one but people like the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) has not got one.

It is the duty of hon. Members to publicize and make popular the goods made by Nigerians, using Nigerian materials. A people that completely rely on the Government to do everything for them without themselves doing something for their own self-improvement will find it difficult to succeed.

If there is no capital and no money, I suggest that hon. Members should set examples by going round, encouraging people to contribute money and form companies; starting saving drives, and by themselves setting up local industries within their capabilities. Government, on its part, will give out loans. Many people here have received loans from Government in one form or the other.

There is another point I want to point out. So many people are anxious to get loans from Government but when they get the loans what do they do? They find ways and means and silly excuses of avoiding payment.

An hon. Member: Put them to court.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Well, we must put the hon. Mr Briggs to court. Just look at him, there is nothing Nigerian about him; even his tie is made in Japan.

I appeal to people to patronise Nigerian-made goods. Last time when I made my speech I talked to hon. Members about the resistance to buy Nigerian-made goods, although they are as good in quality as any made overseas.

An hon. Member: I wonder why they are not cheaper than those made abroad?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Self-sacrifice is an essential element in self-improvement. People who are not prepared to sacrifice a little in order to gain more in the future do not deserve well of either their country or of others. This Government is a Government dedicated to improve the lot of Nigerians, but we will not accept criticisms from people who are never-do-well them-

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selves—people who could only find faults but are not prepared to contribute effectively towards the self-realisation of our dreams.

People often talk about the conditions of salary, working period, etc., but can they reduce the working period and then have money to pay for these things? I quite agree that in every society there are distastes, sometimes glorified ones like those of the hon. Mr Briggs and I appeal to people not to be deceived by Mr Briggs and company.

I shall welcome any suggestions made by any Member—concrete suggestions—about how best to go about this business of utilizing Nigerian raw materials for the industrialisation policy of the Government. If any one has any concrete proposals I shall welcome them. He may either put forward his proposals on the Floor of this House or bring them to my office. It is not enough for people to come and talk sweet nonsense; they have to put this into practice by contributing money effectively towards the industrialisation policy and buying Saving Bonds; by working hard and furiously without malingering; and wherever possible by buying Nigerian-made goods instead of imported ones.

An hon. Member: The price should be reduced.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry:

The question of price reduction will automatically follow if you patronize Nigerian-made goods and saving becomes plentiful then. Naturally, because of the turnover and mass production price reduction will automatically follow. It is a question of whether we are prepared to help ourselves. To achieve this is simple and within our competence, and as industrialization is on the Concurrent List it entails the ready co-operation of all citizens of the country, if it is to succeed. I appeal to all Members to use their good offices to encourage Nigerian goods to be bought readily by Nigerian citizens throughout the country.

I beg to move.

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

Alhaji Muhammadu Gaiyamma (Hadejia North): I rise to support the Amendment on this Private Motion for the use of Nigerian raw materials in local manufactures,

and in doing so I would like to give my whole-hearted support to the Amendment of the Motion because its purpose is timely and very, very beneficial.

Along with the main purpose of this Motion as amended, I wish to call for the establishment of cottage industries to promote the economy of this country, and to give people employment and avenues of widening their professions. In this regard I would state that in many constituencies people have less to do after their annual harvest, especially in places like Hadejia, Mala-Maduri and Gumel in the Northern Division of Kano Province.

It is my opinion that now is the time that people should be more industrious than being idle, and because of this I am suggesting that more industries should be established to cater for the size of our Federation. If this is done the country will be developed, the people will be trained and the economic status of the nation raised.

I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 4.55 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 5.05 p.m.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba North): I rise to support the Motion and in doing so, I have these few observations to make.

We should make a thorough research into the most needed of our commodities and plan our manufacturing projects to satisfy our needs. We can break this into different categories and the first one is domestic.

Our ceramic industry ought to be well supported and there should be more of it established all over Nigeria. In every home, there is a great need for plates, cups, bowls and all sorts of other receptacles. We cannot imagine how much this country has been spending every year on imported crockery, so that if the Government encourages the local production of this commodity it will help to keep our money within the country and keep it in circulation so as to reach all parts of the country. In this wise, I think it is advisable that the Government should vote a large sum of money to boost the production of this commodity.

Another commodity is cutlery. There is also a great demand for cutleries both for domestic and for our agricultural uses. We have the raw materials and so long as this is so,

some couple of pounds devoted to the setting up of the machinery for the production of such commodities will be money well-spent.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry was advising that we should propagate the necessity for the use of our home-made stuff. That is one way of encouraging the sale of our home-made commodities, but another way is to place some embargo or restriction on imported goods. This reminds me of Japan. What makes Japan a really great nation economically is that any good produced within the boundaries of Japan is given first-hand publicity for purchasing and until the last of such a commodity made in Japan is sold off, the imported ones are not released for sale. Such a move if followed will certainly help to encourage more of our local products and their sale.

We should try and manufacture commodities like radio and television sets which have been spoken of and if people cannot get the imported ones they will buy the locally produced ones. After we have exhausted our supply, the local ones can be released for sale. Such a step and other steps which have been suggested will certainly enhance local production.

In view of the fact that Nigeria is noted for being an agricultural country and in view of the fact that most of the imported commodities could be produced locally out of our local raw materials, I would suggest that the Government votes an appreciable sum of money for importing agricultural machinery in order to boost our local production. Apart from the fact that our local raw materials could be used for our locally produced goods, at the same time we could act as supplying agents to our neighbouring countries.

It is with great joy that we note the fact that Nigeria is able to supply certain African countries with some judicial and other staff. In the same way, we may be able to satisfy the needs of other countries of Africa as far as locally produced materials are concerned. Increased demands will certainly lead to increased production and increased production will bring about better living conditions.

I would suggest that the imported mechanical implements should be given out or distributed to the different Regions of the Federation. Instead of the Federal Government giving out say £4 million to the different Regions for

research purposes, I think something like £3 million could be used in importing mechanical implements for farming purposes. If these mechanical implements are allocated to the different Regions, the Government of these Regions would see to it that these mechanical implements are given out to the different Provinces which in turn will loan them to the different local councils.

For instance, if Lagos is taken as a pilot area and we have two bulldozers allocated to this area, farmers in groups could loan these bulldozers and whatever a bulldozer could do in a man's farm will bring about a tremendous amount of production. Such a method would certainly help our local production.

Going into the matter of mineral resources, I said sometime ago that what makes the United States of America a really great nation is the use she makes of her natural resources. Cement is one commodity that is very largely used in this country and in view of the fact that we have a great deal of raw materials for the production of cement, more and more money should be devoted to the production of cement on a very large scale.

Going over the trade agreement between the Federation of Nigeria and the Peoples' Republic of Bulgaria, we see that there is a long list of export commodities from the Peoples' Republic of Bulgaria to the Federation of Nigeria. The raw materials for the manufacture of these finished goods are obtained in Nigeria and in return for these finished products are raw materials like cotton, coffee, cocoa beans, fruits, oil seeds, groundnuts, oil cakes, hides and skins, timber, rubber and so on. I think if we send out students to do research work into the production of these commodities, the money so spent will be money well spent. If every year an appreciable sum of money is devoted to the production of one kind of commodity or another, in five years' time, Nigeria will become a great manufacturing country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East): In supporting this Motion, I have to make few remarks. The Minister of Commerce and Industry has rightly said that we are not patronising our home-made industries. In this

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country we are producing a lot of cement. Quite rightly we are not having all the necessary raw materials and other things for the production of cement, but notwithstanding that fact, I think the aggregate tonnage of cement being consumed in the country now as compared with what we have been importing shows that we have been able to reduce the amount of cement imported from overseas.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please speak louder. We seem to be having quite a lot of interruptions.

Mr Olaore : What I am saying is that now that our production of cement in this country is getting very high, there is no reason why at this juncture we should not think of the possibility of actually placing a ban on imported cement. If we do that, I think it will stimulate the desire to buy only our own made commodity and the price will be substantially reduced. In the near future efforts will be made to increase the output at Ewekoro in the Western Region and Nkalagu in the Eastern Region as well. At present, a lot of cement is still being imported into this country. I think that the governments of the two Regions should not only publicise their products but also they should cut down their prices. We are imploring the Government to see that a ban is placed on imported cement so as to stimulate our home-made ones.

We have a lot of raw materials in this country. In the agricultural field, for instance, plenty of potatoes and onions are being grown in the Northern Region, but we still import these things to the detriment of our farmers. If the farmers are given the proper encouragement, they can still improve on the ones they produce at the present moment. In a sister country embargo is placed on such products, with the result that they stimulated the growth of their industries, thereby helping their farmers.

At present we have a textile industry which was declared open by the Premier of Western Nigeria. On that occasion, the Premier said that we should give every encouragement to that industry by giving it our patronage, and that they themselves should see that the raw materials to be used in the manufacture of the cloths are grown in Nigeria. Cotton is being grown both in the West and in the North.

If it is intensified in these two Regions of the Federation, we might be able to assist farmers and at the same time regularise our balance of payments.

I would like to say something about some other industries which are just being established in this country. I want to talk about enamelware. To my knowledge plenty of steel sheets are being imported into this country either from Japan or Hong Kong and even from China. In due course, if these industries are sited in the East, it might be possible in the near future to discontinue the importation of sheets.

Much has been said some time ago about the raw materials used in the production of beer and stout in this country, though the price is just the same as that of the imported one. If proper encouragement is given to these industrialists, the prices of the locally produced ones will be reduced considerably and then beer will be within easy reach of the average consumer in this country.

I have to say something about our canning industry. At the moment we are importing a lot of cheese, milk and butter from Holland, when all these things are produced in Nigeria. The only thing to be done is to improve on the present standard. It is not good to say that only the butter imported from Holland or Germany should be consumed in this country. We produce butter at Vom and plenty of fresh meat from the cattle ranch in the Northern Region. We know that in the end we shall have to depend on these things, and that is the more reason why we should improve the standard of production.

Likewise, I have to make mention of the baked beans imported into Nigeria. When you get to Kingsway or U.T.C. or John Holt you discover that the prices of these consumer goods have increased. We should be grateful to the hon. Minister of Finance for increasing the import duties on these goods, and I hope that that will go a long way to encourage the canning of our locally produced goods.

Finally, I have to refer to our geologists in this country. They are doing much work, but I think that that is not sufficient. There are several areas which have not been covered by these people. In South Africa we have diamond mine, and I think we have the sam

thing in Nigeria if survey can be extended to these areas. I see no reason why the Federal Government should not send a team of geological surveyors all over the Federation to dig into the ground and find out what kind of minerals we have in this country. I am of the opinion that we have enough minerals to give us money in Nigeria. We also have gold in this country. Location of these minerals is not sufficient. They should also be worked out so that we might be able to raise the economic vitality of this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I have just two points to make. We are manufacturing goods in this country and we are pressing for more industries. But like many other things we do here, one thing is going to elude us and that is that we are, in the next five to ten years, going to sell those articles that we are manufacturing at the moment. During this period, we would have need for outlet to dispose of our commodities. If we begin now to think of possible markets in the next five to ten years, we would not reach stagnation point where we will produce so many things and manufacture too much for our own consumption and no outlet to sell our finished products. Egypt is selling Egyptian cloth to America and Egypt is also manufacturing cars.

The second point is that we are saying, "Buy products made in Nigeria, made in Nigeria, made in Nigeria." But when we manufacture a bottle of beer we sell it for much higher than that imported. When we manufacture cement we sell a bag of cement for more than the imported one. Why is it that our products cost more than the imported ones? We must have to impose more tariff on the imported materials if we want our products to sell in this country, because there are so many ways of killing a rat. You can kill it, you can roast it and you can beat it with a stick. There are more than three or four ways of—

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) should address the Speaker. He is turning round to talk to us.

Mr Speaker : I think the House should be more orderly if many Members who interrupt stop doing so.

Dr Okeke : I was saying that if we could bring industries into this country our partners from America, England, India, and other parts of the world would help us to manufacture. But if we manufacture here, and they bring in their home manufactured goods into this country and under-sell us, what have we gained?

An hon. Member : We will put more tax on their own.

Dr Okeke : That is the point of manufacturing. Japan built her own economy because their goods, no matter what people said about them—there was a time that the word "Japan" was a household talk, and these cheap Japanese articles, bicycles, enamelware, radios, and everything were everywhere, because they were manufactured and sold on the world markets cheaper than the entire world could sell. They flooded the whole world with cheaper articles. Japanese articles under-sell American goods in spite of protective tariff.

We want to protect our manufactured goods if this country will profit by the awakened industry we are now bringing into our country. We must sell cheaper to our people, and we must see to it that imported goods do not under-sell us, if this programme will prosper.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : I rise to support the Motion as amended.

Mr Speaker : It has not been amended yet.

Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) : I rise to support the Motion as amended by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Ayeni : Point of order, I do not know—

Mr Speaker : You said you were going to speak on the Motion as amended. It has not been amended.

Mr Ayeni : It has been amended by the Minister.

Mr Speaker : The Question on the Amendment has not been put.

Mr Effiong-Spatts : In supporting this Motion, I have very few remarks to make, or some advice to give. All that I am trying to say is this. Goods manufactured in Nigeria are not known by Nigerians. The only reason is

[MR EFFIONG-SPATTS]

that in every manufacturing industry, an industrial bulletin must be published. The industrial bulletin informs the people exactly of what products are produced in the country. In fact, in every commodity in the market there is a priceless ingredient. The priceless ingredient of any commodity in the market is the name of the maker and I think that everybody would like to buy anything made in Nigeria. To publicise it does not mean putting it down in the newspapers. There should be an industrial bulletin published from which we will know exactly those goods manufactured in Nigeria.

An hon. Member : Is there any industry in Calabar ?

Mr Effiong-Spatts : We will know exactly that these things are manufactured from our own raw materials.

An hon. Member : Is the hon. Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) educating us ?

Mr Effiong-Spatts : We started education in 1846 when that hon. Member was in the bush. The first school was opened in Calabar in 1846 when he was in the bush.

Now, what I am saying is this. If we have this industrial bulletin, we will find that we do not need any publication as much. The geologist would be able to help us to know exactly what raw materials are in Nigeria. A Member in this House has said that although cement is manufactured here in Nigeria the raw materials are ordered from England. I differ from this. As a matter of fact, we have got gypsum abundantly here. We have got limestone and clay abundantly here. The only thing we are ordering from England is the machinery. Therefore, I think that the Government has been trying to make use of the raw materials found in Nigeria here to manufacture cement.

I remember sometime in the Trade Fair those things were exhibited: the gypsum, the clay, and the limestone. On the question of glasses, I believe that we have got the flint stone here, and we have got the glass sand here; the only thing that Nigeria may need will be very few chemicals. All these things are now made in Nigeria. If anybody sees that these things are manufactured in Nigeria,

and there is a bulletin to show them, everybody will be pleased. I think it will be the duty of every Member, if we have the bulletin, to publicise those things in our campaigns. That is how it is done. In India it started like that. Machines were manufactured, and there were bulletins showing them, and legislators, after reading these bulletins, showed the people in their campaigns that those things which they were buying were manufactured in India, so everybody was pleased.

What I am saying in supporting this Motion is that industries should be established. I am saying definitely that people are willing to come out to establish these things. But they must be definitely assured of the raw materials that we have here. That is why I am giving the advice. I am suggesting that if we have the bulletin published showing our raw materials, we will have so many commercial firms coming out.

The next thing is that, when these people come out, I would beg the Government to allow an agreement to be signed in time with them. I have an instance. A paper industry was to be established in Calabar, but from last November up till to-day the agreement has not yet been signed. The people are willing to come.

An hon. Member : Who is responsible ?

Mr Effiong-Spatts : The Eastern Region Government. The N.C.N.C.

If we want to industrialise Nigeria we must be fair. It is not only the question of raw materials that is holding us back. We must be distributive. There should be no tribalism in the whole affair. Limestone does not abound only in Nkalagu. It abounds all over Nigeria. It abounds in Calabar. What I am trying to say, whether people like to hear it or not, is that we should see into our imperfection. Our imperfection also holes up industrialisation in Nigeria. Our imperfections are nepotism, tribalism, and arithmetic instead of democracy.

Mr D. N. Chukwu : The hon. Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) is just trying to give an impression that the Eastern Region Government is tribalistic. I think he should not bring in anything about the Eastern Region here, and I want to assure him that at Calabar

there are very few economic raw materials available for industrial purposes. There is nothing like the special wood which could enable us to manufacture paper at Calabar.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): On a point of order, I have never seen a country where minorities rule the majority. In this country these minority minions want to rule the whole country. We say "No".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved, That in order to increase efforts in the economic development of this country and to create more jobs for Nigerians, this House expresses its satisfaction in the effort being made by the Government to ensure the utilisation of local raw materials wherever possible in the various industries that are being established throughout the Federation.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

JUDICIAL, ETC., OFFICES AND APPEALS BY PROSECUTORS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

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

"That a Bill for an Act to provide for appointments to certain court offices to be made by the Judicial Service Commission of the Federation; to make further provision as to the appointments of certain judges, law officers and magistrates; to make further provision with respect to appeals in criminal proceedings brought otherwise than by the accused persons; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time".

This Bill tries to make provision for four distinct sets of matter. The first Clause deals with the appointment of registrars and other officers of the courts by the Judicial Service Commission. Representations have been made to me by the Federal Supreme Court and the Lagos High Court that it is essential that all the officers of the rank of registrars who are working in the courts should be within the province of the Judicial Service Commission for appointment, and section 1, subsections 1 to 3, is intended to make that provision.

In section 2, we try to create a new rank of magistrates to be designated Senior Magistrates and to provide for them a new item of jurisdiction. As hon. Members are aware, Chief Magistrates have jurisdiction over matters costing up to £500 and they can impose penalties of imprisonment of up to 5 years, whereas Magistrates Grade I have jurisdiction in cases involving up to £200 and can impose a penalty of imprisonment of up to 2 years. The new grade of senior magistrates will have jurisdiction to impose up to 3 years imprisonment and a fine of up to £300. The gap between the present rank of Magistrates Grade I and that of Chief Magistrates will thus be narrowed still further.

The third section of this Bill is a transitional provision to enable the Northern Region and other Regions that are faced with the same problem to be able to appoint judges of the court and other law officers who otherwise might have been disqualified under our Legal Practitioners Act of 1962. The provision we have sought to make here at the instance of the Regional Governments concerned will enable them, for instance, to allow the Solicitor-General of the North to relieve the Attorney-General when he is away on leave, and in the case of judges, at the moment the Constitution of Northern Nigeria enables acting judges to be appointed. But if it is intended to appoint a judge who is not a Nigerian in that Region to-day, the Legal Education Act of 1962 would make it impossible, and this is merely a temporary provision which will not, I think, go beyond the next two or three years when there will be sufficiently qualified number of Northerners to assume this duty.

In section 4, we have made provision for appeals by prosecutors in certain cases. At the moment, the Federal Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to deal with appeals by prosecutors. What we have tried to do here again, in collaboration with the judges, is to make it possible for the Federal Supreme Court, when such appeals are brought, to do one of the three things stated under subsection 1—either dismiss the appeal, or remit the case to the court from which the appeal came, or quash the decision and either order a new trial or determine the case itself. This, I must point out, does not confer automatic right of appeal from the Regional High Courts or the Lagos High Court. For that to be possible, it is

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OF JUSTICE]

necessary for each Region to amend its High Court law, and it is proposed that this amendment will enable the four Regions as well as the Lagos High Court to proceed to make it possible in future cases, especially in criminal matters for prosecutors to be able to bring an appeal against decisions of which they did not approve in the lower court.

I beg to move.

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

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) : I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. I think it will be considered by all sides of this House that the Bill is not controversial and that it is progressive. It must be admitted that the intention of this Bill to make provision for the appointment of senior magistrates is rather belated. This really should have been done quite a long time ago. The Regional Legislatures have long taken this step.

The other point which I would like to comment upon is something which is dear to the heart of everyone of us, but it is unfortunate that we all seem to fight shy of it. The fact remains that we all talk glibly about Nigerian unity. I know of somebody who always says that he is a citizen of all parts of the world. It should be open to every Nigerian to offer his services anywhere in the Federation. On this I think I must be specific. To a large extent, particularly in the legal educational system of this country, our brothers in the North have not made as rapid a progress as those in the South. It is our duty at least to encourage them. This country will not develop if one area of the country is so much better developed than the other areas of the country. All the same this is no excuse.

I know that truth is very bitter, but it could be a palliative.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : Say the truth and do not be apologetic.

Mr Aghahowa : Well, one should not be apologetic in matters like that. Is it not possible, is it not conducive at least to the building up of the nation that we all envisage that we must unite? If our Northern brothers must be encouraged, then what stops the

Northern Regional Government from employing a Southerner, if possible on contract for three years? I feel the Northern Government should employ these Southerners at least on contract for three years, and at the end of the third year, if they have got a qualified Northerner, they can ask the Southerner to go and be grateful for the services he has rendered to them. If this country can afford to send lawyers and judges to places like India, Uganda and Tanganyika, it beats the imagination of everybody that one cannot render the same services to his next-door neighbour, one cannot render the same services to his own countryman in his own country, and yet we all preach unity of the country. I think this is the Federal Parliament and we are all working for this nation, we are all representatives of this nation, we owe it as a duty not only to ourselves, not only to our country, but also to posterity. We must contribute everything we have towards the building of this nation.

I am saying that any of us must be willing and able to offer services, we should be able to go to the North. One need not ask for a permanent appointment otherwise he might be displacing the Northerner, but since the Northerner has not the opportunities others have had, others should be able to go in there, put in a year or two's service on contract till they mature. Within the next two to three years the Ahmadu Bello University should really be able to provide the North with a number of Northern lawyers and those of us who might be there should be very willing to come back. After all, as the saying goes, *The consciousness of duty performed gives us music at night*. You would at least rest with the satisfaction that you have contributed your little quota towards the building up of one country, one Nigeria and one destiny. (*Hear, hear*).

Further, on the other aspect, the Bill specified the period within which one must appeal; that is the provision for appeal which the Minister of Justice was trying to explain to this House as to the right of the Prosecutor to appeal other than the accused person. There is a time limit of seven days within which he must appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. I am sure that the Attorney-General would have considered, at least, this aspect of it in all its implications.

The fact still remains that in our country means of transport really are not up to date in certain areas. The opportunity of getting an able and competent Counsel is not always available in the remotest parts of the country.

It would appear as in the ordinary cases of appeal that the period of fourteen days would at least save any hardship that this particular provision might occasion. Subject to what the Attorney-General might say, one would be tempted to ask this question: How is the period of seven days to be calculated? For under the rules, say, of the High Court of the Western Region, if a limited number of days is allowed for doing an act is so much, then the computation of time does not pass till the day immediately following and it is stated that the time allowed ends at such and such a time.

In this case what is going to happen? Is the computation of time going to be taken on the Western Regional High Court rules or the Northern Regional High Court rules or the Eastern Regional High Court rules?

With these points, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): We on this side of the House accept this Bill, but with one reservation, and that is in connection with appeals by the prosecution. This is a fundamental change of the law and I personally would really want us to consider it very, very deeply. It is no easy thing to be an accused person, to go through the trauma and ordeal of prosecution from the Magistrate's Court to the High Court and eventually perhaps to be pronounced not guilty.

According to this Bill the accused will still have the whole thing hanging over his head, with the prosecution given a right to appeal further in order to jail him or to see that the death sentence is passed on him. I think that the right of the citizen should be protected in his respect and I suggest that we give him that little privilege which the old law has given him. Let the right of the prosecution end only at the High Court, as it has always been, and to remove this extra burden on the accused person who has joined his case against the sovereign; let him have the full rights as was given to him by the old law to appeal to the Supreme Court,

but let not the prosecution have that same right. Let the accused person, at least, have that liberty.

Mr Speaker, I shall be short. The final thing is with regard to the appointment of Magistrates and Judges. My appeal is that Judges should be appointed from the Bar from experienced Lawyers and not from the lower Bench. I believe that this falls in line with what is happening in other countries, particularly the United Kingdom. When a Magistrate is a Magistrate he is a Magistrate at all times. There is no promotion from the lower Bench to the higher Bench. The idea of promotion and looking forward to promotion is bound to induce in the mind of the person expecting that promotion some kind of fear and respect for the authority which he considers will have to promote him.

I feel that we should appeal to the Attorney-General and to the powers that be that appointments to the highest Benches should be not from the lower Benches but from the most experienced barristers, barristers of perhaps ten years, or fifteen years experience or whatever years we may like to put it at.

What we are saying is that there should not be any anticipation of promotion from the lower Bench to the higher Bench. Magistrates' salaries may be raised to any height. Once they choose to be Magistrates, in my own opinion, they should continue to be Magistrates, but let experienced members of the Bar be promoted right from the Bar to the highest Bench.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): I think I am a bit sad this evening with reference to the point concerning the appointment of Judges in the Northern Region. After all, we are always preaching one Nigeria and that is the only point I want to emphasise with reference to this particular Bill.

I am happy that some Northern Members are still here. If we want to build oneness in Nigeria I think we should think about the laws which we make on the Floor of this House. I think most of the best lawyers in the world especially in Africa come from Nigeria. When we are thinking of lawyers we should count on Nigeria as a country producing most of the best lawyers these days.

[MR KOLADE]

I do not see any reason why the Northern Region should not appoint our own lawyers may be from the East or from the West. I think it will be wrong to make laws that will enable them to get lawyers from overseas.

An hon. Member : From Pakistan.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : Many Members who speak on the Floor of this House always refer to the unity of this

country and they refer to appointments in the North. I think the more they speak about it the less we become united.

The Minister of Information (Hon.

T. O. S. Benson) : On a point of order, Sir, it is now six o'clock.

And it being six o'clock Mr Speaker suspended the Sitting pursuant to the Resolution of the House (11th April).

Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.

Mr Kolade : Before we left at about 6 p.m., I was trying to make some explanation with reference to the Judicial Act of 1963, with particular reference to the aspect affecting the Judges in the Northern Region. I have no quarrel with the Bill except the part which gives the North preference in the appointment of Judges from overseas instead of from Nigeria.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : A point of order, Mr Speaker. Many times reference has been made on the Floor of this House to the Northernisation policy and the same thing is happening with regard to this Bill which is before Members. I think those who want unity in this country should, as much as possible, avoid attacking the Northernisation policy because it is a matter for the Regional Government. There is no point whatsoever in mentioning the appointment of Judges. I think the more we stop talking about the Northernisation policy, the better.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree with you. There has been quite a lot of ridiculing of our Constitution—matters that have been laid down by our Constitution have been dragged over and over again to the Floor of this House. I think Members should try to avoid such controversies as far as possible.

Mr Kolade : Thank you, Mr Speaker. But the point is that if Members do not mention some particular points now, when the Constitution will be reviewed, I think so many things will be left untouched. On the Floor of this House, Members should mention some aspects in order to put in the minds of those who will review the Constitution what aspects they should review. Occasionally, Members may not avoid mentioning this or that, just for the revision which is coming sometime.

With reference to this Bill in particular, something was said about a Region and nothing was said of others and that is why I feel that it should be a general thing, otherwise it will not lead to the unity of the country. I still have to mention that we have got most of the best lawyers in Africa from Nigeria. Members know now that we have got the Attorney-General of the Federation here; Members also know his

ability in law. I still remember that recently he was selected by the United Nations Organisation to draft the Constitution of the Congo. I think that is a credit to Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). Apart from that, he is an author of so many books on Nigerian law. What evidence do we still require in Nigeria to prove that we have got the best lawyers in Africa?

Recently, an invitation was extended to a Nigerian lawyer in the person of Dr Udo Udoma, who is now the Chief Justice of Uganda. That is also another feather in the cap of our lawyers. (*Hear, hear*).

What this Bill is seeking, therefore, with reference to a Region—if a Region is mentioned—is that it tries to give us some unemployment; whereas we are crying for employment. We have got our own sons and daughters who are qualified lawyers. Instead of giving them jobs to do, we go to the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, New Zealand and so on, to import lawyers. Are we trying to encourage employment or unemployment? I think that will be left to the Attorney-General.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : The Legal Department in the North is prepared to take anybody once he can adapt himself to the situation and once he can avoid being superior because there is superiority complex among certain elements in this country. There is no reason why he should not be taken if he can adapt himself to the situation.

Mr Speaker : Order! I think Members must avoid talking about the Northern Civil Service. We are concerned with matters within the competence of the Federal Government; not the Regional Governments.

Mr Kolade : The hon. Member for Sokoto South Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is trying to explain that perhaps some people may not adapt themselves, and so on. You cannot know whether people can adapt themselves to a condition until you try them. I do not think we can belabour that point. I think it is the duty of the Attorney-General to explain himself because he is the one codifying the laws. A layman will not be able to convince me as I do not know too. But I am only studying the situation, looking at it in a broad view, in order that we may have improvement in the things we are doing in the country.

[MR KOLADE]

I am still emphasising—I am not talking about a particular Region, but generally—I am emphasising that it will be very good for all the Governments of the Federation to recruit lawyers within Nigeria, unless they cannot get qualified lawyers. I am trying to prove that we have got qualified lawyers who can man any post in the Federation.

Mr Speaker, it may interest you if I mention just a few of our lawyers who can man any post in the Judiciary. For example, in the East we have Mr C. Ikpeazu, Q.C., Mr Anyaegbunam Mr A. Araka, Mr Ebo, Q.C., and others. I think we can find suitable people among them. When we think of Lagos and the West, I will now mention some few lawyers who have got more than ten years' experience at the Bar. We have Chief O. Moore, Q.C., Chief F. R. A. Williams, Q.C., Chief M. E. R. Okorodudu, Q.C., Chief H. O. Davies, Q.C., Lawyer Alakija and Mr A. Ogunsanya—a Member of this Parliament.

I may still remind you, Mr Speaker, about the ability of Mr Ogunsanya. When there was trouble in the Nigerian Railway, an inquiry was ordered under the chairmanship of Dr T. O. Elias. It was through the forceful way that Mr Ogunsanya brought out some of the things ruining the Nigerian Railway Corporation, that we have got improvement nowadays in the Corporation. (*Hear, hear*). I do not think that Nigerians should forget all these things. When we have our men capable of holding any post, I think we should always make them interested in the post.

In the North, we still have some lawyers. They are young and brilliant lawyers. Even if they do not have up to ten years' experience law could be made some time—the Constitution could be changed—so that the number of years might be reduced. There is somebody from the East, one Mr C. Nwajie, who understands Hausa fluently and has been practising in the Northern Region for more than fifteen years. I think he can hold any post there.

I would like to warn the Attorney-General himself as the Attorney-General of the Federation. He should always not present a Bill which will be one-sided in order to encourage the oneness of Nigeria; that is the first warning. He should always let the legal authorities of all the other Regions realise that whichever Bill

they bring to be passed on the Floor of this House, must be a Bill which will unite Nigeria. The North has enjoyed a lot of concessions since independence—concessions which are one-sided.

I remember the issue of the Penal Code, which was not general all over the country. At one time we had the issue of the Grand Khadi, which is a concession, and also the issue of some percentage-quota of appointments to the Federal Public Service. When we think of those things in the Federation, things on this side, on that side, not actually taken into consideration as a matter of general interest, sometimes it does not help the unity of the Federation.

Therefore if the Attorney-General, as the father of all, I mean from the legal aspect of it, cannot make all the Regions realise that our laws should be as much as possible even, realising that we are all members of the same big Federation of Nigeria, I think there cannot be great improvement.

I have no quarrel with this Bill, but just to warn strictly against some undue preferences which will not be of general help and interest to the country. With these few observations, and with this particular clause being removed, I support the Bill.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): The very first point I want to talk about is the right of appeal by prosecutors in criminal cases. I would like to say with respect that there should be a certain amount of limitation—the right of the prosecutor to appeal, especially where there has been a hard-won battle in the law courts and the decision is in favour of the accused.

Now, in most cases, it is expedient to be able to appeal in cases of an appeal against sentence rather than one generally against conviction. I think there will never be an end in such matters especially when one considers that in the High Court, even some of the cases in the Magistrate Courts, the prosecutor in each case will always have a Senior Crown Counsel proceed without any additional cost to the Crown. On the side of the accused person after the failure of prosecution in the court of first instance, the accused still has to go to the appellate court to defend his acquittal or dismissal on the original charge against him.

I think it will be expedient to limit this wide power now being given to the prosecutor to appeal against acquittal and dismissal.

The other point is in respect of clause 3. Although I realise that we are not at this point in the Committee stage, I would not get up on the Floor of this House and start criticising any of the Governments of the Federation. I would like to make that quite clear. What I have in mind at this stage is the Clause before us and I will say frankly that there are certain things which happen in this country the causes of which we may not know. I think that when one finds a clause like this appearing in our law—being given the semblance of legislative ratification—it is only expedient for some of us in this generation at least to say something for the record. The thought of a young man like me in Nigeria, feeling that, inspite of my qualification yet for some reason I should never apply for a post for which I would normally be qualified, indicates quite realistically that that great concept of our Constitution is not appreciated. I would like us to adopt a totally dispassionate attitude to this matter. It will be most revealing to find out why, inspite of our hard-won freedom, this sort of clause has to be part of our law. If on the other hand those of us in the South have erred or blundered in the past, as some of us have said, I think that in the interest of unity in Nigeria, we can still make reparation, if the fault is on the side of those of us lawyers from the South.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Sokoto West Central (*Mallam Ibrahim Gusau*) has said that certain people from the South are arrogant. I should feel it out of place and against the unity of this country for any Nigerian to be arrogant towards other Nigerians. I think it is a wrong attitude to adopt. However, granted that this is true, there is some sort of mutuality which must be promoted in these things. Those who are arrogant, if it is true, should realise that Nigerians, whether from the North, East, West or Lagos, are one and the same people. One is not superior to the other. Equally, in fact, our unity will be meaningless if we do not accept ourselves as one and the same people.

Rightly enough, even here in this House, there are distinguished Northerners whose example will be a credit to any country. Apart from the Prime Minister whose qualities

we all recognise, there are still other Northerners among us of whom Nigeria can be proud. There could never be any question of the North being inferior. Northerners are not inferior to anybody. Of course, they are not and they will never be.

But by the same token, I myself feel ashamed as a Nigerian to be classed as inferior to Northerners. The fact that I come from the South, should not be a disability against me. Therefore, for there to be preferences in consideration of employment is unrealistic and unthinkable. I say this without any bitterness, because I believe it is a problem, which all of us as representatives of the people should look into and find a means of solving. It may even be necessary for some of us to go across to the North and study these problems closely with a view to ameliorating them for the future. I think it is only in this way, not by criticising one Government or a group of people that we can achieve the real unity we seek; otherwise our unity means nothing to me. (*Hear, hear*).

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East): I shall feel very sullen or depressed if I do not say a word about this very important Bill. I would like to say once again, in a note of appeal to our hon. Friends, that when one speaks on the Floor of this House, one in fact does not refer to any one group. As far as this Bill goes, I think, it would have been a very good Bill except for that tint, that slur which tends to give us the stigma of disunity.

I would like to say quite emphatically, that this country could not have been one since independence except for the guidance of the Prime Minister. I am not flattering him. I think that it needs a man of great integrity, a man of humility and a man of patience to be able to hold the diverse units of this country together. To this extent, the credit goes to him.

I am saying this because I have studied the problems of this country. I have analysed them scientifically and I say this not to praise him as others praise him but I still say that there is a fundamental problem facing us and that is the problem of unity. In fact, unless we use every opportunity through the exchange of students from the Ahmadu Bello University down to the University of Lagos, and from Lagos to Ife—Nsukka University and *vice*

[DR KALU EZERA]

versa, and also through other means like this particular Bill before us, we cannot really make amends. It is not an easy fight. I am making an appeal, and such an appeal, if well accepted, would go a long way to cement the unity of this country.

Let us help the leaders of this country. Let us help Sir Abubakar; let us help the Governor-General; let us help Sir Ahmadu Bello; let us help Dr Okpara and let us help Chief Akintola. Let us appeal for the unity of this country. (*Hear, hear*). If we come here and take partisan steps, and for every single thing we jump up to defend our own Governments, I do not think we are being true to our Governments. I am one of those who feel very strongly about the unity of this country. Without unity, all what we are saying here is meaningless.

No economic development has any meaning unless we have our political unity intact and if indeed there have been, as my colleagues have said, past offences, past attitudes of arrogance, we apologise. But whether we like it or not, this country is going to be one. This country must be one and I must say it can be one if we all play our parts, and if we all consider ourselves members of one country. I pointed out before that I do not like to feel that I am freer in Britain or America than in my own country. It saddens me very much, it depresses me very much, that I can feel freer in Britain or America than in my own home where I might be considered a foreigner. This appeal comes from the bottom of my heart.

When I spoke last time it was not my intention to antagonise anybody. I said that the Prime Minister, on whom this great ordeal falls, must realise that it is up to him whether this country will get together or not, as far as to-day is concerned. Let us tell the truth and the real truth is that all is not well with the unity of this country so long as these things go. I am not saying that we can change these things overnight, but let us tell one another the truth. Nobody should feel offended; on the question of unity I have no compromise to make.

Whether the fault was ours or was anybody's, we are now in 1963; March, April or what have you? (*Laughter*). Follies of yesterday should not be used as an excuse to perpetuate

any evil that will dismember the unity of this country. And so I appeal to my hon. Friends not to misconstrue our idea. All we are saying is that in a Bill like this and in regard to every single Bill that comes before this House, we must endeavour to inject elements of unity. What we call centripetal forces, centripetal tendencies should be allowed to be built into every being. So the appeal is a genuine one. I ask my friends not to be irritated, not to be excited on this issue. We want this country to be one and the only way to achieve it is to use the type of Bill before us to inject that element of unity into our country.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) : I think I ought to explain one or two points raised in the debate on this Bill. The first, I think, is the one raised by the hon. Member for Benin West (*Mr Aghahowa*) who spoke first on this Bill. He mentioned that the seven days we allow for the prosecution to give notice of appeal was too short. I take it that he is a lawyer, and if he looks at similar legislation elsewhere, he will find that seven days is usually regarded as the maximum that should be given where the prosecutor is to be allowed to appeal from a conviction to a superior court.

The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) in the evening and another hon. Member tonight had touched upon the question of the wisdom of giving the right of appeal to prosecutors. I would recommend to them to study carefully the present position of the law which they had not actually mentioned by name but which they had at the back of their mind. It is true that before 1907 in England, it was not possible for the prosecutor to appeal from decisions of the High Court, but since that date the Criminal Appeals Act of 1907 had made provision for prosecutors to bring appeals in any case involving a point of law of exceptional public importance, which it is considered desirable in the public interest should be decided by a higher tribunal.

However, in 1960 a major change was made, and by the Administration of Justice Act of 1960, in England, the position has been radically altered. Since that date, under section 1 (1) of that Act, it has now become possible for both the prosecution and accused persons to appeal from the High Court or from the Court of Criminal Appeal to the House of

Lords, without even the fiat of the Attorney-General. The important thing is that the lower court should have given a certificate showing that the matter before it, from which an appeal is being sought, is one of general public importance, not of exceptional public importance.

So far as the law goes, therefore, I think that what we are trying to do in section 4 of this Bill is perfectly in order and is in line with the best that has been reached in England to-day.

Secondly, it is important to emphasize that section 4 of the Bill does not seek to give the right of appeal straight away. It is merely procedural. It enables the Federal Supreme Court to welcome appeals if and when each of the Regional Legislatures passes a law granting that power to the High Courts, the accused and prosecutors. So, the section has not yet enacted that.

I think it is important to distinguish the procedural from the substantive aspects of this particular law.

As for clause 3, I think it is important again for us to look at it again and see that we did not include the North by name in that clause. Any of the Regions of the Federation that is faced with any exceptional circumstance making it essential for a departure to be made and for a non-Nigerian to be appointed, would be able to take advantage of the same section. We do not, of course, anticipate that a situation of that kind would arise in certain areas, particularly on political grounds, but, should it arise, it would be possible for any of these other areas to take advantage of that particular provision.

May I mention also to hon. Members that before we decided to put these forward, the issue was raised with my colleagues in the Regions and at the last meeting of the Attorneys-General of the Federation at which all of us were present, the whole matter was carefully gone into and, after discussion with our respective Governments, the Executive Councils and the Cabinet, we felt that this particular arrangement would be in the best interests of the country, and we recognised a reality which, of course, should be divorced entirely from

the politics of the matter. So, what I am recommending to the House is a careful consideration of the circumstance that has led to the unanimous agreement of all the Attorneys-General of the Federation and I take it, their respective Governments, that this particular provision should be allowed to go forward.

I am sure, Mr Speaker, that those concerned will have taken due note of the various appeals you have made to-night, and that in the practical application of that particular section, regard should be had to the views which you have expressed. I think that with this explanation hon. Members will find it easier to accept this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

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

MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment into the consolidated revenue fund of forfeited wages in special cases and otherwise to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1962, be read a Second time.

Hon. Members would recall that on the introduction of the principal Act, that is, the Merchant Shipping Act, to this House last August, it was predicted that the need might arise for minor amendments to be made to the principal Act from time to time. As Members will remember, the principal Act is a very long one running into 423 sections. This short Bill now before the House seeks to effect a minor Amendment to section one hundred and twenty-two, subsection (2) of the principal Act, and in addition to this it also seeks to correct some minor errors in printing.

Clause 1 of this short Bill clarifies the designation of forfeitures and wages ordered by a court. It also prescribes what should be done on the wages forfeited under section one hundred and twenty-two subsection (2) of the principal Act, and the total effect of this Amendment is to bring our own legislation in line with the practice in other Commonwealth countries.

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION]

As I said, the Bill is very short, and the second Clause of the Bill seeks only to correct minor printing errors. The Bill is non-controversial and I commend it to the House.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I beg to second.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): As the Minister has said, this Bill is non-controversial. The Amendment seeks to clarify the designation of forfeitures and wages ordered by a court and to correct certain printing errors in the principal Act. You will see that the second part of the Amendment "to correct certain printing errors in the principal Act" is nothing short of what I may call inefficiency on the part of the printers and the people who read the proofs. It is not possible to do a work ten times. The Minister will come here next time and say that there is an error in what we are amending. The printers should be vigilant. They are wasting the revenue of the country, wasting the time of the legislators, good honest time. It is necessary that we tell the Minister what he should tell the people responsible for these errors. We should ask the Minister of Information to inform the printers directly and rightaway that they are not doing their work well and this is why I say that we do not mean any harm to the Minister of Transport. But when the Minister of Transport comes again I hope he will not say that there is an error in printing.

I welcome the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

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

DEFAMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Defamation Act, 1961, be read a Second time.

I must anticipate the last hon. Member and then plead on behalf of the Government Printers that they have been really over-worked in the last few months and the size of the Bill involved is such that you are bound, if you know the conditions under which they work, to sympathize with them. Even in more advanced countries similar errors are not uncommon.

Again here, in this Bill, the short point is to ask that Part III be substituted for the words "Part II" in the second line of subsection (2) of section 9.

I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

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

DEFAMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

CLAUSE 1.—(SUBSECTION (2) OF SECTION 9 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT AMENDED 1961, No. 66).

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Now we have left our sleep to come here tonight to play this kind of game. Now this will be the last time. We have to employ more proof readers to make sure that whenever a Bill is passed into law it is properly proof-read to avoid changing *O.F.* to *F.O.S.S.* because our time is being wasted in the Chambers.

Clause 1. ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2. ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty minutes to ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 17th April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HEALTH

Radio Sets in Hospitals

O.165. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Health if he will consider installing television sets and radio boxes in all the Hospital wards in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Mallam Hamza Gombe) : A few television sets and several radio boxes are in use in some wards in the various hospitals. It is not considered advisable to install them in wards where seriously ill patients might be disturbed.

Nigerian Herbalists

O.306. Mr M. D. Iyorka asked the Minister of Health what sort of encouragement has the Government given to our Nigerian herbalists in order to enable them develop their locally manufactured medicines scientifically and economically.

Mallam Hamza Gombe : No direct financial grants have been made to Nigerian herbalists. However, from 1959, the sum of £3,500 a year has been voted to the University College, Ibadan, for investigations into the medical properties of African herbalists. It is too early to expect any dramatic results from these investigations.

Tuberculosis

O.307. Mr M. D. Iyorka asked the Minister of Health if he will consider sending a Federal tuberculosis team to tour the Federation for the purposes of surveying and treating tuberculous patients especially in the villages where this dreadful disease kills thousands of people unnoticed.

Mallam Hazam Gombe : As hon. Member will be aware, Health is a residual subject within the Constitution. However, the National Council on Health Services, comprising the Regional Ministers of Health, myself and our advisers, have reached agree-

ment to make concerted efforts towards the eradication of communicable diseases. Tuberculosis being one of these, our efforts to combat this disease are being co-ordinated.

Eye Diseases

***O.308. Mr M. D. Iyorka** asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware of the ever-increasing number of eye diseases and blindness in the country, and whether he will consider building at least two more eye hospitals in the Federal Territory.

Mallam Hamza Gombe : I have no information about the increase of eye diseases and blindness in the country. I know, however, that there has been an increase in the number of cases of eye diseases treated in Lagos hospitals, but these increases may be due partly to :

- (a) the rise in the population of Lagos,
- (b) the improvement in transport facilities making it possible for patients from outside Lagos to come for treatment in Lagos,
- (c) the increase in the number of doctors dealing with eye diseases, making it possible for more patients to be treated for eye diseases, and
- (d) the general increase, among Nigerians, of the awareness of the benefit of proper medical care.

The facilities at present available for the treatment of eye diseases are admittedly inadequate but so are other facilities for treating other diseases and provision has been made by my Ministry in the Economic Development Programme to increase these facilities.

Dispensaries at Ikoyi and Victoria Island

***O.667. M. Ismaila A. Bici** asked the Minister of Health if he will consider establishing dispensaries at Ikoyi and Victoria Island.

Mallam Hazam Gombe : Yes, when the Health Centres are completed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone Trunk System

***O.231. Mr U. O. Ayeni** asked the Minister of Communications how many district headquarters in Western Nigeria have not been connected to the telephone trunk system, and whether he will place them on the priority list with particular reference to Afuze and Igarra in Afenmai Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika): Fifty-six district headquarters in Western Nigeria have not been connected to the telephone trunk system.

My Ministry is fully aware of the need for telephone facilities at administrative headquarters and the hon. Members may be assured that the requirements of all such headquarters without telephone facilities, including Afuze and Igarra in Afenmai Division are being fully considered under the 1962-68 Development Programme.

I have to state, however, that as the planning for the 1962-68 Development Programme has not yet been completed, I cannot now name those headquarters which will be provided with the telephone facilities during this Programme.

Telephone Exchange for Oyo

***O.314. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Communications, when automatic telephone exchange will be introduced in Oyo.

Mr S. F. Nwika : Consideration is being given to the provision of an automatic telephone exchange at Oyo under the 1962-68 Development Programme but the final decision on this cannot be taken until the necessary planning work now in hand has been completed.

Provision of Postal Agencies

***O.315. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to establish postal agencies at Imini, Jobele, Iware, Oluwatedo and Ilu-Aje in Oyo Southern District Council areas.

Mr S. F. Nwika : No requests have been received from the communities at Imini, Jobele, Iware, Oluwatedo and Ilu-Aje to establish Postal Agencies in their areas.

If the Communities apply in the usual manner to the Territorial Controller, P.&T. Ibadan, he will examine their applications and if the conditions, as laid down in paragraph 10 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, are satisfied, he will take appropriate action to open the Postal Agencies.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : A community in Iware has asked for a Postal Agency some months ago but nothing has been done

about it. They wrote their application through the Territorial Controller, Ibadan, but still nothing has been done about it.

Postal Agencies for Idoma Division

***O.316. Mr J. O. Ede** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he has any plans for the erection of new postal agencies at Bagaji Agatu, Worku, Egedde and Orokramu Districts in Idoma Division in view of their long distances from Oturkpo.

Mr S. F. Nwika : Approval has been given for the opening of a Postal Agency at Egedde—Idoma and necessary preliminary arrangements are well in hand. The Postal Agency will be opened as soon as these are completed.

No applications have so far been received for the establishment of Postal Agencies at Bagaji Agatu, Worku and Orokramu. When any applications are received, necessary investigations will be conducted and if such establishments are justified, under paragraph 10 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, approval would be given to open such Agencies.

Extension of Telephone Service

***O.317. Mr J. O. Ede** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the possibility of extending telephone service from Oturkpo to Bagaji Agatu, Worku, Egedde and Orokramu in Idoma Division.

Mr S. F. Nwika : There are no proposals to provide telephone service for these localities during the 1962-68 Development Programme. My Ministry will concentrate primarily on localities where Divisional, District, County Council and Native Authority Headquarters are situated.

Postal and Telephone Service

***O.318. Mr J. O. Ede** asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to establish postal agencies and telephone service in all the district headquarters in the Federation in view of inconveniences always experienced by people living in rural areas.

Mr S. F. Nwika : If any District Headquarters has no Postal Agency it is advised to comply to the conditions laid down in paragraph 10 of the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957,

I am fully aware of the need for telephone facilities at District Headquarters and the hon. Member may be assured that the requirements of all such localities are being fully considered. My Ministry is still formulating plans for the 1962-68 Telecommunication Development Programme and I cannot yet give details of the new areas to which the telephone service will be extended.

Conversion of Postal Agencies

O.372. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider converting the Ado-Odo, Igbessa, Ajilete, Ipokia, Ibatofin postal agencies into sub-post offices, if not, whether he will consider introducing post office savings scheme at Ado-Odo, Igbessa, Owode and Ipokia to increase the volume of business.

Mr Nwika : The current units of business transacted at the Postal Agencies are as follows :—

Ado-Odo	..	..	13,000
Igbessa	..	..	7,000
Ajilete	..	..	5,817
Ipokia	..	..	8,208
Ibatofin	..	..	3,936

As the above figures reveal, none of the Postal Agencies has attained the level of business required for conversion into a Sub-Post Office as laid down by Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

The possibility of extending Savings Bank facilities to these Postal Agencies is constantly reviewed, but it is regretted that the conditions laid down by Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 have not been satisfied by Ado-Odo, Igbessa, Owode and Ipokia Postal Agencies so that Savings Bank facilities could not be extended to them at the moment.

Mr Aihonsu : Is the Minister aware that there is not a single post office in the whole of Egbado South constituency ?

Elele Postal Agency

O.373. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will now consider converting Elele postal agency to a sub-post office now that the volume of business transacted there has exceeded 24,000 units.

Mr Nwika : The current units of business transacted at Elele Postal Agency amount to

22,369. This is still below the conversion level stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. It is likely however that conversion may take place by next year, having regard to a new policy now under consideration.

Introduction of Savings Bank

O.449. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will make adequate arrangements to enable suitable rural postal agencies to operate post office savings bank in order to encourage personal savings and provide capital for the Six-Year Development Programme.

Mr Nwika : Adequate arrangements have been made to enable suitable rural Postal Agencies to operate Post Office Savings Banks.

The hon. Member is referred to Paragraph 11 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 where conditions for the provision of Savings Bank facilities in Postal Agencies are laid down.

Training Schools

O.450. Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will now consider establishing training schools for counter-clerks at our post offices in order to improve relations between them and the public.

Mr Nwika : All counter officers receive basic training in our Training Schools before they assume duties and public relations and courtesy are among the subjects they are taught.

Apart from the basic training, all counter officers attend refresher courses regularly, and opportunity is always taken, not only to rehearse what they were taught initially but, also to teach them advanced lessons amongst which public relations and courtesy are included once again.

Provision of Post Offices

O.502. Mr V. A. Nwalieji asked the Minister of Communications, if he would consider providing every Federal Constituency with a fully equipped Post Office.

Mr Nwika : No, Sir.

It is the Government's policy to build Post Offices where it has been demonstrated that the potential postal business is sufficient

to make provision of Departmental Post Office an economic proposition. The policy is contained in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Nsukka General Post Office

***O.503. Mr V. A. Nwalieji** asked the Minister of Communications, what is delaying the improvement of the Nsukka General Post Office in order to ease the acute congestion there.

Mr Nwika : A type 2 Post Office has already been approved for Nsukka and is included in the 1962-68 building programme of this Ministry.

Work on the building will start as soon as it is practicable.

Annual Volume of Business

***O.504 Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the annual volume of business transacted at the Umuduru, Anara, Amaraku, Ogbor Uguri and Amuzari postal agencies.

Mr Nwika : The recent figures of units of business transacted at the Postal Agencies are as follows :—

Umuduru	..	..	19,018
Amaraku	..	..	26,152

There are no Postal Agencies at Anara, Ogbor Uguri and Amuzari. The Hon. Member probably means the following Postal Agencies whose figures are as below :—

Angara	..	..	10,532
Afor Uguri	..	..	8,826
Amuzari	..	..	5,883

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that the place described as Anara, where he says there is no Postal Agency is exactly the same place which he later described as Angara ?

Mr Nwika : The spellings of Anara, Ogbor Uguri and Amuzari are different from the ones shown on this Order Paper.

Mr Speaker : Question No. O.505 has been transferred for answer on the 24th April.

24-Hour Telephone Service

***O.508. Mr N. Enwo** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will establish a

direct 24-hour telephone link between Afikpo and Enugu.

Mr Nwika : There are 32 subscribers connected to Afikpo exchange and the hours of service are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The number of trunk calls and subscribers do not justify a direct 24-hour telephone link between Afikpo and Enugu.

Telephone calls between Afikpo and Enugu are connected through Abakaliki. The existing hours of service of Afikpo exchange and the routing of calls between both exchanges are considered adequate having regard to the number of subscribers at Afikpo.

Provision of new Post Office

***O.509. Mr N. Enwo** asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to provide Afikpo with a new post office in view of the congestion in the existing one.

Mr Nwika : Studies are being carried out at present at Afikpo to determine whether the provision of a new Post Office there is justified.

Direct Telegraph Line

***O.510. Mr N. Enwo** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will install a direct telegraphic line between Afikpo and Enugu.

Mr Nwika : Telegrams between Afikpo and Enugu are passed through Abakaliki at present. It is not proposed to install a direct telegraph line between Afikpo and Enugu as the number of telegrams involved make the provision of a direct telegraph link an uneconomic proposition.

Mr Speaker : Question No. O.511 will be answered on the 24th April.

Extension of Telephone Facilities

O.512. Mr R. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Communications, whether the promise already given to extend telephone facilities to Ajassepo and Oro, in Ilorin Division, will be fulfilled during the present financial year.

Mr Nwika : I do not recall making any promise regarding a telephone service at Ajassepo and Oro but these localities are, however, being considered for inclusion in the 1962-68 Development Programme. Until the planning for this is further advanced, I regret I cannot say when or whether service will actually be provided in these towns.

Transaction of Savings Bank Business

O.513. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider allowing every postal agency to carry out savings bank business and if he will make the conditions of withdrawal more favourable so that more people can be attracted to save with the Post Office.

Mr Nwika : The conditions for extending Savings Bank business to postal agencies are laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. It is considered a considerable risk to extend the business to postal agencies which do not satisfy those conditions.

The conditions for withdrawals by means of identification of depositors are currently being examined with a view to making them more favourable.

Provision of Telephone Service

O.514. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Communications, whether, in view of the remoteness and inaccessibility of places like Illah, Onichaolona and Nsukwa, he will consider providing the postal agencies there with rural telephone call boxes.

Mr Nwika : Consideration will be given to the provision of telephone service for the three localities specified in the hon. Member's question.

With regard to remote and inaccessible places in general, it must be realised that these qualifications are the very ones which normally make the provision of telephone service difficult and uneconomic. I am, however, fully aware of the needs of such localities and Members may rest assured that I will view the case of such localities sympathetically.

Mr Speaker : Questions O.515 and O.516 will be answered on the 24th April.

Automatic Telephone Exchange

***O.517. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, what has prevented the establishment of an automatic telephone exchange in Benin since a resolution to this effect was passed by the Federal Parliament.

Mr Nwika : The provision of an automatic telephone exchange at Benin has been deferred because sufficient capital has not been available

to allow the replacement of the existing manual exchange which will, from an economic viewpoint, last for some years.

Planning for the 1962-68 Programme is under consideration and until this reaches a more advanced stage, it would be premature to provide, or even design in detail, any new exchange which may later be found not to fit in with our overall national plan.

As I stated in reply to an earlier Oral Question (No. O.208), the present indications are that a new automatic exchange will be provided at Benin in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

Mr Oronsaye : Will the Minister please tell this House whether all these were not taken into consideration before he accepted a Motion which was moved on the Floor of this House ?

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile): May I say quite candidly that there is no point in belabouring this point because Benin in any case must have a new automatic exchange within the next two or three years.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : Will the Minister consider installing automatic telephone exchanges in all major towns in this country.

Wireless Telephone Service

***O.518. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the cost of establishing a wireless telephone service and whether he will make a statement about the future of this form of service.

Mr Nwika : I presume the hon. Member in his question refers to establishment of wireless telephone service by means of High Frequency radio systems. Such systems, suitably for use in the public network between two points, would cost from £28,000 upwards, depending on ancillary requirements, such as buildings, power supplies and so on.

As far as Radio System for public trunk network is concerned, it is the policy of my Ministry, for technical and economic considerations, to utilise Very High Frequency or Microwave Systems.

Installation of Automatic Exchange

HEAD 22.—CABINET OFFICE

*O.621. **Mr B. N. Ukaegbu** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will now install automatic telephone exchange in Owerri.

Mr Nwika : Consideration is being given to the provision of an automatic exchange in Owerri during the 1962-68 Development Programme. As I have stated in reply to similar questions in the past, a final decision on where and when new automatic exchanges will be provided depends upon the outcome of planning work now being carried out in the Posts and Telegraphs Division.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : May we know from the Minister whether he has any plan to establish automatic exchange anywhere in Owerri province within the next two to three years and if so, whether he would give Owerri the due consideration it deserves as the provincial headquarters.

Telephone and Telegraph Facilities

O.622. **Mr B. N. Ukaegbu** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will install telephone and telegraph facilities at the Okpala sub-post office in the Owerri South-East Constituency.

Mr Nwika : Okpala is being considered for the provision of telephone and telegraph facilities during the 1962-68 Development Programme.

Mr Speaker : Order. It is now 10.30 a.m. and under Standing Order 14 (3), no further questions can be entertained.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL

(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Chairman : Clauses 1 and 2 stand postponed under Standing Order 63 (7) until after consideration of the Schedules.

HEAD 21.—STATE HOUSE

£70,180 for Head 21—STATE HOUSE—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Question proposed, That £3,161,900 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : I see that quite a number of hon. Members have filed Amendments which I believe they do not actually intend to move, but which probably they filed in order to have opportunity to contribute to the debate. In that respect it would be better if those concerned did not move.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : May I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister and his Cabinet for proving beyond doubt that they are ready to bow to the supremacy of Parliament. Events following my last statement on this subject shows that our Prime Minister listens to the voice of the masses through their representatives in this honourable House. We are really very fortunate to have him as our Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear.*)

One of the greatest problems confronting this country to-day is unity. The factors of disunity are many, I need not mention them here, but it appears that if there is anything that will split this country into bits, it is the census. I, therefore, suggest that a new system of enumeration be adopted for the next census. Let there be two enumerators in every unit or ward. That is, one of those two people should represent the North and the other should be a Southerner because they will be able to cross-check each others enumeration and the result will certainly be more reliable. I am making this suggestion because of the political struggle between the North and the South which is the main reason why figures are inflated. I hope that the Prime Minister will take this advice—

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : I do not understand the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe's*) example. He says one person should represent the North and the other person should represent the South. What about the Federal Territory ?

Mr Ememe : I hope that the Prime Minister will take this advice and save this country from eventual *Pakistanisation*.

Another factor which tends to cause disunity and hence hamper the smooth running of the Federal Cabinet is the tendency on the part of our political leaders to base themselves in the Regions and send their second in command to the Centre. The result of this attitude is that the Federal Government is indirectly being run from the Regions. An example of this Regional domination of our Federal Cabinet is the present regionalisation of the scholarships scheme. The scholarships aid that we obtain from foreign countries is now being regionalised. This is not to the best interest of this country because Nigeria is one country and, therefore, the Federal Government should handle foreign scholarships.

Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I think the speech of the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is irrelevant.

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) should come to the point. We are discussing the Cabinet Office.

Mr Ememe : I gave an example of Regional domination of the Cabinet and I mentioned the regionalisation of the—

The Chairman : There is no regionalisation here.

Mr Ememe : Another grave mistake the Government has been making is in regard to organised labour. The consensus of opinion—

The Chairman : The hon. Member had better reserve his labour comments until we come to the appropriate Head.

Mr Ememe : The reason why I mention some of these is because the Cabinet Office take the decisions for most of the actions of the Ministries and, I think, I am on good premises.

The Chairman : I think you should concern your comments with the expenditure under this Head.

Mr Ememe : I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the pressing need to overhaul his team. Our Cabinet Ministers have shown even on the Floor of this House that they are businessmen. They own properties which can be valued at hundreds or thousands of pounds. It is evident that when a person owns so much wealth he cannot give his full time to his Ministerial business.

Sir Abubakar knows very well that his Ministers are doing part time job. Why then should they be paid such a fabulous salary? Our Cabinet Ministers draw a high salary for part time jobs. I feel this is not very fair. They should either do full-time work or draw less salary for the work they are doing. When Ministers own such a heavy amount of property they cannot avoid making selfish and biased policies. Therefore, the Prime Minister is left with two alternatives if he really wants to retain the confidence of the people of this country. Let him put a ceiling on the assets or value of the properties of his Ministers. I suggest in this regard that no Minister should own more than £20,000 worth of property or its equivalent. That is my own suggestion.

Another way the Prime Minister can control his Ministers will be to give the Ministers pension when they have served two tours, that is ten years. He should remove them from the Cabinet after giving them pension.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : On a point of order, the hon. Member says that if a Minister serves for two tours he should be retired. May we then know from him what the position would be in the case of Parliamentary Secretaries and ordinary Members of this House?

Mr Ememe : The hon. Member for Port Harcourt should know that all of us in this House do retire to our respective places after five years to seek a fresh mandate.

An hon. Member : What about the Ministers?

Mr Ememe : Including the Ministers. Very often we do not come back to the House. Sometimes we do come back. What is important is not whether somebody is voted in or not. But when a person is serving his country as a Minister it means that he is a servant of the State. It is completely a different thing from being an ordinary Member of the House. My suggestion still stands that the Prime Minister can have as an alternative to give pensions to his Ministers when they have served two tours or ten years, and bring new blood into his Cabinet. If there is new blood in the Cabinet, as the Prime Minister himself knows, there will be new life and there will be a great deal of change. Most of what our Cabinet Ministers are doing now is just

[MR EME] routine because they have been doing so for a long time. Of course, they are people who are used to a certain way of life. They do not want to change. We cannot blame them. If any of us is in the same position as they are he may do the same thing. It is necessary, therefore, that the Prime Minister should purify his Cabinet by removing them after some time.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : Do we understand from the hon. Member that the Prime Minister too should retire after two tours ?

The Chairman : That is a late comment.

Mr Ememe : In answer to this, I would only say that it is evident that when a person becomes a Prime Minister or a Regional Premier if he is voted in by his party as the leader of his party there is no reason why we should expect him to be changed every time. There is no reason for that because at every annual convention of a party the leader is either returned or rejected as the leader. Ordinary members are not returned like that.

The Chairman : Hon. Members should avoid repeating arguments made by them or by other Members in order to give more opportunity for others to speak.

Mr Ememe : The second part of my comment is on the Government policy against the Socialist countries. I sometimes find it difficult to explain, maybe somebody else can, the inconsistencies in our policy. I have no grudge against the United States but I find that we allow the United States Government to have 85 diplomats in this country and yet we deny the Soviet Union similar opportunity.

The Chairman : Order. This is not Foreign Affairs.

Mr Ememe : I mentioned this because such a case is effected by Cabinet decision.

The Chairman : Surely I cannot allow this comment here.

Mr Ememe : Honestly I cannot understand the ruling of the Chairman.

I would suggest that the Prime Minister sacks the present Economic Adviser to the Federal Government. If it is on the advice of this Economic Adviser that the Cabinet makes these regressive and reactionary economic

policies then he deserves a sack. How can we continue to pay as much as £6,000 per annum to somebody who is preparing this country for perpetual economic slavery? We claim to have a Development Plan, yet there is no real production target set for each year of the Plan period. It is not only that. This Plan lacks detail. It cannot, therefore, attract foreign investors. It lacks valuable details which are necessary for economic planning. An officer of this type who makes such a loose Plan should really lose his job. How can the Prime Minister continue to retain a man who is misleading the Government? He advised the Government to construct a £5 million bridge across the Niger without provision for a railway track. That means, of course, that after a few years we will be constructing another bridge solely for the railway across the Niger. This is evidence of short-sightedness on his part.

The Chairman : It seems to me that the hon. Gentleman is insisting on irrelevancy.

Mr Ememe : I was only saying that this Adviser lacks foresight. If the Adviser does not lack foresight then it may be that his advice is not being taken by the Cabinet. If this is the case we cannot know because there is no proof of it. Therefore, one can only put the blame of lack of foresight and lack of details on the Economic Adviser. I would suggest that instead of having this type of Economic Advisers we should have a committee of this House comprised of knowledgeable Members who should advise the Government on economic policies. On the Floor of this House there are Members who are internationally-known economists.

I beg to support.

10.50 a.m.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : It is abundantly clear that the smooth, the successful, and the stable—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, I believe that, as you explained before the House went into Committee, you would give everybody a chance to speak on this item. But it appears now that those who are being called by the Chairman are those whose names appear on the Order Paper. If that is the case, I would say that tomorrow very many names would be seen on the Order Paper.

Mr Speaker : Order. So far only one person has spoken, and that is the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*).

Mr Muojeke : It is abundantly clear that the smooth and the stable running of this Federation of Nigeria is due to the wonderful joint efforts of His Excellency the Governor-General, Dr Azikiwe, and the honest and industrious Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, together with his Cabinet Ministers, chief of whom is the Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh, and, of course, the Parliamentarians and the rest of the citizens of this country.

In many fields the Rt. hon. Prime Minister shows clearly that he is the undisputed leader of this country. In his constituency at Bauchi he has a thriving farm which he tills with his own hands, just to show us the pride in the dignity of labour and honest living. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, I understand that the Prime Minister tills the land with machine and not with his hands.

Mr Muojeke : If his Ministers could easily understand the fundamental principles of what ministerial appointment means there would be no necessity for the sharp criticisms of the Ministers criticisms which, unfortunately, are mounting daily. Ministerial appointment means service to the nation, service to others but not service merely to oneself. I am not here asking the Prime Minister to dismiss his Ministers or to reshuffle his Cabinet, unless he sees any reason to do so. But what must be rammed down the throat of our Ministers is, firstly, the simple but important and universal fact that without the active co-operation of the Members of this honourable House they, as Ministers, cannot survive even for a brief moment ; secondly, that the fact that they found themselves the occupants of many Ministries does not imply, and is not meant to imply, that all wisdom, all knowledge and all power reside in them ; and all foolishness, all stupidity and impotence reside in the rest of the Members of the Parliament.

Thirdly, since it is virtually impossible for all the Members of this House to be appointed ministers at one and the same time, the Minis-

ters are the trustees of the nation and of Nigerian citizens, including Members of Parliament. As the beneficiaries the law of trust requires that we should dictate how our trust funds should be used, and the Ministers are bound to comply.

If the Ministers deviate from this fundamental principle then they will be committing an unforgivable breach of trust, for which they are answerable either by way of what has happened in the Western Region, or in their own consciences which they are supposed to have.

I most sincerely beg the Prime Minister to see to it that in future the allocation of public amenities and Government patronage should not go to the constituencies of any of the Ministers. The constituency of any Minister has been too fortunate in the sense that it has produced a Federal Minister, and other constituencies which have not produced any Minister ought to be placated one way or the other ; and the simplest and most honest way is to see that these other constituencies are remembered by the Government in the distribution of amenities and patronage.

When people cry for the reshuffling of Ministries they do not always do so because they want to earn the fat salaries of the Ministers. That is not the reason ; rather it is because the Ministers have so conducted themselves that constituencies have been made to understand that they cannot hope to have, and will never obtain, any benefit from the Government unless its Parliamentary Member is also a Minister. This is why vying for ministerial appointment rages on.

The Ministries and the Public Corporations are filled sometimes with the nominees of the Ministers—their relatives, friends, and those who, one way or the other, satisfy them. This is a very bad state of affairs. With the permission of the Chairman I must say that it is more than Parliamentary robbery ; it is a breach of trust, it is downright public theft and robbery, and that is why the younger elements of the country are not very happy regarding the turn of events. Some school leavers and graduates are now roaming the streets looking for jobs, and they will never get jobs unless they carry about with them Ministers' recommendations and testimonials. If the Ministers—

The Chairman : Order. I do not like the way Members criticise Ministers' activities with all sorts of accusations. Members should realise that this Head is Cabinet Office, and not Cabinet, so will they confine their remarks to the expenditure of the Cabinet Office.

In winding up, I should like to say that our Ministers, by showing good examples, by showing that they are incorruptible, efficient and competent, will induce our civil servants to copy them. In this way we shall be able to build up a body of incorruptible, efficient and competent civil servants without which the foundation of this country cannot long be sustained. If we do not show this example, civil servants will tend to copy the Ministers by being inefficient and by adopting the I don't care attitude.

There is one very important redeeming feature in this respect—

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): On a point of order, I do not share the view that Ministers are corrupt. The Ministers are incorrupt and they have been doing their work efficiently.

Mr Muojeke : I do not intend to be misunderstood. I never said that the Ministers are corrupt. I do not say that there is corruption on the part of the Ministers.

M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar (Katagun West): On a point of order, applicants who are given recommendations by the Ministers to get jobs are citizens of this country. I see no fault in any Minister who has done that.

Mr Muojeke : As I was trying to say, the one redeeming feature is that the Prime Minister and a handful of Ministers are decidedly above board. Whatever we say here we must not forget that our Prime Minister has truly lived far beyond our widest hopes and expectations. He is our pride; he is our salvation. May God Almighty continue to guide him.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I am sure all hon. Members including the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) will agree with me that every penny from this Head of expenditure will be wisely

spent because our Prime Minister is not selfish and is not interested in capitalism. It is my sincere hope that all the Ministers will follow the footsteps of our honest Prime Minister.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): My hon. Friend the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) has said that he hopes that the Ministers will be as incorruptible as the Prime Minister and will follow the example of the Prime Minister. Is he inferring that at present they are corrupt and they are not following the example of the Prime Minister?

The Chairman : I always tell the hon. Member for Degema that we have passed Question time.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : And not to waste my time. I am drawing the attention of the Council of Ministers to the fact that the successful implementation of our Six-Year Development Programme depends, to a great extent, on how much savings we get each year from both recurrent and capital expenditures.

In contributing to the debate on this Head, I have two short but very important points to raise. First, I understand that there is an open invitation from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Mr Nikita Khrushchev, to our Prime Minister to visit the Soviet Union. If my information is correct, I think the time has come when the Prime Minister should accept this invitation.

I am sure that a visit to Russia by the Prime Minister will go a long way towards fostering friendly relations between Nigeria and the Soviet Union. I am also sure that the prestige of Nigeria will be greatly enhanced. The Government and the people of the Soviet Union will give our Prime Minister a tremendous and very warm welcome. I am, therefore, appealing to the Prime Minister to consider this point very carefully and, if possible, make a statement about it.

The other point is equally important. I hope our Prime Minister will lead this country's delegation to the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly which meets in New York in September. This I am sure

will be very useful especially at this time when there are many controversial issues like disarmament and the nuclear test ban still outstanding. I am sure our Prime Minister will make a very useful contribution and his presence there will have considerable influence over the deliberations of the United Nations. I am appealing to the Prime Minister if he is going to the United Nations in New York this year to select from amongst this House those Members he thinks can help in promoting the good name of Nigeria at the United Nations.

I beg to support.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : I should like to start by congratulating the Prime Minister who is well-known throughout the world as a cool-headed, hard-working man. Nevertheless, I want a certain section of this Head to be reduced because in one section here I find that the Prime Minister is increasing the number of Ministers of State in the Cabinet Office. There were two Ministers of State under the Prime Minister last year, but this year provision has been made for three Ministers of State. I am surprised because the two Ministers of State who were there last year had not been working hard enough. If they had been working hard enough the Prime Minister could not have been so pressed with work. Every time we find that the Prime Minister is over-worked.

One of the Ministers of State can take over part of the functions of the Prime Minister. As we have two Ministers of State who are expected to delegate duties to Parliamentary Secretaries working lazily, we feel that it should not be necessary to have three Ministers of State under the Prime Minister. I suppose the two Ministers of State who were working there last year did not prove their mettle with the Prime Minister, and perhaps he is increasing the number of Ministers because of that. I suppose the two Ministers are too old. If we have a young Minister like Amechi or Akinfosile or other young Minister, may be they will be working harder. Austerity must start with the Prime Minister's office. Instead of having three Ministers of State, I suggest that we cut the number to two.

Moreover, somebody has challenged all the Ministers under the Prime Minister as financiers and traders. I think that was proved. Four or five days ago, a Minister stood up on

the Floor of this House, an old and respectable Minister for that matter, to say that he has interest in a new factory. It does not appear that he has declared his interest to the Prime Minister. If he can do that, I do not think that we all are safe in the country, otherwise, we are right to assume that all Ministers are traders.

An hon. Member : This is irrelevant. It is quite irrelevant.

The Chairman : Order, order !

Mr Gbolagunte : As I said, there is an allegation against one of the Ministers of State in the Prime Minister's office about the National Cash Register at Apapa. That firm is an American firm. I understand that the staff of that firm complained to one of the Ministers of State in the Prime Minister's office, that in their own department there is not a single African senior servant, there is no medical facility and no leave facility for them too. They laid these complaints before this Minister, but he would not do anything to help them because he is a personal friend of the General Manager of that department. I think that the Prime Minister should look into that. If a Minister of State can receive such a complaint and take no action, I think that such a Minister should not work with the Prime Minister who is so hard-working.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North) : Point of order, Sir.

The Chairman : What point of Order ? It will save the time of this House if a Member raising a point of order will point to the Order under reference.

Mr Chukwu : There are many Members who have raised points of order without quoting. It is in the Order book. Here it is.

Mr Gbolagunte : The firm would not allow its staff to form any trade union. They were threatened that any member who tried to cause the staff to have a trade union would be sent away. That complaint was made, it is alleged, to one of the Ministers of State in the Prime Minister's Office, and he would not act because the General Manager is his personal friend. Such a Minister should be warned. At least, an enquiry should be set up on that. Somebody who discourages Africans should not be allowed in this country.

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

Finally, I hope the Prime Minister will some time disabuse our minds of a general belief in the country that the Federal Government is being run from the Region, especially from a very big Region. I hope the Prime Minister will disabuse our minds of this.

The Chairman : That is irrelevant.

Mr Gbolagunte : Now, I go back to praise the Prime Minister again for coming here at a time when other Ministers would not come. I remember we had two night sittings last week. The Prime Minister was here right from the beginning. Even during the night sittings, he was here till about mid-night. But there are some Ministers coming in and going out like shuttles and would not sit down here. In the rain, we found the Prime Minister here.

An hon. Member : Point of order, Sir.

Chairman : What point of order ?

Several hon. Members : Read it, read it.

Mr A. F. Odulana : (Ijebu South) : The statement raised by the hon. Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) is incorrect. All the Ministers were here last week with the Prime Minister. The hon. Member was not here.

Mr Gbolagunte : The Minister of Mines and Power was going in and out like a shuttle last week. I hope the Prime Minister will be able to educate his Ministers to work harder this year.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : I rose on a point of information and you said no. Point of order now, Sir. What I want to say is this that when the Speaker was on his Chair, he would not see people here. By moving a step forward as the Chairman, he would not see people at all. And we want to speak.

The Chairman : Quite a number of people, for one reason or another, do not catch the Speaker's eye so quickly—maybe because they give a lot of trouble in the House. But I assure the hon. Member that the Speaker is not blind.

Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : I am very grateful to be allowed to say a word on this Head, because it concerns the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria. I want to share the views of my opponents, that every single

item passed under this Head is an item well passed and money well spent because it is under the wise Head of the Prime Minister.

As I said last night, I want to say it again on the Floor of this House, that the unity of this country depends largely on the Prime Minister of this Federation because of his tact and patience, his humility and his cool-headedness in addition to other qualities. We think that on many occasions there had been danger signs that the unity of this country would go to the rocks, but under the wise guidance and statesmanship of the Prime Minister, this country has survived. It is precisely because of this major factor that I once again appeal to the Prime Minister that when we do say these things on the Floor of this House, we say them because we believe in them and because he is God-fearing. But if we become sycophants and praise him alone, it will not do this country any good.

Take, for instance, the grave issue of the census. It has now been removed from the Ministry of Economic Development to the Prime Minister's Office and that has brought us satisfaction. I have scanned through this Head but I do not see any sub-head for "Census" although I think we have been told that "Census" has been taken away from the Ministry of Economic Development to the Prime Minister's Office. But I have to say with all sense of responsibility that the country has regained confidence because we do not want the census to be a political issue. Census in all countries truly is a technical matter, and it is on the basis of the accurate census of this country that our economic development and political advance can mature. We hope that under the Prime Minister nothing will be allowed to go in between the results of an accurate census for the whole country irrespective of where the odds may be found.

We appeal to the Prime Minister to make sure that the money to be dumped into the next census will not be money thrown down the drain, as the other one was thrown down the drain due to certain mishandling of the whole affair. Census should carry the public's confidence, and I am sure that under the Prime Minister the whole country is going to have a correct census.

The other appeal is emanating from his God-fearingness and his humility. The other day we raised our voice against what I consider to be an obnoxious Bill—the Lagos Health Bill is an obnoxious Bill; it is a dictatorial Bill because there were no consultations. But the Prime Minister said: “No, hold on. Parliament is supreme”. I do not agree with those who say that we are merely rubber stamps. As far as the Prime Minister is concerned Parliamentary democracy will survive in this country under his guidance. When a Bill like that comes we begin to wonder whether in fact it passed through the Cabinet. We say that if there is a tendency of log rolling—there is what people call log rolling in political science: do me I do you; do for me I do for you; you pass my Bill I pass your Bill; you rub my shoulders I rub your back. If there is a tendency like that, when they see that a Bill comes before the House a Minister will support it we urge the Prime Minister to put more Ministers without portfolio—those who are independent minded—in order to sport out these Bills, before they come to the Floor of this House. We are saying that the Lagos Health Bill is an obnoxious Bill and should not be run down our throats.

The Chairman: We are not discussing the Lagos Health Bill.

Dr Ezera: The other point that I would like to make is in connection with the use of Parliamentary Secretaries. The other day I wanted to know why we have a fleet of Parliamentary Secretaries when the Ministers are sitting down right and left. The Ministers do not give Parliamentary Secretaries any jobs. In their offices they sit down at plain desks—no jobs assigned to them. Most of them are able men; most of them are talented men who want to serve the nation, but they are not given opportunities. I feel that Parliamentary Secretaries should be utilised to the maximum, otherwise scrap the post. If the post of Parliamentary Secretary is no use to this country, let us scrap it.

Before I sit down, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister on setting up the National Universities Commission. This is under the Head of the Cabinet Office. Hon. Members will realise that the establishment of this Commission is very great a step in the educational advancement of this country. We

are hopeful that the Federal Government will make more money available to this body for disbursement to the various universities.

I would like to make an appeal to the Prime Minister, that the Universities of Lagos and Ibadan are not the only universities that we have in Nigeria; there are other universities too. We have the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, the Ahmadu Bello University and the University of Ife. They should all enjoy the slices of the cakes. They should enjoy the benefits accruing from the National Universities Commission. They should not be treated as Regional universities any more than the others are. The point that I am making also applies to the point that Lagos and Ibadan are not the only cities in Nigeria. All Nigerians are Nigerians. We are all citizens of this country. The universities in the various Regions are all universities of Nigeria and they all make their contributions to the progress of this country. Therefore, in making any allowances or subsidies to them, the Federal Government should bear these in mind.

One last point I would like to make is that I have very great respect for the composition of the National Universities Commission. I have had the privilege of sitting before them, and I congratulate the Prime Minister on the very wonderful appointment. But I would like to plead whether it is not possible at all to add some people who have university administration background to augment the number. Often times, the members of the Board may want some advice from amongst such people. If we have one or two men who come from the universities, that might be a very great help. I say that at the moment, the National Universities Commission is very well composed and is full of men of integrity. The only point I would like to add is whether it is not advisable to augment the number with people from the universities.

I beg to support.

The Prime Minister: I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have contributed to the debate on the Head—Cabinet Office. I have been advised by the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) regarding what I must do by way of overhauling my Cabinet, which he called my team. The hon. Member had also spoken about the census, a subject which was also referred to by my hon. Friend the Member

[THE PRIME MINISTER]

for Bende East (*Dr Exera*). The fact that the Census does not appear under Head 22 does not mean that I am not responsible for the census. I have told the country that I have taken over responsibility for carrying out the census and the Regional Premiers have also taken over the responsibility from the Regional Ministries concerned.

As far as the census is concerned, my intention is that we shall take the count towards the end of the year and, if possible, conduct the next Federal elections on the figures of the new census. Time is a little bit against us, but I do not think that it will be impossible to conclude the business of the census in the time available. My present plan is that we are soon appointing a Census Board to be composed of representatives of all the four Governments, and they will sit and advise us as to how to go about it.

I am, however, pleased to hear the Member for Bende East (*Dr Exera*) say that we should take this matter completely out of politics. The Census Board which I am going to appoint is to be completely and purely composed of officials, and there is no question of politicians having any hand in it at all.

To come back to my hon. Friend, the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*), he referred to us in the Council of Ministers as people doing part time jobs. I agree with him, indeed, because there is no Minister or Member of Parliament who regards his position as permanent. The very moment we begin to think of ourselves as permanent in our posts, then that is the end of democracy. Every five years we have to present ourselves to the electorate. Some of us might fall on the way, and some of us might pass through with some difficulties before coming back again to this House. So, none of us, I think, is permanent. If the hon. Member for Aba South feels that he is permanent, well, I wish him good luck.

One serious point which I have noticed in Parliament, especially during the present meeting, is that quite a number of Members make a lot of accusations against Ministers. I quite remember that you, Sir, at one time pointed out to Members that the debates of this House are not only read by the Members of the House but that they are also read all over the world. Members make false accusations. They say Ministers are corrupt. They

say all sorts of things. Well, I regard these accusations as really very serious. If Members have reasons to plead that somebody is corrupt—a Minister, or a Member of Parliament, or anybody like that—why do they not bring it to the notice of those who can put these things right instead of making allegations on the Floor of this House?

There are many people outside who take interest in what we are doing. The newspapers abroad write a lot of lies about us in this country, and I am very sorry to find that Members of Parliament go out of their way to confirm what those detractors of ours have been writing about us. If there are such cases Members must let us know. I do not think it is right for Members to use parliamentary privilege to say all sorts of horrible things about Ministers, about us. We have got our names to protect, and simply because we do not give back from this side does not mean that we cannot give back. We are just trying to see that there is some kind of responsibility on the part of hon. Members. I must say that some of us are really getting fed up with these accusations which are indeed being made without any foundation whatsoever.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Aba South, had asked that we should put a limit to the properties that Ministers should have. I think the first thing we ought to do is to put a limit to the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe's*) properties.

Several hon. Members : Voice of Moscow.

The Prime Minister : Whenever he speaks people say that his voice is the voice of Moscow. I do not know what voice it is. What I do know is that it is not the Voice of Nigeria!

There are some of the Ministers who have had their properties before they ever went into politics. Some hon. Members have got properties, and they are men of substance. Now, if they happen to be Ministers in a month or two does that mean that we have to take their properties away from them?

Mr Chairman, I can see the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) nodding his head. I think he should be the last Member to nod his head when such a point is being made, because he has got a lot of properties.

Also, I do not know the source of information of my hon. Friend, the Member for Aba South, concerning my Economic Adviser. The Economic Adviser is an official of the International Bank. He was lent to us by the World Bank to help us prepare our development plans and some of our economic matters and also to give us advice. I am very sorry to hear that the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*), has said that the man should be sacked. How do we sack a man who is not our officer, a man who gives us very good advice? I am sorry to say that he is leaving us very soon, because he is going back to his employers, the World Bank, who are very anxious to have him back.

I hope that when he goes back we may be able to have a Nigerian as our Economic Adviser, because we have got some Nigerians who are really coming up, and who are good. (*Hear, hear*). But this gentleman from the World Bank, our present Economic Adviser, has done very good work. I am very sorry that my hon. Friend the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*), has found faults in such a sincere and hard worker. I am sure he is not very serious about it; for it appears that he does not know what the man is doing.

The same hon. Gentleman also said that the Economic Adviser has advised us to build a bridge of £5 million. The Economic Adviser did not advise us to build a bridge of £5 million. We had a proper survey made by consultants. I think the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) was referring to the Niger Bridge astride the Niger between Onitsha and Asaba. That bridge was surveyed by engineering consultants and Public Works Department's experts, and they advised us that such a venture would be feasible. In this Parliament, and for years and years, we have received the request from people in the West, the East, and the North that a bridge over the Niger at Onitsha would be most necessary, and we accepted it as a Government. Now, we are being criticised for putting up a bridge across the River Niger!

I think it was the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) who suggested what he does not like to see. He does not like to see he said, any amenities in Ministers' constituencies. Well, that is a sure way of not returning the Ministers to the House and that agrees with

the suggestion of the Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*). If there are no amenities in Ministers' constituencies, then there is no need to enact a law which will limit their term of office to ten years, which is two tours; they will just come back for one tour and no more. I hope the Committee understands what I am trying to get at? (*Laughter*).

Several hon. Members : Yes, we do.

The Prime Minister : I think we Ministers are exactly like all hon. Members. We shall ultimately go back to our constituencies and stand for election, and it will be very wrong, of course, for any Minister to favour his constituency more than the other constituencies. (*Hear, hear*). As a Minister any one of us should regard all constituencies as his own. To say that a Minister's constituency should have no amenities, I think, means that whenever a constituency is about to send a man here to serve the nation, the members of the constituency will say, "Well, we will send a man, but this man we are sending should never become a Minister because if he does we shall enjoy no amenities"!

The Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) suggested that the Ministers of State in my office are too old and that they can no longer work very hard. Well, I do not know whether he was referring to me because I am older than anyone of them! (*Laughter*). However, I want to assure the hon. Member that these Ministers of State are full of life, they are full of energy and they are working very hard.

Now, the same hon. Member referred to one thing which he called the National Cash Register. I do not know what that means, but he says one of the Ministers of State in the Cabinet Office visited that place and that the people complained of certain things, and that the Minister took no action.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : He is not well informed.

The Prime Minister : Well, I do not know about that. However, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the National Cash Register is not one of my responsibilities at all.

I have decided to come early into the discussion on this Head because I see in our programme that we have got too many very important and interesting Heads to consider

[THE PRIME MINISTER]

to-day. We have the Police, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Defence, and I have no doubt that hon. Members would like to devote much more time to considering these Ministries. I therefore thought it would be much better for me to come in rather earlier and reply to some of the points raised by Members.

I see, of course, that the tendency of one or two Members is to try to raise all sorts of general matters under my Head of the Estimates. Well, that is what it should be, and I will be quite prepared to accept responsibility for all the Ministries and for all the actions of the Government. I must say, however, that we are doing our best and that I think that with the encouragement which we receive always from Members we shall continue to give of our best to the country. (*Applause*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : Under this item, I would like to say something about the Niger Delta Development Board which is under the Prime Minister. We all remember that it was the efforts of the people of the Niger Delta area which culminated in the setting up of the Niger Delta Development Board.

The understanding was that when the British people were granting independence to this country, the people of the Niger Delta area were so backward and it was agreed that certain concessions should be given to the people in order that they might improve within 10 years and move abreast with the other tribes of this country. This case was put before the Minorities Commission of Inquiry and the Board was set up.

Now, we are very happy that the Prime Minister took over the administration of this Board, but—

The Chairman : Order ! It is quite a fact that Members as well as Ministers have the right to speak on the Floor of this House, but we expect from the Ministerial Benches speeches relating to Government policies. Since all the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries have a good avenue of airing their views to the Government, I think it is proper that Mr Ezonbodor should air his views at the appropriate quarter.

Mr Ezongodor : I was speaking as an individual.

The Chairman : Is the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) raising a point of order ? If so, what point of order ?

Mr Ekanem : I am referring to Order 246.

The Chairman : There is no such order in this House.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : Anyone going through this Head of the Estimates, as indeed everybody will go through most of the Head, will see that there is nothing like austerity in this country. I think our Government is getting too extravagant. For the Prime Minister's Office to have as many as three Ministers of State, two Parliamentary Secretaries and all that I think is too expensive for this country.

We are appealing to the Government once again to reduce our expenses to reflect a little more of the austerity we are trying to preach. After all, we have reduced our salaries by 10 per cent including your own salary, Mr Chairman. I think that should be reflected all along the line as far as the Government is concerned. That is all I have to say in this respect.

I now come to a point which my hon. Friend (*Mr Ezonbodor*) was trying to make before you asked him to sit down, and that is the thorny problem of the Niger Delta Development Board which is under the Prime Minister. The Niger Delta Development Board was given 10 years within which to develop the very backward Niger Delta people. The people have been neglected for years by successive Governments. We are regarded as a backwash of the country and the Niger Delta Development Board was set up on the recommendation of the Minorities Commission in order that these areas will be developed within ten years.

Already three or four years have passed and nothing seems to have emerged from the plans that have been made for the Niger Delta Development Board. Nothing, except the importation of experts who are engaged in doing nothing at all. Nothing has been done and we have only seven years more, and this year is already going. At the end of the ten years we may find ourselves where we started.

I notice that there is no provision for a Chairman which means that the post of Chairman is still part-time. This is, I must say an invidious policy. If we have not got a suitable Chairman we must find one who has all the qualifications and whose time will be engaged in full to carry on the business of the Niger Delta Development Board.

The next thing is the unsteady staff position in the Niger Delta Development Board. The Secretary has recently resigned. We want to know what is behind this; almost everybody is resigning. What was wrong, why did the Secretary resign? Is it due to the unsatisfactory conditions of work? We are appealing to the Prime Minister to investigate this matter and see that improvements are made so that we may get a permanent Secretary and a permanent Chairman who will continue the work of the Niger Delta Development Board.

There is one other thing which has been agitating the minds of people and that is the status of the Board itself. It is intended to be advisory. So many representations have been made to the Prime Minister with regard to that.

The Prime Minister : On a point of information, I am not aware that the Secretary of the Niger Delta Development Board has resigned. We had one expatriate Secretary who took his lump sum compensation and left about a year ago. Now we have got another Secretary. As far as I know no Secretary resigned and I would like to know from the hon. Member which Secretary it is.

Mr Briggs : Mr Chairman, there is one Mr Lolo. I have just remembered that he was an Assistant Secretary. I am sure the Prime Minister would agree with me that Mr Lolo has resigned.

I now come to the status of the Board. As I said, there is a lot of agitation that the advisory status of the Niger Delta Development Board is not good enough, it is not letting things move as smoothly as they should move. If you go to the Niger Delta Development Board executives themselves to ask what they have done, why they have not done this or that they tell you to go to the Eastern Nigeria Government or the Federal Government or the

Western Nigeria Government because they can only advise and it is only when orders have been given by the Governments concerned that they can do anything. There is a lot of dissatisfaction with regard to that.

There was a recent meeting at Port Harcourt with the Chairman and all the Members of the Board unanimously agreed, and I think representations have gone to the Prime Minister, that the Board should change its status from that of an advisory to that of an executive one. It should be given executive powers so that if it formulates any programme it should be in a position to implement it. At present it can only advise and I think it is a very sad thing for a Board, an organisation which is out to improve the conditions of people to be merely advising and then for others to implement. I am appealing, therefore, to the Prime Minister to reconsider the status of the Board and ease the anxieties of those who come from that part of the country and grant executive powers to the Niger Delta Development Board.

I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of State (Hon. M. Amechi) rose in his seat and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put and agreed to.

£3,161,900 for Head 22—Cabinet Office—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 23.—POLICE

Question proposed, That £5,375,550 for Head 23—Police—stand part of the Schedule.

11.52 a.m.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : In Nigeria today we are developing on all fronts. At the same time that we are developing on all fronts, we are clamouring that all the things that used to be done for us should be done by us. I am referring in particular to the Nigerianisation of the Police Force. The Government has done a jolly good work by Nigerianising the Police Force and at the moment we have acting as Inspector-General a Nigerian. I hope that before long a Nigerian will hold the substantive position of Inspector-General of the Nigeria Police Force.

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

There is Nigerianisation going on also in all the other ranks but I would like to say that our development is in all spheres. There are good developments as well as bad developments. There are criminals who are learning new methods. There are all sorts of things happening in the country to-day which did not happen before and to that extent the Police Force are faced with new responsibilities, responsibilities which will require all their energy, all their experience and all their intelligence. I hope that this is very well appreciated by those who are holding new positions in our Forces to-day. It is not enough for us to say that we want Nigerians in positions. We must also be prepared to do the work and to meet the challenge which faces us in these positions.

The Police must be congratulated for the work which they have done in the past year. Nigeria has faced a type of situation which never arose before, and I think that it is important that we should show appreciation to the Police in the way that they handled all the incidents that have happened in the country in the past year. Their performance during the year is a hope to us that they will be able to meet whatever new responsibilities may arise which they may have to face.

In this connection, it must also be mentioned that we need to enlarge our Police Force much more than it is to-day. If we look at other nations of the world we shall find that the proportion of the Police to the population in Nigeria is very much lower than in any other country. If this proportion is allowed to remain as it is, we shall be encouraging bad people to do bad things in the country, because they know the strength of our Force and they know that if they start causing trouble in many places at the same time in the country the Police Force may not be able to cope with the situation. The Government should be aware of this fact and should have enough Force to deal with any situation at any time however widespread the situation may be.

While on this subject we should also think of providing for the members of the Police Force as many amenities as will make them proud of the Force in which they are—amenities and training that will prepare them for the responsibilities which they are to shoulder.

Happiness for members of our Police Force in their work is of extreme importance and the morale of the Force must be very high.

I cannot end without saying something about some of the bad things which the Police are doing. Every year, Members speak in this House about corruption in the Police Force. I have no doubt that the matter is sometimes exaggerated. But there is no doubt whatever that there is corruption in the Police Force. If there is corruption in the Police Force, what hope do we have of stamping out corruption in other aspects of life in this country? This question is asked every time. Can we safely hand over a case of corruption to the Police? It is the same people that we are talking about. There are various forms of corruption. There are situations in which the policemen themselves deliberately break the law to their own personal advantage. I am told that there are vehicles running in Lagos, carrying passengers from place to place in Lagos, with no hackney carriage licence and these vehicles are all owned by the Police. One can see them; I see them at Apapa Road everyday. They have no hackney carriage licence. They are called *kabu kabu* and they ply all over the place. I understand that they are owned by the Police and the matter should be—

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): The allegation made by hon. Member on corruption is not correct. I want him to prove to the House that these *kabu kabu* lorries belong to police officers.

The Chairman: Actually the hon. Member is making a sweeping generalisation.

Chief Rosiji: I would point out to the Minister that I did not speak of lorries, I spoke of cars which are being used as taxis and this is absolutely true; everybody knows about it. They are in all the streets. When people are laughing at us we should not just try to pretend in this House; everybody knows it. If the Minister does not know about it then he is not doing his job well. Everybody in the street knows these things. You go out and ask people in the streets, and they will tell you that it is true. The Minister should not just get up here and say that what I have said is untrue. I speak here as a Member of the House, it is up to the Minister to investigate the matter.

I think that on the balance, the Police have done very well and their Estimates should be approved. I would like to add, however, that as the Minister of Finance has told us and as we have seen from the Estimates, the strength of the Force is not indicated in the Estimates for Defence. The same thing should be done in the case of the Police; do not give to the people who are malevolent information as to the strength of our Police Force. They are busy somewhere planning and cooking up something. If they want to find out, let them work for it; but we must not give them the figures ourselves.

I beg to support.

12.5 p.m.

Mr F. U. Ihe (Okigwi North East): The attention of this House has often been drawn to the welfare of our Police, but mainly to that section concerned with general duties. Little or no attention has been paid to that particular section of our Police, the technicians. Vehicle mechanics in the Force have been relegated to the background. The Minister responsible must now look into the affairs of all sections of our Police Force. If the people in the general duties are doing marvellously well in the discharge of their duties, the technicians are also doing their best. Once the scope for the technicians to get promotions is so narrow and promotion almost impossible provision must be made so that these technicians will be enabled to obtain promotions as their counterparts in general duties. If the Police engaged in general duties undergo courses, why should these educated technicians not be allowed to do the same?

I do not see the point in Government abolishing the Trade Centre in the Ministry of Labour for this section of our Police. It was through the test conducted there that they used to get their class one certificate. Now they simply have to mark time, and under such severe conditions their promotion and progress in life suffer.

There is no point also in Government abolishing the City and Guild Certificate Examination for the technicians. There is indeed something wrong in the way promotions are given to this special section of our Police Force. The Minister should check to see whether indeed promotions are based on merit.

I am assuring him that they are not. They are based on nepotism. The two most recent promotions in that section clearly support my contention because instead of promoting very efficient and educated ones two people were promoted anyhow. If there is no promotion test facility, then favouritism which should not be allowed becomes rampant as it is now in that section. By what other means will the unfortunate, god-fatherless ones get promoted? Promotion may be in many ways. But I am emphasising that the ambitious and the educated ones should be encouraged. It means that provision must be made for tests.

There is another very important aspect of the condition of the technicians that should receive Government's consideration. This Government must seriously think of helping the technicians by offering them assistance where they can study motor engineering and management. I know of one Policeman whose application for study leave without pay was rejected. Why should he be turned back, only to be told to resign his appointment? The same person again applied for mere nominal sponsorship at Yaba Trade Centre, yet his application was turned down.

This Ministry should do something to help those efficient technicians who, especially by their own efforts, have taken correspondence courses on motor engineering and management and who have successfully passed all the examinations

With these remarks, I support this Head.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North): I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. Police are supposed to be the best friends of the public. To be explicit, the police must mix, mingle and go with the public. They should be good citizens in the community and should give people protection—this is the duty of the Police Force. In order to reduce crimes which are now rampant, especially here in Lagos, the police must be very loyal. They should stop looking for "shoot-outs" because "shoot-outs" would discredit their good services. The phrase "shoot-outs" bears a different meaning and coincides with "thus is the way out", and more clearly defined as "solve the problem yourself". The phrase is "you do me I do you".

[ALHAJI GAUYAMMA]

With regard to burglaries, the police must be alert to combat the burglars and control those who worry people and endanger their lives. I would like the police to be serious over this and to clear the air. They should do everything possible to avoid negligence. I commend the efforts being made by the police to maintain the security of the country. Above all, the police must not only detect crime, they should endeavour to prevent crimes as well.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba North) : I beg to move that Head 23 sub-head 1 be reduced by £100. While doing so, I have the following observations to make. The police have their good points as well as their bad points. First and foremost, I should like to say how greatly impressed always I am to see the hard work and the sense of loyalty and the indisputably conscientious manner in which they work in the sun, in the rain and at any time they are on duty. They are always ready to answer to the call of duty. On these, I congratulate the police.

They should not only be praised. I think they need to be encouraged as well because it is no use working with an empty stomach. I would like to suggest that in view of the fact that the police have practically no time of their own, (they are devoted to their duties at any time of the day or night), I would ask that they be given high rates of salary. This certainly will reduce the alleged prevailing bribery and corruption among them. A man who has worked for several years has his responsibilities increasing by leaps and bounds, and it is in order to be able to meet up with these responsibilities that they indulge in this alleged bribery and corruption. If they are given very reasonable rates of salary, I feel that such a practice will be reduced. In the olden days the *akodas*—the native police—required very little or no pay because they were well compensated. Everywhere they were sent to, they were given sufficient remuneration, help and tips. At the moment, the salary of our police should not be fashioned after the old *akodas*' salary rates. The police need an appreciable sum of money to keep both their body and soul strong and happy.

There is another aspect of their life that needs to be improved. We should improve their living quarters. Most of them are miserable in their homes.

Some hon. Members : No. May be at Abeokuta.

Mr Odeunmi : They are all under the Federal control. I remember going to one constable's house. That constable, with his two wives, had only one room, and he had worked for 12 years. According to our sociological set-up, you cannot blame him for having two wives. Even the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria cannot blame him for having two wives.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, why has the hon. Member for Egba North (*Mr Odeunmi*) got to mention the Prime Minister?

Mr Odeunmi : The old regime is gone, and I think the Police certainly deserve more comfortable and very spacious accommodation. The Minister in charge of Police Affairs should please look into this and ask for a special vote in order to improve the living quarters of the Police all over the Federation.

We should get more women police on the roads. They are referred to as being incorruptible, honest and hard working. What makes them hard working? It is because they do not indulge in bribery and corruption. More of them, if posted on the roads, certainly will do very excellent piece of work.

I would like to speak briefly on the minimum qualification for employment. Some hon. Members have argued on the Floor of this House that it is too much to require Government Class Four as the minimum qualification. I think that Standard Six will be sufficient minimum qualification for employment.

In conclusion, I should like to implore the Minister in charge of Police Affairs to please follow the advice given by an hon. Member on the Floor of this House a few days ago, that occasionally, in the interest of his work and of the nation, he should disguise himself, go in a lorry and travel from Lagos to Ibadan to see the corruption that is now raging at a terrific rate on our roads.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : May I join those who have spoken previously in supporting the expenditure on this Head. The prevalence of law and order in this country during the last twelve months is indicative of the good work done by our Police Force. However, we expect improvements from all sections of our Force, and at the same time we would like the Government to look into the conditions of service of the entire members of the Force with a view to improving further their conditions of service.

On the question of corruption. I sometimes think it rather unfortunate that we have to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that some members of the Police Force are corrupt. I say this because it takes two people to be corrupt. Somebody offers a bribe and another person takes it. Similarly, to remedy the situation it also takes two people. May I in all sincerity say that those of us who complained on the Floor of this honourable House of corruption in the Police Force have, in fact, a duty to educate in our limited way those who encourage corruption and to report such incidents to the appropriate quarters without fear or prejudice. It is regrettable that when people know of such incidents—people who are responsible too—they still fail either to report or in their own capacities, on their own initiative, to do something about it to discourage such corruption.

May I finally appeal further to the Minister responsible for Police Affairs to do his very best, while improving the conditions of service of our Force, to appeal to them at the same time to be politer and more responsible in doing their duties in the country.

I beg to support.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo) : I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Police Force on the efficient way in which they have been carrying out their duties to the nation. In doing that I have to ask the Prime Minister to arrange and make it possible for every area to have the blessing of getting Mobile Police Force which can be called upon at emergency periods in order to safeguard the lives and properties of the people. The Police Force is subjected to very grave dangers by night and by day, and for that reason this House should give it the greatest encouragement it deserves.

In order to raise the morale of the Police Force, I would like to request the Government to look into one aspect of the Force which makes the policemen unhappy—that is their promotion prospects. While it is quite well laid down that a recruit may be promoted to a third-class constable after a certain lapse of time and that a third-class constable could be promoted to the post of second-class on a second occasion, no hard and fast rule by which promotions to the ranks of lance corporal, corporal, sergeant, and so on, is laid down. The promotions right from the rank of a private to a lance corporal are normally through the whims and caprices of those that are placed in authority. This is a condition which is militating against the morale of the members of the Police Force.

It goes without saying that if one happens to be in good terms or very friendly with somebody at the head somewhere, whether one's work is good or not, one can expect to be promoted at any time. That is unfair. If a lance corporal or a corporal is sent to the refresher course, his efforts in that establishment do not normally dictate the possibility of his promotion. The same thing is applicable to the sergeants who are normally sent to the Police College at Ikeja. After the completion of the course, some of them that are fortunate to secure the first position may not normally be promoted. The same process applies to the Inspectors, some of whom are sent over to the United Kingdom for training, when they return here, their promotion is not determined by the efforts which they made in the United Kingdom. In certain cases, it follows that in order to boost the morale of some youngmen, they are sent to the training schools even though their heads of department know quite well that they are not going to be promoted. I think that is quite unfair. If a youngman is considered to be suitable for promotion to the rank of a sergeant or sub-inspector, the very fact that that man is a sergeant or a sub-inspector is an evidence of the fact that his conduct has been good, and I do feel that their performance either in the United Kingdom or in the Police College at Ikeja should actually determine their promotion prospect.

I think the Prime Minister can help in this matter by raising the morale of these people ; assuring them that if somebody passes an examination that person should be promoted.

[MR ENEH]

It is a very sad aspect of our system that somebody spends all his life studying for a position, maybe he was first in the class, he comes out and sees that it is the people who were 10th or 12th in that class that were promoted. This may be due to the fact that in some cases the Government wants to promote people from certain Regions or from certain areas. If that is so, there is no reason why those other people should be sent to the course as if to say that they are going to be promoted. I do not agree that it makes for efficiency in the Police Force for youngmen to feel that unless they are related in one way or the other to those in very high places or to officers of the Force, their position in the Police Force is marred. When that gets currency, we eventually demoralise people to the extent that many will find the way out rather than the way in. This is the reason why I want to table my Amendment, because I consider that whoever is in charge of promotions in the Police is not handling it quite well, and I consider that the Inspector-General of Police is responsible.

I had wanted earlier to address these remarks to the Prime Minister under Head 22—Cabinet Office. But since another Minister is in charge of Police Affairs, I realised that I should not address the Prime Minister but the Minister for Police Affairs. I consider that whoever manipulates the promotion prospects in the Police Force is not doing justice to the whole members of the Force.

It may be interesting also to note that such young men are moving away from the police in despondency. When they find that they have no prospects, they retire or resign. That would not make for efficiency. I do not like a young man who has done nine years in the Police Force to resign from the post and enter into another business. If a man gets into the Police Force, he should make it a career and then retire at the age of 45 or 55 as the case may be.

With these remarks, I beg to move that Head 23 sub-head 1 be reduced by £10.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on Head 23—Police.

The first contribution that I would make concerns the salaries of members of the Police Force. I see that one thing is missing from the items on this Head, and that is the revision of the salaries of police constable. Another thing is that since we have been elected as hon. Members of this House, we have been hammering on bribery and corruption in the Police Force as if the Police are the only corrupt people. We should not lay the accusation at the doors of Police Constables only. I want to suggest to the Prime Minister to kindly explore the possibilities of creating one extra Ministry that will be called Anti-Bribery Ministry. It is not easy to catch either the giver or the receiver of bribe. But this Ministry will give immunity to people who, having detected corruption, make a report at a police station so that the police might take action. If one sees any act of bribery or corruption and one goes to the police station to report, the police menace one to the extent that one will never again go to the police station to report another incident of bribery and corruption. The police would ask the person to come to the station and make a statement. Sometimes they would ask the person to come another time, without getting any statement from him. But if we have a separate Ministry for Anti-Bribery and Corruption, we will be able to stamp out corruption in this country.

I noticed that when the Governor-General came into this House to deliver his Speech from the Throne, one of the Aides-de-Camp who accompanied him was one Mr Adewusi who used to be in Ilorin. When he was in Ilorin all the people there knew him as a very strict man who never condoned bribery and corruption. What do we see now? He has been promoted Aide-de-Camp. It will be seen from the example I have given above that people who do their work well will be promoted. That is my only plea, and I do not want to go into details.

Many of us see many boys and girls who flocking into offices to look for employment and over 90 per cent of them cannot get the job without resorting to foul means.

There is no time that a giver of bribery and a receiver of bribe can be caught. Some of them are so clever that they have some middlemen to do the business for them.

I am asking the House to think of having Anti-Bribery and Corruption Minister during the next sitting of the House. If even I am not appointed a Minister, I can do any job allocated to me under this Ministry.

The Chairman : Certainly, Mr Babatunde and his achievements do not come under this Head. Mr Babatunde should discuss the Police.

Mr Babatunde : I am only drawing a reference. All that I am trying to do is to prove that example is better than precept. We cannot stop corruption unless we immune some people to detect it and report to the police.

Even in the execution of police duties there are many anomalies. If one travels to the Regions, say, to Ibadan or to Ilorin one sees drivers of passenger lorries carrying more than the authorised number of passengers. They carry as many as 28 or 30 passengers where only 21 is allowed. The fact that a legislator is in the lorry does not even influence them to observe the 21-passenger limit. If one place can be found where people who detect such offenders can make their reports and the authorities take action, instead of a police officer arresting his fellow police officer or a C.I.D. arresting his fellow C.I.D., corruption will be stamped out in this country.

I do not want people to think that perhaps some people would use this means to accuse their enemies falsely. The court is there: every cause must have an evidence and the evidence must have a proof. I do not want people to be afraid of this. I am humbly making an appeal to the Prime Minister to consider setting up an Anti-Bribery and Corruption Ministry in this Session or next Session of the House.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : I rise to support this Head of the Estimates. Many Members have asked that the minimum qualification for entry into the Police Force should be Class II. I support this idea. We speak about unemployment. But how can we solve it if we put a barrier and stipulate that unless a person passes Class Six or is a university graduate, he cannot be a policeman? I would say that the minimum qualification for entry into the Police

Force should be Class II. If we have somebody with higher qualification, such as Class Four or Class Six, then he should be appointed to the rank of First Class Constable or Inspector or Sergeant. But from the Inspector grade upwards, the qualification should be higher. But in doing this, the Police Force should try to adopt a certain system by which those boys who entered with Class II could get promotion. It may not be through their faults that they stopped in that standard. It may be that their parents are poor. There should be a system within the Police Force where these unfortunate boys are employed and there should be a training school for them within the Force.

I know that the members of the Police Force have a very rigorous duty to perform, but I maintain that there should be a night school within the Force to help the poor constables to improve their standard of education and to give them the opportunity of aspiring to the Inspectorate Grade.

If we want to reduce unemployment, the minimum qualification for entry into the Police Force should be Class II Middle but in order to increase the efficiency of the police constables with Class II Middle, opportunities must be created within the Force to enable the rank and file who left school in Class II, because their parents are poor, to improve themselves and thus enhance their status in the Force. One of the ways of achieving this is by the creation of night schools.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, the Action Group members on my left are disturbing the hon. Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*).

The Chairman : Order. Certainly, the Standing Order does say that while debate is going on hon. Members should listen in silence.

Mr Tobun : They are trying to disturb me, but I cannot be disturbed.

The Chairman : Order. Again, the Standing Order says that hon. Members should address the Chair.

Mr Tobun : An hon. Member said sometime ago that the strength of the Police Force is not adequate and felt that something should be

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done about it by the Government. I entirely agree that the numerical strength of the Police Force should be increased. I am also suggesting that the strength of our Army should be increased. In Ghana (a country with a population of about eight million) the strength of the police and the army is more than that of Nigeria with a population of about 45 million. If small Ghana can afford to do such a thing, I see no reason why we should not put our shoulders to the wheel and do something about it. I am happy that the Prime Minister is here and is taking note of what I am saying.

Another point is that in the past whenever this Head of the Estimates was discussed, the head of the Police Force used to be present in the official box.

An hon. Member : But he is not here now.

Mr Tobun : Yes, that is what I am saying, he is not here now. I have mentioned that I am happy because the Prime Minister is here, but I think the head of the Force should also be here to listen. After all, the Prime Minister is too busy—

The Chairman : Order, order. Certainly, this is a matter of executive convenience. The Minister in charge of the Police is here to answer to any question raised in that regard. (*Interruptions from the Opposition Bench*). We cannot have Members on the Opposition Bench turning the Floor of this House into a place for private controversies.

Mr Tobun : I would like to mention that even though the Minister in charge of the Police is here, the point I am making is that in the past—

The Chairman : Order. If the hon. Member has exhausted his list of effective contributions, he might be invited to resume his seat. (*Cries of shame, shame*).

Mr Tobun : I was trying to explain that all what we have said about the Police directly concerns the Inspector-General, and if he were here, he would know how to tackle the matter. He might decide to send a circular letter round. But the Prime Minister is engaged and the Minister in charge of the Police only goes on tour every time, taking photographs ; he does not work with the Police.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : In supporting this Head, I have some remarks to make. Many hon. Members have spoken about the evil of corruption in the Police Force. All I would like to add is to appeal to the Minister concerned to take effective steps to minimise corruption in the Police Force.

We all agree that the conditions of service in the Police Force should be improved because the policemen are doing a very good job in the country. Quite recently, the whole country should have been thrown into a very dangerous position, but for the effective method applied by the Police to cope with the situation. Were it not so, none of us would have been here to-day.

There is, however, something wrong in the Force and it is our duty to point out that defect. The standard of corruption in the Police Force is such that unless drastic steps are taken, members of the Force will continue to endanger the movement and security of the public. Whenever the question of corruption is raised in this House, the usual reply that we get is that if anybody sees a police constable or a police officer demanding or taking bribes, such a person should immediately report the matter to the appropriate authorities. This answer naturally tends to encourage the members of the Police Force to take bribes because if the matter is reported to the Police, the Police will turn round and charge the person with giving false information, and eventually the person might go to jail. I am therefore appealing to the Minister in charge of Police to take necessary steps to combat this evil and to desist from giving us in this House the type of reply that I have just mentioned.

A police man will always feel reluctant to take up a case against a fellow police officer. What they usually do is to charge the man who brought the complaint. That is why members of the public are afraid to report the issue of corruption where a policeman is involved. What I would suggest is that the Government should make all necessary arrangements to train the C.I.D. men in a different training school. The present method of training C.I.D. men with police constables should be discontinued because the C.I.D. men are responsible for checking both the members of the public

and members of the police force when they misbehave. Policemen should not know C.I.D. men.

I would also suggest that the C.I.D. should be properly paid. If they are properly paid they will be able to do their job conscientiously. The Government should make all necessary arrangement to see that this suggestion is carried out. May I also say that if policemen are well paid they will be encouraged to do their work well, and if C.I.D. men are well paid I am sure they will be able to pursue the corrupt policemen and the corrupt members of the public vigorously.

Another point I would like to mention is the issue of constant transfer of Senior Police Officers. The country is wasting a lot of revenue on this. In a year many of them are transferred to two or three different stations. This is a sheer waste of the country's revenue because as long as we keep on transferring these Senior Police Officers they will be getting more money. These Officers will keep on getting disturbance allowance, transport allowance and children's separate domicile allowance. These were arrangements made by European Officers when they were dominating the Police Force in this country. When these European Officers were here they were going on leave every twelve to eighteen months. These Nigerian Police Officers are working in their country. They are used to this climate, there is no need transferring them every twelve to eighteen months. Senior Police Officers should remain in a station for at least two years. This will enable them to master their work very well in the town they are posted. I repeat, it is not proper to transfer Senior Police Officers every twelve to eighteen months. This is a waste of Government revenue. If we look into the estimates we will find hundreds of pounds voted for transport allowance, disturbance allowance and children's separate domicile allowance. This is how our money is wasted. If an arrangement is made to check it we will save more money for our development projects. So, this constant transfer makes these Police Officers new men in a station every one year.

Another issue I would like to raise is the recruitment policy of the Police Force. Nowadays we do not talk of Regions, emphasis is being laid now on the North and the South which is very dangerous for the unity of this

country. If we want the unity of this country to be maintained we must avoid saying things of this nature. Hon. Members have even cultivated the habit of referring to the North and the South. This same habit has also been introduced into the recruitment of our Police Force. When recruiting people into the Police Force the policy is now North 50 per cent and South 50 per cent. If we really want to maintain the unity of this country we must avoid this sort of policy being introduced into our Police Force.

An hon. Member : On a point of Order, there is power failure.

Mr Okoronkwo : I maintain that if we want unity—

The Chairman : Order. Will the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) please realise the implications of power failure and put in more power into his speech so that the Official Reporter can hear him.

Mr Okoronkwo : I was saying that if we want the unity of this country the recruitment policy of 50 per cent for the North and 50 per cent for the South must stop. The three Regions of the Federation must be given equal share. Once a Region always a Region, and if any Region feels it is too big it should be allowed to split up and not hold the other Regions to ransom. The Prime Minister and the members of the Police Council should reconsider the decision of allocating 50 per cent of men recruited into the Police Force to the North and 50 per cent to the South. This is practised both in the Police Force and in the Army.

I would also like to say that Police Officers in Lagos are doing commendable job. I think their case should be quite different from those in the provinces. I say this because we all know that they work very hard and are not privileged as their counterparts in the Regions. Police Officers serving in the Regions do not like coming to Lagos to work because they will not have the opportunity of receiving bribes. The Police Officers in Lagos are better supervised and they work for nearly twelve hours every day but those in the provinces when they go to the villages and small towns they are given goats, money, and in some cases they are even fed. These things should stop. I am appealing to the members of the Police Council to consider giving special allowances

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to Policemen serving in the Federal Territory. Even Police Officers in Lagos continue to apply for transfer to the provinces. Police Officers do not like being transferred to Lagos.

An hon. Member : On a point of information, Mr Chairman, the clock is not working.

The Chairman : Order. The Chair is indebted to the hon. Member for his vigilance. It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended until 3 p.m.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

House in Committee.

The Chairman : Mallam Ibrahim Gusau.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo : Mr Chairman, I was the one speaking when the sitting was suspended at 1 o'clock.

The Chairman : In that case you can continue.

Mr Okoronkwo : In the proposal to increase the strength of our Police Force, I hope that the Prime Minister and the Police Council would see that every effort is made to ensure that a reasonable increase is also made in the recruitment of women into the Police Force. The policewomen are doing exactly what is expected of their counterparts, the policemen. These policewomen are working very hard; they are harmless to the public; they do not take bribe and they are very polite to the members of the public. They do not change at night to join the gang of burglars as some of the policemen do. In this respect they should be encouraged.

Now turning to promotion in the Police Force, it is generally known that if a junior policeman has no relation in the Police Force, who is a senior officer, the junior policeman cannot get promotion, no matter his qualification and merit. I suggest that a system should be established in the Police Force whereby the junior policemen can be given opportunity to sit for promotion tests to qualify them for automatic promotions when and only when they pass the test.

It should be noted that, at the present, unless a junior police constable gives a bribe he cannot be promoted to his next higher

grade or to any grade. The same thing applies to those who wish to be selected for a training course either in the Regional Headquarters or in the Federal Territory, as well as to those who wish to get a sectional transfer to a different branch, either in the Investigation Branch or in the Traffic Section or Motor Licensing Authority.

I am suggesting that the length of period that every police constable is expected to work, in any branch of the Police Force, should be limited, so that after the expiration of the time he is expected to remain in that section, he should be transferred to another branch.

As long as the police constables continue to bribe the police officers on top in order to get promotion, there will be endless reports in this country about bribery and corruption. Unless this evil practice is first wiped out in the Police Force, we must not talk about it among the ordinary people.

Turning to my constituency, Aba, I want the number of policemen to be increased in the Province in order to cope with the growing wave of crime.

I am also suggesting that the accommodation system of the Police Force at Aba should be changed. Many police constables live outside the barracks. I think this is not in order because, by their living outside barracks, the policemen may be tempted to change in the night and mingle with the burglars. But when they live in the barracks their movements will be watched. We all talk of Calabar as being notoriously a place of smugglers, but I must assure this honourable House that Aba is a gate way to Calabar. I am therefore appealing to the Prime Minister and the Minister in charge of the Police to see that proper accommodation is provided for the Police at Aba.

Finally, I think that all of us to-day are happy about the solidarity and unity of our country. Earlier I made a statement in this House that recruitment in the Police Force and the Army should be looked into. There is no need for us to build one Region to be very powerful and others to be very weak. That does not make for lasting unity

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : I rise to support the Head of the Estimates which is now under discussion and to say that the additional money about to be voted for the Police is most timely and welcome. In reality the Police are in urgent need of some technical equipment, or whatever they are called, which will help them to detect and deal with crimes.

The hon. Member who spoke last was my good friend. One of the cardinal principles of this Government is unity for this country of ours. I know that. But for hon. Members to come to this House to speak about the North being too big; the percentage, the ratio of the Forces being out of proportion—

Mr Okoronkwo : May I know whether the hon. Member for Gwarzo East now regards me as his enemy ?

Alhaji Dandago : The Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is not my enemy and I am not his. But I know that he used to be a better man !

If one could go back to history one would find that the history of the two Forces in existence in this Federation of Nigeria—the Police Force and the Military Force—started in the year of our Lord, 1861. Between 1861 and 1863, during the lifetime of the much respected Oba of Lagos, Oba Docemo, the Police Force from which the Military Force was born was created by the Hausa people. It was called the House constabulary.

The Minister of Finance : It was not so.

Alhaji Dandago : It was so. It is true that when people speak of Hausas we know that they mean Northerners. The hardy Kanuris were there; the hardy Fulanis, the gallant people from Kabba, Benue, Plateau and other places were there constituting the whole. But nobody from the other side came out. Now the people are speaking English grammar. They can now murmur about percentage—the North is getting so and so. Indeed, the North has nothing to hide, nothing to fear, in the history of the Forces in this country.

An hon. Member : Are you now defending the North alone ?

Alhaji Dandago : I am defending unity. All that I was saying is that it was the

Northerners who were first on the scene to show the people how to die with honour, not in a civilian hospital with somebody's wife giving him ovaltine but to die on the battle field with honour. Then the people saw how the thing was done and they came and joined. Now they are saying we are getting too much.

Somebody was talking about the North being too big in connection with the Police Force; that it should be divided into two. It is illogical. The North can be divided into two, three or four parts, but technically and by implications it remains the same. If one shilling is divided into two six-pences and the two are added up again they will make one shilling. So, that will not belittle the North. The Regions can be called anything but technically and by implications the North will essentially be the same.

I am most sorry to talk about this because I do not like it. We are essentially one people whether we like it or not. So, this talk about percentage and ratio for such and such should stop. I even doubt whether this 50 *per cent* truly goes to the North. I am not sure of that. But even if it does we deserve it. I am saying with all forces at my command that we deserve it.

I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : I would only like to pay tribute to our Forces for the way and manner they handled problems during the testing events which arose in the last twelve months. I also intend to make two other short remarks.

One of the remarks is about our security on the Northern border. I think events during the last twelve months are by themselves lessons to us. For that reason I feel that the Government must tighten its security on the northern border of this country. One can see easily how—not to speak of smuggling now—the security of this country can be easily threatened. Nigeria is a very vast country. There is no doubt about that. But it seems that security measures are only cared for on the sea coasts. This should not be the case.

The Government should be very careful about all our borders. It is usually known that one's enemy does not often come directly to where one expects him. He comes through where one does not expect him. And I am quite sure that enemies can easily come to

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Nigeria through the Northern border. It is not even through the Northern border only. The Eastern and the Western borders are equally accessible. So, I would appeal to the Government to look into this matter without delay.

My second point is this. I remember that last year the Prime Minister made a statement on the Floor of this House in respect of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police in Western Nigeria. I am sure that the person spoken about on the Floor of this House was dismissed. But another man has been employed in his place. Here, I just want to say that I have every high regard for the present Government in the Western Region. But the point I want to make is that it is not only the economy of that Region that the present Government in the West is bound to reconstruct but also the immorality which the former Government there made a mess of.

I am very much concerned about the appointment of another person without any explanation as to whether the duties of the former Superintendent-General of Police in charge of Local Government Police is transferred by the West Regional Government to the new man. The reason we criticized the appointment of the former Superintendent-General of Local Government Police in the Western Region was merely to avoid having a Regional Police Force established in the Western Region. That is the only reason why it was brought to the Floor of this House and it was criticised. Yet, that man has been dismissed and another one has been appointed. On the same duty or what? That is the question.

I feel that this House is entitled to know whether the present holder of this post, in charge of Local Government Police in the Western Region, is really having the same duty as the one who had been dismissed. Even if it is in a Regional Government, it is in our Constitution that there would be no Regional Police Force in this country. That is my only reason, and I would have had no grudge whatsoever if he were not appointed on the same status and duties as the former one. That is the only thing I am quarrelling about. Otherwise, I have no quarrel whatsoever. If the provision is merely for other specific duties, it is all well; but I am sure that it is the

duty of the Nigerian Police Force to train and supervise in certain cases Local and Native Authority Police. I know what happens in other Region even if the—(Interruption).

I make this point in order that we may not have any betrayal of our Constitution. That is all.

Mr O. J. Eminue (Eket East): I want to express my deep appreciation for the excellent work done by the Police in the Federal territory of Lagos here. The able way they handled the crisis, and their general approach to the public are all commendable particularly the work done by the women's section of the Police in Lagos.

I wish that at the end of the training course in Ikeja, all our Police constables would always be stationed in Lagos to work for about three months to copy the example of events in Lagos before they are posted out to the provinces. I think it might be due to this fact of efficiency that we are apt to think that the Police in Lagos should be treated separately, but in the circumstances, we cannot do so. When we compare the activities of the Police in the provinces with those of their counterparts in Lagos, we see just the opposite. The provincial police officers are very hostile in their attitude and they are very unfriendly to the public.

It is very sad that we have to re-echo this question of bribery and corruption on the Floor of this House, but we cannot help saying it because no nation can rise on the foundation of bribery and corruption. We must do everything to eradicate bribery from our society.

I have just an instance to quote. I believe that if this is not general, it might be specific to the Eastern Region. It is an open secret that in our Law Courts, the Police take it upon themselves to institute a type of bribery which they take before they sign even a common bail form. On the opening day of every Magistrate's Court session, when there is always the usual callover and the cases are to be fixed, the Magistrate generally require the accused person to find somebody to bail him. Before the policemen sign this bail form, that person must pay two pounds; and the Police have agents for this. This is an open thing and I think this is a slur on the

Police Department, and I feel the Minister in charge of the Police should take a very strong view of this situation.

I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to a case of a young police constable who died sometime in the Congo in November last year while on active service in the Congo. The corpse of this police constable was flown back into Nigeria and was interred in his home town. I think this is a very excellent piece of work done by this Department; but the point I am making is that since then the Police authorities have not paid anything in the way of gratuity or an ex-gratia award to the family of the deceased constable. I hope that the Police Department will see to it that the gratuity award is made to the family of the deceased, and in time.

I want to raise another point about two posts in the Police Force. These are the posts of Sergeant Major and Chief Inspector. I think that these two posts are redundant. A person who is promoted a Sergeant Major is always given a certificate of merit and a certificate of long service. If he has these certificates, he is promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major. I think he should also be fit to be promoted to the higher rank in the Force.

I understand that when a person is promoted to this rank, that is the end for him in the Police Force. He does not go anywhere further. Now, if he is so good as to receive a certificate of good character, then that person should be fit to be promoted to a higher rank so that a person who is fit to be a Sergeant Major is also fit to be an Inspector and also fit to be an Assistant Superintendent of Police in the Force. This post of Sergeant Major would merely be the start in the Police Force.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): On a point of Information, a person is appointed a Sergeant Major when he fails to pass the test for the Inspectorate when he came to train for that post. That is normally so. At the end of the course, he did not pass. He is not expected to be an Inspector and there is a rank between the post of Sergeant Major and the post of Inspector, and therefore, those who do not pass are promoted to this post. If he proves his capability in the future, he can then be promoted.

Mr Eminue: I am sorry that my hon. Colleague is not the Minister in charge of the Police. The salient point I am making is that in many cases, a person who is promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major does not go beyond that point in the Police Force, and I say that that person always receives a certificate of merit and a certificate of long service. If he merits these two certificates then he should be promoted to a higher rank in the Police Force. Similarly, in many cases a person who is promoted to the grade of Chief Inspector does not go beyond that rank and the officer humiliatingly watches the newly recruited boys promoted to the grades of A.S.P. and Senior Superintendent. It is bad for these people who are excellent in their work to stop at Inspector cadre.

May I appeal to the Rt. hon. Prime Minister who holds the portfolio of the Police that it is high time to Nigerianise the top-most rank in the Force. Presently, the person acting in that post is a Nigerian, and I think that he was very efficient before he was made to act in that post. If he is fit to act in that role I feel that he should equally be fit to be made a substantive holder of the post. My plea is that he should immediately be promoted to the substantive rank of Inspector-General of Police.

I just want to say a word about my constituency. If the Minister in charge of Police Affairs is aware of the position of Oron on the map of Nigeria he will see that we occupy a key position. It is the main gate into the Eastern Region from the South-east; it is also the main gate of journeys from the mainland across to Calabar and the Cameroons. It is a melting pot for all sorts of crime. It is, therefore, wise that the Police strength at Oron should be very much reinforced.

If we hold the belief that the women police officers are very honest then I suggest that a good number of them should be stationed at Oron. One other aspect is that I think it is time the Police Station at Oron took on a Superintendent of Police and not merely an Inspector of Police.

I should like to appeal again to the Minister in charge of Police Affairs that, at least, one or two vehicles should be allocated to the Police Station at Oron. If this is done it will help them in their fight against crimes, especially at the park, and against smuggling which is so much talked of in Calabar Province.

I beg to support.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): After listening carefully to the comments made by several hon. Members I would like to make a brief reply to the points made.

The Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) commented on the rapid progress in the implementation of our Nigerianisation policy in the Nigeria Police Force, and whole-heartedly congratulated the Prime Minister and the Police Authority. He also hailed police activities throughout the Federation. I assure hon. Members of further progress and further achievement in the future. (*Hear, hear*).

An hon. Member on my right, whose name I cannot now remember, raised the question of promotions in the Police Force. I want to inform hon. Members that promotion in the Force are based on merit and on merit only, not on partiality. On promotions still I must not forget to mention that good conduct and efficiency are considered along with educational qualification in promoting police officers.

I am one hundred *per cent* in agreement with the hon. Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma*) who described police officers as friends of the public. Indeed, Nigerian police officers are very friendly with the public.

Mr R. N. Muojeke, the Member for Awka Central, wanted policemen to be encouraged in appreciation of their services to this country. I would like to emphasise that this is also a very essential point.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Abaja and Ngwo): On a point of order, it is most surprising that the hon. Minister of State for Police Affairs does not know the names of Members of this House, even though—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Olarewaju: I would like to associate myself with the advice of Shettima Ali Monguno the Member for Kaga Marghi, that any member of the public who witnesses a police officer accepting bribe of any kind should report the incident to a superior police officer. Every step will be taken to deal with any police officer caught receiving bribe if the case is genuine.

The hon. Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr S. A. Babatunde*) wanted an anti-bribe ministry to be created. May I inform this honourable House that the power of creating more ministries rests entirely with the Prime Minister, and

if he considers it necessary I am sure, without hesitation, he will create it. But, in the meantime, hon. Members should abide by the Prime Minister's advice that any member of the public who sees a police officer take bribe should report the matter either to the nearest superior police officer, or to the Prime Minister or myself.

Mr L. O. Tobun, the Member for Epe, wanted the Inspector-General of Police to come and pose in his uniforms to listen to his speech. I want to say that whether or not the Inspector-General is in attendance the Prime Minister and myself are always present in this honourable House to hear the views severally expressed by hon. Members about the Police Force.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo, the Member for Aba Urban, who is himself an ex-policeman, stressed much on bribery and corruption in the Police Force. May I ask him whether this occurred when he was serving in the Police Force?

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Minister is deceiving the House. I have not served as a police officer in my life. For the hon. Minister to come to the Floor of this honourable House to make such wild allegation, without checking his information proves inefficiency on the side of the Minister.

Mr Olarewaju: If Mr Okoronkwo is not the person that was once in the Police Force, then it might be his brother.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): The Okoronkwo who was formerly in the Police looks very much like the Okoronkwo here.

Mr Olarewaju: The same hon. Okoronkwo raised a vital point in connection with recruitment into the Police Force which he described as "fifty-fifty". This is not true at all. Such has never happened in the Police Force. People who are recruited into the Police Force always send their applications to the Police Commandant in the Police Colleges at Ikeja and at Kaduna. All these applications are treated according to their merits, and not on a regional basis.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): It is the practice that when a Minister wants to rise and speak on a point of information, we always yield to him and I think courtesy demands that a Minister should also yield to us,

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The Chairman : Usually Ministers give genuine points of information. Quite a number of Members do produce mischievous points of information.

Mr Olarewaju : It is not correct for any Member to say that Northerners have the lion's share in the membership of our Police Force. I am saying that up till to-day Northerners both males and females are very few in the Police Force. We do not quarrel when the Police Force, as other organisations in the country, is being criticised, but it is very wrong to apply destructive criticisms against the Police Force. We expect that if at all Members should criticise, they should do so constructively. We always try to learn from constructive criticisms and not destructive ones. When a Member is trying to damage the reputation or the name of a police officer by making allegations of bribery and corruption which are not true automatically such a Member is doing so to damage the name and reputation of our dear country in the outside world.

The hon. Member for Sokoto Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) raised a point about the Local Government Police in the Western Region. The Local Government Police in the Western Region is supervised by a Nigeria Police officer and the Superintendent-General of Police in the Western Region to-day is seconded from the Nigeria Police to that office. He is not a retired Nigeria Police officer as before.

I would once more appeal to hon. Members that in future they should always apply constructive criticisms on the Police and not destructive ones.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I only crave the indulgence of the House to direct attention to what Members may unconsciously have forgotten. It is true that sitting will be suspended at six o'clock and that we shall be returning here at nine o'clock, but I think that Members who have spoken on one Head of the Estimates will be doing injustice to their colleagues if they continue to speak and speak again. This is likely to result in a guillotine of the whole thing when we come to the more important Heads.

Since morning we have made very little progress. Members have spoken on the

Cabinet Office, then the Police and it is all repetitions by the same people who have spoken previously, whereas we have the important Head of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which affects the economy of the country ; the Ministry of Communications ; the Ministry of Defence ; the Royal Nigerian Army ; the Royal Nigerian Navy, and the Nigerian Air Force. I think that these are important Heads of the Estimates on which Members would like to speak. I beg again that hon. Members should realise that if there should be division of labour, those who have spoken on one occasion should be fair enough to their colleagues and allow them to speak also.

May I, therefore, move that on this Head, the Question be now put.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : On a point of order, My name appears under Heads 22 and 23 on the Order Paper but I have not been called up till now. Hon. Members who did not give any notice of Amendments are being called to speak. I cannot understand this kind of injustice. When the Deputy Chairman occupied the Chair, I complained to him. I simply waited to be called, but I have not been called.

The Chairman : Order. Another advice that might be useful to Members is that as far as possible Members should be brief and speak to the point. That will save a lot of time of the House and give more Members the opportunity to speak.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.

£5,375,550 for Head 23—Police—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 24.—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed, That £808,300 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name, That on Head 24, Sub-head 105, the amount be increased by £15,000 in order to give financial allowances for participation in the

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Trade Fairs about which I have already informed the House and to send our own delegation. The approval of the Rt. hon. the Governor-General has been received and it is in custody.

I beg to move.

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

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : I beg to support the Amendment moved by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry. The Amendment seeks additional funds to enable the Minister carry on efficiently the assignment given to him. I am fully conscious of his onerous responsibility and that is why I have given him this support. But one thing I would like to say is that this Ministry, being all that important, should be completely divorced from politics.

I want to appeal to the Government for more provision for the expenses to be incurred for the Trade Fair in Leipzig. I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : I wholeheartedly support the Amendment moved. In doing so I would like to take this opportunity, with your leave, to commend the Minister and his staff on the very able way in which they have conducted the affairs of this country within their sphere of responsibility. There is no doubt that the Amendment is very characteristic of the progressiveness of the Minister and his staff. I think for an important Ministry like this if I may humbly say so, the Minister and his staff are certainly the most open-minded we can expect to have in the country to-day. Going to this Fair is certainly one of the ways in which we can encourage the growth of industries in Nigeria : making the people outside Nigeria more aware of the potentialities of Nigeria both in trade and in commerce.

I would like to add that they should not stop at this. Naturally, when we attend these Fairs we attract attention and people come into the country to see whether some of the things we are telling them are true and to see what they themselves can do in order to take advantage of some of the possibilities to contribute their own quota towards the progress of this country.

There are some items of inducements to industry which are in existence and which I think will go a long way to increase the possi-

lities that exist in the policy contemplated in this Amendment. I think one very important thing is that the Minister and his staff should give particular attention to the element of time. There are certain issues which not only embarrass this country but may disillusion some well-meaning people who come into this country to invest in our industries. I refer to something like Pioneer Certificates. It takes too long a time for an application to go through. I appreciate that such applications are not dealt with only in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry but the applications may be initiated there. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry would be doing itself and the country a very good turn if it could make the other Ministries which have a part to play in these matters aware of the need for speed.

I remember one particular case. An industry was to be established in Port Harcourt and the people applied for a pioneer certificate. It was not that they were not going to get the certificate, but it was taking such a long time and the people were beginning to get disillusioned. I do remember that when in my humble capacity as solicitor I intervened, it still took about four months to reach finality. In that particular instance I gathered that a lot of the delay was caused in the Ministry of Justice whose responsibility it was to prepare some legislation in order to get that thing through. I think the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should put some push behind those of their colleagues who have got some part to play in their—

The Chairman : I do not think the hon. Member should digress to this point as it is not within the terms of the Amendment.

Mr Akwiwu : I am sorry, Mr Chairman. I do not want to be unduly contentious but I thought that since this firm is intended to increase the industrial tempo we might also have to look at some of the inducements without which their appeal might lose its value. I reserve the rest of my remarks for the other part of the debate.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question again proposed, That £823,300 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Alhadji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North) : I rise to support Head 24 of

the Estimates—Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is obvious and definitely clear that for the rapid progress that this Federation is making, demands for more and more industries are echoing from all the constituencies within Nigeria in order to develop the country.

At this juncture I wish to make particular reference to Hadejia and Gumel Emirates in Kano Province which produce thousands of tons of groundnuts, several tons of cotton, beans, meat, hides and skins, fish and vegetables, etc., and yet have not a single industry established there. I would like to remind hon. Members that where there is a wish there is a need and there is also a desire. I wish hon. Members to note this particular point.

I wish to say further that cottage industries are required to be established in all the constituencies of this country. This will promote trade in the country and train the rural and urban people to be more professional. It will also solve the problem of unemployment and provide more work for the people so that they will not remain idle during the months after harvest.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important Head and Item which I wholeheartedly support. We all know very well that this Ministry is the key to the prosperity of our country and anything done to retard the progress of the Ministry will not be to the advantage or benefit of the country as a whole.

I would like to make one or two observations, and the first is to refer to the industrial side of the Ministry. It is all well and good and in fact I commended, in my speech during the Debate on the Address, the activities of this Department. But when it comes to the question of industries I seem to dissociate myself from one aspect, and that is, when we begin to have industrial projects in this country the benefits that the members of the public expect are that the commodities so produced will be sold at prices far below the imported ones. If we are the producers and yet pay much higher prices or about the same price I do not think that will be to the benefit of the country. What is of benefit to this country is that goods

produced locally should be obtained at prices lower than what they are at the present moment. In this case, now, it seems to me that the Government is adopting a certain policy by increasing customs duty on imported goods exorbitantly in order to be able to give opportunity to manufacturers of local goods to sell well, as we are complaining that people do not patronise home industries. We have to create a better condition to encourage people to buy what is produced locally in this country.

For instance, early one morning in France, I saw a bricklayer with a loaf of bread yet able to drink wine; whereas here, now, it is difficult for a poor man to take beer, because I do not think it is intended for the poorer classes of the community. I think the price of beer which is produced in this country should be brought down. We will make more revenue on beer and many other things which are produced in this country if their prices are brought to within the reach of both rich and poor.

We have Guinness Stout, Star Beer, and Flour in this country now. I do not see the difference in the price of the flour manufactured locally and that manufactured abroad. We manufacture cement with our raw materials here, and should be able to make the price in such a way that everybody will be able to buy without any difficulty. The same thing goes for our petrol. I think we should be able to sell our petrol, particularly to the civil servants, at a less exorbitant price than as at present.

On the question of imports, I think the policy adopted by our Government is over-generous. It seems to me that we have opened the gates of our country for people to bring goods into this country in quantities far more than we can consume. In other countries of the world, goods are not allowed to be dumped in the countries. We have more than we can cope with at the moment.

I would like to raise this point, that while the Minister of Finance is making every effort to increase the revenue of this country, the Minister of Commerce and Industry should endeavour to industrialise the country. When goods are imported, the Minister of Finance gets all the revenue. If one pays £1,000 for these goods to come into the country, as a result of this dumping of goods, they may be sold for £500 or £600. That means that the revenue of this country is reduced by £400. If we pay

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£1,000 to businessmen overseas and, as a result of having more than we can consume, we sell in Nigeria for £600, it means that £400 has gone overseas. I think it would not be to our interest to continue to import goods if we are going to buy for £1,000 and then sell for £500 or £600, thereby losing £400.

I would like to appeal to our hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to examine that aspect which, I am convinced, is not doing our country any good. We have lost £1 million in this way. I am in business, and I am in a position to advise our hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to kindly give consideration in that aspect. We are losing far too much. It is window dressing when we say that if we do this we shall be losing revenue. By importing more than we can consume, we are losing far more than the revenue collected. In the first instance, by being forced to sell the goods imported below their cost price, we are doing a great harm to our economy. That is exactly the point.

I think the Government should now be able to take statistics. The consumption of 1950 should be related to the consumption of 1960. Licences are no longer being issued for Japanese goods. Goods are coming into this country from all places without any hindrance, and this is not in the interest of this country.

These are the only few observations which I consider very important for our Government to take very stern measures against. We should not allow politics to go into this. We should not say that because the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Economic Development has said something that that must be done. Business is not like that. There are times when two times two in business might mean six or eight.

I would like Government to take these two points seriously into consideration. Firstly, our imported goods must be displayed in a way to encourage people to buy. People should not be forced to buy. If goods are made in Nigeria, we should be able to put reasonable prices on them and not protect our own industries at the expense of the imported ones. If people are going to send us beer from Europe, let them send it. If a bottle is 1s-6d, we should not drive people away from buying this beer and force them to buy "Made in Nigeria" beer if the quality is

good. I want to appeal to the Minister not to kill the goose that lays the golden egg by this kind of method.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): I just want to make a few points. The first point is that I think it is necessary at this stage of our development to have a tourist corporation. I say this because at the moment, so many businessmen from overseas are interested in the new African nations, especially Nigeria, and I think that if we get a tourist corporation we would be able to attract them and make them come here to spend their holidays and survey the country. This would help us a great deal, if only to help our balance of payments position. I would very seriously suggest to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to survey the possibility of creating a tourist corporation.

We have so many things that we can exploit. That brings me to the fact that some of our businessmen, Ministers, and officials, when they want to spend their leave or vacation, go to the French Revere, or Los Angeles, or London, and spend our money there. Well, in the same way, we want people from those other places to come here and spend their own money. That is why I strongly recommend the creation of a tourist corporation.

The Minister mentioned something about Trade Fair. I only want to say one thing. Most of our trade delegations abroad had been made up of Ministers and businessmen. I think it is high time that the Minister should consider including Members of Parliament to be members of trade delegations. When we go there we will learn a lot of things about what other people are doing. It should not be confined to businessmen. When they come we help them to improve their business. We want something that would help the country, and I think at this moment that Members of this House are in a position to speak for the country.

The third point is that sometime last year, when a Member raised a point about retail trade in this country, the Minister gave an assurance that he would try to help the indigenous businessmen to make the retail trade an exclusively preserve of Nigerian businessmen.

An hon. Member : Where is the money

Mr Ifezue : We will find the money anyway. I want the Minister to implement his assurance as soon as possible. The time is overdue for him to implement it. We cannot allow foreign people to come here and take over our economy.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I would only like to pay a glowing tribute to the work done by the entire staff of this Ministry, particularly when one remembers what efforts they made in arranging and also seeing to the success of the last Trade Fair held in this country. This is just a word of encouragement and we would like them to make further efforts to bring about similar Trade Fairs.

As the Minister has already pointed out that he has plans for sending delegations abroad, even though the Minister has just been appealed to by Members not to include businessmen in the delegations, I would like to appeal to him that Members of Parliament should not be included in the delegation to the exclusion of businessmen. I have no quarrel with the Members who have made the suggestion, but I disagree with them that the businessmen who have made a very good start in this country should not be encouraged and given the fullest support.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh) : In contributing to the discussion on this Head, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some of the difficulties which confront a lot of Nigerian businessmen in this country.

An industrial disease in this country is the inferiority complex now obtaining in the Nigerian owned and manned industries, and it is eating deep into the minds of people. It is surprising to see that even people in the upper segment of life prefer imported products to the Nigerian made products. They patronise these expatriate firms simply because there is one expatriate at the head of about a hundred Nigerian craftsmen, and yet it is these Nigerians who are doing the job. I feel that the time has now come when we should really be proud to own or buy products manufactured by any Nigerian industry.

There was the case of a Minister—I do not want to disclose the name of the Minister—

An hon. Member : Disclose it.

Mr Opia : For modesty sake, I would not like to. The Minister wanted to buy some pieces of furniture and visited about three expatriate furniture factories and then visited a Nigerian furniture factory. After he had visited these factories and had seen that the goods were of the same quality—in fact the Nigerian manufactured furniture were better—but simply because an expatriate was at the head of one of the factories, the Minister quietly strolled into the factory and placed his order. When he was asked why he did not buy his goods from the Nigerian factory, he said that most of the parts used in the Nigerian factory were imported from overseas. And that is a Minister who should by right be very proud of Nigerian industries !

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : I am sure that is not a Federal Minister.

Mr Opia : Well, I am not sure whether the Minister of Commerce and Industry is not the one.

I feel the position of Ministers, whether Federal or Regional Ministers, should be such that every action they take must be to encourage Nigerian industries. I feel that this is a malady that should be cured right now, and I think the Minister will take this very seriously.

I also want to make a point on the question of tax relief for Nigerian businessmen. It is a good thing to pass the Tax Relief Bill, but most of the people who enjoy this tax relief are expatriates. If the Minister could look up his statistics of those who actually enjoy the tax relief in this country, he would see that they are expatriates. I therefore feel that the time has come when the small businessmen, however small they may be, so long as they enter into industry, should be encouraged to enjoy this tax relief.

An hon. Member : Even though they have no working capital ?

Mr Opia : It does not matter. Once one registers his company under the Company's Ordinance, one should be protected. It is very shameful that quite a number of Nigerian businessmen have to work under very stiff competition in this country, and yet when they are in this competition their expatriate counter-

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parts are enjoying all the reliefs. I therefore feel that the staff of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should begin to visit industrial institutions with a view to advising indigenous businessmen who take part in industrial work to be able to understand some of these tax reliefs and how to get them very quickly.

Another matter which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to is in connection with the registration of business names. This is one of the things in which most people who live outside Lagos suffer. Some times, to register one's business one has to go to a lawyer, even when this is not in fact necessary.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : One should get a lawyer.

Mr Opia : Well, it is only a petty lawyer who goes about for registration of business names.

The Chairman : Order, order ! May I appeal to the House once more that we have got other important Heads to consider. We have the Ministry of Communications on which I know almost all Members would like to say a word, and we have got the Ministry of Defence also to be completed to-day. I feel like making these points now because it is my intention to speed up the proceedings and Members must make their points as brief as possible and, certainly, repetition of points will be ruled out.

Mr Opia : While taking your advice very seriously, I feel that this is a very important aspect of the country's economy, and as a businessman, I think I am speaking not only the voice of my people but the voice of businessmen in the country.

The Chairman : Order, order. I do not think the remark I made calls for any insinuations to suggest that the Chair is against anybody speaking for businessmen or for his constituency.

Mr Opia : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. There is another malady to which I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. There is another very bad institution in this country. This institution is the professional people who profess themselves as "directors." If any new expatriate companies come from Great Britain,

they land in Lagos and immediately these professional company "directors" go straight to them and say that unless they put their names as directors, they are not getting the company registered in the country. The result is that there are people who are company "directors" in over ten expatriate companies in this country. They really have no shares at all in the companies, and they actually go to sell the good name of this country.

I think the time has come when, if a Nigerian should be a director of an expatriate company, he should be a real director and not a nominal director. I feel that this is very serious because the scandal is stinking. Those who are in business know exactly what I really mean. Now, I would not like to belabour this point, but I feel that the Minister should understand exactly what I am referring to.

The next point I want to draw the attention of the Minister to is retail trade. Sometime ago we were told that Nigerians were going to take over the retail trade in this country. It came as a shock to the whole country that the retail trade, when left off by the expatriate companies, died naturally like that. There were no trained people capable of taking over this business. Everything was left in pieces like that. Some people even approached the expatriate companies with a view to taking over their retail trade, but were told that they could not, but that the only way out was for them to form petty retail bodies such as S.C.O.A., U.A.C. and G.B. Ollivant. These expatriate companies were engaged in retail trade, but as soon as they took their hands off, they did not give the retail trade to capable hands, and most Nigerians who were working in their retail sections were sacked. I feel that this sort of thing does not help the economy of the country.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Is there no retail trade in the country ?

Mr Opia : Well, there is retail trade, my Minister, but the point I am really driving at—

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East) : I think that hon. Members would like to understand what exactly the hon. Member means.

Mr Opia : I really mean to draw the attention of the House to the retail trade which was going on among the various firms in the

country and to the fact that when the firms withdrew from the retail trade, only one or two expatriate companies, such as Kingsway, took it over. G.B. Ollivant does not engage in provisional retail trade.

An hon. Member : In Port Harcourt they do.

Mr Opia : In Port Harcourt, no. G.B. Ollivant does not do that, and I feel that this type of thing would not help the economy of the country.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the question of the economy of the country, especially in respect to industrial loans. There are irregularities in the question of loans in the Department of Commerce and Industry. It is a very serious scandal. I am not here to say exactly what reports we have actually received from quite a number of people who actually applied for loans. People apply for loans and for three years they never get them.

The Chairman : Order, order. As I said before, I certainly would not tolerate repetitions. The Minister himself, in a speech to this House, if Members refer to their *Hansard*, did say something about the Loans Board and he in fact went on to say that because of some of the things he heard, he had to suspend the operation of the Loans Board. Let us take as noted and make progress.

Mr Opia : Mr Chairman, thank you very much for your advice. I would not, therefore, like to belabour that point.

Now, I would like to draw the Minister's attention to economic tours. Quite a number of times we see men who are no better in business than some hon. Members of this House joining economic tours to all parts of the country. There are businessmen in this House, and we also want to learn. We feel that sometimes when economic tours are scheduled, Members of this Parliament should also be embodied in the team. I think it will not only go to enhance the prestige of Members, it also goes a long way to improve their business outlook and put them in better positions to tell the people they represent exactly how they in benefit from such economic tours.

I beg to support.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I think I must congratulate the Government on their general policy of encouraging industrial development in the country. The various laws which have been passed for this purpose are very good indeed, but I think that it must be brought forcibly to the Government that the operations of these laws leave very much to be desired.

In the first place, things move much too slowly. I know for a fact that there are other Ministries involved in the operations of these laws and that the delay may not be taking place only in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but as far as we are concerned in this House, it is the Minister who is responsible. It is up to him to do something to speed things up both in his Ministry and in other Ministries. The industrial people cannot wait indefinitely. There are factors which they have to compete with about which the Ministry may not know, but speed is certainly a great help in bringing these things about.

We have been talking about improving industries and bringing industries into the country and we know that we require the help of foreign people to do this, to bring the technique and the money into the country. And all Members know that charity begins at home. We want our industries in the long run to be controlled by this country, by Nigeria. Therefore, I think that it is fair and in the interest of this country that Government should make deliberate efforts to help Nigerian people's interests in industry in preference to foreigners. I believe it is the policy of the Government that there should be no differentiation. I think that policy is wrong. Nobody, no expatriate for that matter is going to find fault with this Government if it pursues the policy of giving more help to Nigerians than to the expatriates. Nobody will blame the Government for helping companies which have more Nigerian interests than expatriate interests.

I do not know why but examples of the contrary happening. Expatriate companies have been helped more than Nigerian companies. I know at least one case in which an expatriate company was given pioneer status for a particular project while a Nigerian company which applied for this status for the same project even earlier than the expatriate company was refused pioneer status. The expatriate

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company was granted pioneer status. I think this is wrong. It is wrong also to say that we must be fair by giving both expatriate and Nigerian companies equal facilities. That is not fairness; that is unfairness because when a Nigerian industrialist starts he often has more difficulties than an expatriate company.

In the first place, he has to contend with the mentality of people of this country that things made by Nigerians cannot be as good as things made by the expatriate people. He has to contend also with the mentality of the expatriate themselves. They control the business of this country, whether we like it or not, and they can bend together and kill any Nigerian interest; that is true. There is also the fact that they have the money and can afford to dump goods here in order to kill a Nigerian interest. I have seen it done. It happened to me. I think the Government should adopt a deliberate policy in this matter to help Nigerian industries more than they help the expatriates. That is fairness; the other way round is not fairness.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I am not rising up in order to stop other Members from making constructive criticisms. I really feel that on the whole the criticisms made are constructive and that Members are making them with a view to improving our own industrial skill.

I would like to bring to the notice of Members that the Rt. hon. Prime Minister has given a specific instruction to me that I should ask my Permanent Secretary to pass it to all the Ministries that deal in contracts abroad, that where there is a Nigerian industry producing materials required by Government that particular industry must be patronised and no overseas orders should be placed unless the Nigerian industry is unable to satisfy the demand. The Prime Minister has done his work and I have done my work and it is now left to the officials to carry out these duties. If they do not, they should pay the price.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): On a point of information, if this circular has been sent out I challenge the Minister—

An hon. Member: Is that a point of information?

Mr Opia: Will Members please allow me to talk. May I say with your kind permission, Mr Chairman, that in Port Harcourt the Niger Delta Development Board awarded a contract for the supply of furniture materials to expatriate contractors despite the fact that there were indigenous industries capable of supplying the materials.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): I know of that tender. They wanted nothing but the best and the kind of furniture they required was not to be found in my hon. Friend's furniture factory.

The Chairman: Order. Certainly, I do not think the Chair will accommodate any unparliamentary throwing of bricks.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: If anything is not done it is the duty of hon. Members to bring it to the notice of the Minister so that the matter may be looked into. I deliberately refuse to believe that making accusations or statements on the Floor of this House will prove that the anomalies are existing. I appeal to all Members that my office is open to everybody. I have never known of any hon. Member who has been refused entry to my office. I know my responsibility to this House that I cannot remain a Minister if I lose the confidence of my colleagues. (*Hear, hear*) It is now for the Members to bring these matters to my notice.

I am really worried by the fact that our trade relation with Japan is always at a disadvantage to us. I am looking into the possibility of having some kind of control. But again the only thing that makes me dither a bit is that as hon. Members know our people will say, "Do this" to-day and when you do that they say, "Why did you do that?" I shall listen to any criticism Members make. I shall also read the *Hansard* and if it is the opinion of the House that such a thing is necessary and I have the backing of the majority of my colleagues, I will have the moral courage to do it.

As regards industrial loans, the amount at the disposal of Government is really limited. The nation is composed of forty-five million people and nearly four hundred thousand square miles. Woe betides the country that relies solely on its government to do things for

the people. Let us cultivate self-help. When people help themselves the government will help them otherwise that government is too weak for a big country. It is no use criticising; we do not want a dictatorship. We want a country where free enterprise will flourish, where individuals will have the courage and conviction that they are free to improve their own lot.

Hon. Members have raised the question of giving special encouragement to businesses principally run by Nigerians. If I remember rightly Government has made it abundantly clear to foreign investors as well as local businessmen that pioneer certificates and other fiscal incentives will be denied to such companies and industrial enterprises that discriminate against active participation of Nigerians. What more can we do? We have done that. We have refused granting pioneer certificates to many people who do not accept Nigerian participation and Nigerian directors on their Boards.

Some people say they will go it alone without a certificate rather than take on Nigerians. We cannot stop them, but if they want our help they need to bring Nigerians into the show. This is the best we can do. We cannot force them to accept Nigerians if they do not want them. What we can do is to deny them our own co-operation.

The point made by Mr Opia that we should top expatriate firms from indulging in retail trade is quite good. But it was he who houted most last year that Nigerians cannot in the retail trade. Now he is saying something else. I will only take note of what he has said and ignore it.

I now come to the question of professional directors. I remember some Nigerians coming and worrying the life out of me to give them a concession or that concession and later when all the concessions had been given them they were made only nominal directors. After they came back to me and began complaining. I advised them to have the courage and their conviction to stand by their own rights. The most important thing is that our people must have courage and initiative. They should go overseas and contact people and gain assets. Some of our own people have even tried to discourage the industrialisation of our

country. This is because when people give them money with which to promote industries they take the money and spend it and when they are asked to produce it they threaten to take the person to court.

An hon. Member : They marry four wives with the money.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : They marry only one wife and have eight mistresses. The industrial development or commercial progress of this country is a continuing process and we cannot do it in a day. Parliament may sit to-day and Members may go home tomorrow but please write to us, come to see us because it is simply impossible for any Minister to ignore communications from his fellow Parliamentarians. I should like to make one thing very clear. I am an N.P.C. Minister, I am proud of it. But nothing in the world will make me discriminate against fellow Nigerians in the establishment of their industries because industrial and commercial development must be taken out of this so-called political stunt. If you have the capabilities to make industries succeed, you must be able to give more Nigerians work. You would make us more progressive, and with these few remarks I support.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East) : The hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry has satisfied us and he has told us about the willingness of his office to receive the complaints of Members of the Parliament and of the public. It is our duty then to take him for his word and bring our problems to his notice. Last year, on the Floor of this House during the Budget Debate I raised a point which was deemed irrelevant, and I am happy that the hon. Member for Badagry (*Mr Senu-Oke*) asked a question about the issue of import licences for cement. I think the hon. Minister will be doing a good service to this country if he looks into it this time. About 400,000 tons of cement is being imported into Nigeria, but less than a hundred thousand tons go to indigenous Nigerians. The rest goes to expatriate firms. I may be wrong, but I want to say that the cement that is imported is used mostly by Nigerians. The expatriate firms that import this cement have not been given a quota. They scarcely pay for the cement themselves. They import it and are then

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given bank overdrafts which they are allowed to settle within 180 days. When the cement lands in Port Harcourt or Apapa they get Nigerians to pay the money and buy up the cement from them and save them the drudgery of selling and stocking.

I know the expatriate firms make as much as two shillings and six-pence profit per bag of cement, and when some of them import as many as 3,000 tons you can imagine how much profit they will make. If you calculate, you will discover that some firms have made nearly half a million pounds profit within three years. Yet they did not pay for it. They did not invest the money in Nigeria. I know some Nigerians in Port Harcourt who pay as much as £40,000 at a time to an expatriate firm to take all the cement from the firm and stock it in their own stores and take the trouble to sell it. The expatriate firm makes a clean £20,000 gain at a time.

I am not against these expatriate firms but I want these gains also to be made by Nigerians whether from the North, East or West. I said the same thing last year because if they make the gain they could easily invest the money in an industry. It is the gain they make from trade that they will invest in industries. For example U.A.C., John Holt, etc., came here as traders and merchants. They imported goods and sold them to our people and collected money from our people. It is the money they gained from our people that we are now asking them to invest or loan to us.

Another point is that the expatriate banks in this country—B.W.A., Barclays, etc., discriminate against Nigerian businessmen. They do all they can to cripple our businessmen. They give bank grants to expatriate firms. They give expatriate firms accommodation and yet they will not give such to Nigerians. Some expatriate firms have no access to Nigeria because they have got no buildings and their capital is so small, but they could easily get capital from expatriate banks to the tune of £40,000. If these expatriate firms are keeping the money of the Nigerian Government, the money of the Corporations and the public, cannot the Minister do something about this? Why could not the granting of loans to Nigerian firms be raised in the Budget

Speech? It was because of expatriate banks' discrimination that made the Governor-General to set up the African Continental Bank, but now the discrimination is at its worst.

I am not a sycophant but I believe that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry is not a new man in politics. He has the guts when he is convinced of the necessity of serving his country. I know he can do it. Will he look into the question of import quota for cement and will he look into the question of discrimination as to accommodation and giving of loans by expatriate banks? And would he serve his country by giving to the Nigerian businessmen the quota to import quick moving goods like cement?

I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West): I rise to support the expenditure of £808,300 for the service of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry during the current financial year. I have to draw the Minister's attention to those people who, by pretension, rob the public. There are many people in Nigeria who are penniless but who pretend to be businessmen. They apply for registration of business so as to permit them trade or set up an industry. Immediately they get the authority from the Minister they advertise for shares. In a young country like Nigeria many people would be anxious to buy the shares, seeing that the business had been registered. The robber, having got authority from the Minister start collecting money from the public on the pretence of establishing a real company. After collecting sufficient money, the rogue may run away from Nigeria purposely abandoning the trade. I would like the Minister to safeguard the public by seeing that only people who are really businessmen are registered and authorised to advertise for shares.

An example of this is a certain firm he which calls itself "*Mainland Industry and Trading Co., Ltd.*" The owner of this so-called company contrived to rob fellow Nigerians by advertising for shares after the business had been registered. After collecting a lot of money from the public, he failed to invest in the company for which the shares were advertised. Instead, the proprietor used the money for buying second-hand clothes called "*Onagwugwu*".

I wish to call upon the Minister of Commerce and Industry to restrict such type of registration of trade in Nigeria.

With these few words, I beg to support.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South): In contributing to this Debate—

An hon. Member: The hon. Member should get his cap; he is improperly dressed.

The Deputy Chairman: The Standing Orders do say that Members should be properly dressed but not that they should be dressing inside the Chamber.

An hon. Member: On a point of order, when incompetent lawyers go to court they do not dress properly as my hon. Friend, Mr Ajibola.

The Deputy Chairman: I think it is in bad taste to discredit any professional because he is in the House.

Mr Ajibola: In contributing to this Debate I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to one or two points affecting the economy of this country. The first point that I would like to make is a point that has been worrying me for a long time. Prices of imported goods in this country are rising from year to year while the prices of our own goods exported to the outside world are falling from year to year. Take the case of cocoa, cotton, palm oil, kernel or groundnut. Whenever you hear of the prices in the outside world you are shocked and sad, but when you go to firms like U.A.C., Leventis, John Holt, or C.F.A.O. and ask for the price of a car that your friend bought last year, you will find that the price has gone up by a hundred pounds or more.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Because of the Minister of Finance's tax.

Mr Ajibola: The same thing applies to all imported goods. I feel that the Government should look into this matter. The mistake must be corrected somewhere. Either the firm is making too much profit or the Government is imposing too much tax on the particular commodity. It is in the best interest of the Government to cater for the welfare of the common man; to look into it so that these prices do not continue to go higher and higher every year.

Take for instance, the question of petrol. Much petrol is being used everyday in this country but the price is rather very high. I would like the Government to see that something is done so that the price of petrol may be reduced. It is rather too high for us in this country.

I would also like the Minister to help the common man in this country by looking into the hire purchase law. A lot has been said in this House during the past nine years, almost every year, about the hire purchase law but up till now nothing has been done. In short, I am very pleased with the explanation made by the Minister.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of State (Hon. Hashimu Adaji) 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.

£823,300 for Head 24—Ministry of Commerce and Industry—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 25.—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Question proposed, That £6,313,040 for Head 25—Ministry of Communications—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile): May I now report on the Ministry of Communications for the year 1963-64.

Now, I think it is only right that I should express the gratitude of all of us in the Ministry of Communications for the lively interest which Members have always shown in our work.

The direct link of my Ministry to every part of the Federation, no matter how remote from the Federal or Regional capitals, by mail, telephones and telegrams, has always had its fascination for all of us, a fascination which is now reflected in the direct and mass interest shown by several hon. Members in matters affecting the Ministry of Communications. Since I became a Minister three years ago, I have never failed to take this House into confidence and to utilize to the best advantage the many practical and valuable suggestions which have come to this House for the general improvement of the work

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of the Ministry. It is my firm intention that this happy relation should continue.

Last year, I gave the House a survey of the achievements of the Ministry in the seven years period covered by the previous Economic Programme and also a general outline of the intentions for the next six years for the new Programme. It is not my intention to make further references to many of the points in my speech of last year; I intend instead to fill in the details of the practicalisation of those intentions. The main emphasis of the speech to-day will, therefore, be a review of the work of the past year and of the year to come.

When I first assumed responsibility I said, in my Budget Speech on the 16th of April, 1960, that the Government was hoping that, by 1970, there would be a demand for approximately 100,000 telephones and, by 1980, for 400,000, as compared to 30,000 in that year. In the same speech I disclosed that 51 per cent of the senior posts in the Ministry were filled by Nigerians. It is a measure of the great progress which has been made that, for the period of six years to be covered by the present Economic Programme, 100,000 new telephones would have been installed, making a total of 150,000 telephones. This means that of the three years since 1960, the number of telephones has risen from 30,000 to 50,000. In the same period, too, we have introduced subscribers' trunk dialling system between Lagos and Ibadan, built the General Post Office at Marina, introduced Automatic Exchanges in numerous places throughout the country, as well as built several sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies. This tremendous progress which constituted approximately 70 per cent in the three years, apart from being a source of personal pride, is a great achievement for this Government by any standard. It is our resolved intention that the rate of progress for the few years to come, while we still have your confidence, will even be faster.

But, I am sure that hon. Members, before I go into a detailed discussion of the achievements of the Ministry for the year just ending, would wish me to touch a note of warning. The first of such warnings is in connection with the relationship between the personnel of the Ministry in Post Offices, as well as in the Telecommunications offices, with the general

public. Nothing has given me a greater concern than the constant review of the ways and means of improving the public relation of the P. and T. Division. I said at the end of my speech in 1960 that it was my hope that in the present period the initials "P" and "T" would also stand for "politeness" and "tact". Inefficiency and general discourtesy where it exists with the officers of the Public Service is a matter which should be seen in its widest context. I assure this House that we will do everything in our power to ensure a greater efficiency and better courtesy in all branches of the Ministry and in particular those which have access to the general public. An impression should not, however, be given that the disease we seek to cure is special only to Posts and Telegraphs. The symptoms are everywhere, in private and public business. Our greatest difficulty, perhaps, is that the Posts and Telegraphs Division of my Ministry, more than any other branch of Government is more constantly exposed to these diseases.

In addition, the slow process of enforcing discipline, which is designed to safeguard the public servants, is not necessarily the best means of meeting the public complaints for better service. When we introduce a quasi-commercial organisation, as we intend to do, we will have to review a whole range of disciplinary procedures to meet the needs of our new functions to the public. We intend to train supervisory staff who would be principally concerned with administration and discipline in the lower rung of the ladder. More positively, we will review a method of incentives designed to encourage a sense of greater awareness of social responsibility where it is now lacking. Recently, as a result of certain complaints which prove to have foundation, severe disciplinary measures were taken against the staff of a Sub-Post Office in the vicinity of Lagos. This proves beyond doubt that we recognise that our role is to serve the public. The public must also exercise its due responsibility to us, for courtesy begets courtesy. Nothing can be achieved in our endeavours unless the general public owes it a duty to be, in turn, polite and courteous to the officers of the public service with whom they deal. Frivolous and unsubstantiated accusations can only do more harm than good, and I urge it upon hon. Members to take initiative in this field.

In referring to our work for the year which has just ended, by far our most impressive achievement was the completion of a microwave trunk system between Lagos and Ibadan. As explained in my speech last year, it is the Government's aim to convert the initial trunk telephone system from V.H.F. radio system to U.H.F., which is a very modern technique, providing a much greater trunk capacity than can be achieved under the present V.H.F. system. When you recall that the introduction of V.H.F. system resulted in an increase of 520 per cent in the trunk channel miles since its introduction in 1955, the advantages to be gained from the new system are obvious. I had, in pursuance of Government policy, also introduced V.H.F. trunk system between Ibadan and Benin-Enugu; Enugu-Lokoja-Minna-Kaduna; Ibadan-Ilorin-Kaduna; Aba-Calabar with an extension to Buea in the Camerouns; Aba-Port Harcourt, and Jos-Bauchi.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): What about Maiduguri?

The Minister of Communications: Jos-Bauchi covers Maiduguri.

In the coming year the Bauchi-Gombe section of the Jos-Yola V.H.F. system will be completed. I intend also in the coming year to introduce a new switching system for all the new Exchanges so that trunk calls can be connected by dialling without the intervention of an operator. This switching equipment will be of a new type known as "the cross-bar" which allows an immediate inter-connection of trunk lines and provides for complete calls by an alternative route if there is a breakdown in the normal channel.

Altogether, sixty-four new trunk circuits were provided last year, and additional seventy circuits will be provided in the current financial year. Seven new Exchanges were opened in the course of the year and five existing Exchanges were converted from manual to automatic. 5,114 telephones were added to the system and 5,500 more will be provided this year. The actual number of telephones to be installed will gain momentum when our development will be in full swing in two years' time. Considerable progress has been made in the provision of Telex facilities.

There are nineteen working Telex installations and eight more will shortly be added. I am giving priority to the provision of Telex facilities for the commercial and industrial concerns.

Thus, it will be seen that in matters of the provision of telephone and telegraph facilities, the country as a whole has been evenly provided, without any disadvantage to any part.

Before I leave the subject of telecommunication development, hon. Members are aware that it has been my avowed intention to bridge the immediate gap between the existing facilities and public need, due to time lag in our planning, by providing for an interim relief scheme estimated at £668,000. Relief measures in the Lagos, Apapa, Ebute Metta, and Ikeja areas have already commenced and, at the end of it, I hope that 500 waiting applicants in these areas will be given service. In Port Harcourt, which is another rapidly developing industrial area, a 1500-line relief manual Exchange is being installed and will be commissioned in May. As soon as funds are available, which is not at too distant a future, limited relief schemes will be carried out in all those centres throughout the Federation where there is any reported congestion. Our plan is to provide for emergency and short-term needs as well as for long-term.

We all, while providing relief schemes, endeavour to bring up stricter economy in the use of telephones by Government officers. I have already made it clear to this House of the need to reduce current expenditure in this connection. The cost of the use of Government telephones has been rising very rapidly in the past few years as the range of Government activities expands, and it is estimated that the Federal Government expenditure has run up to a rate of £600,000 *per annum*. Economy measures which I have taken in the past have only been partially successful, but I am determined to find new methods so as to achieve a success. The use of official telephones in offices by civil servants on private business has probably accounted for a sum of £50,000 *per annum* of the total of £600,000 involved in Government business. Henceforth therefore, I intend that telephones should be installed in the houses of civil servants only if they are prepared to meet all the expenses

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involved. Charges would be made for any external trunk calls made by civil servants from telephones installed in their residences at public expense. It will henceforth become increasingly more difficult for civil servants in Government quarters to have the privilege of free telephones except under very exceptional circumstances. I intend to examine a form of rationing system if all my latest efforts should fail.

I am happy to inform this House that early this year Nigerian External Communications Limited, a company in which the Government of the Federation has a greater share, has taken over the responsibility for Nigerian Internal telecommunication services which was formerly carried out by Messrs Cable and Wireless Limited. It is my intention to give guide to this new Company, in the light of Government external communication policy. We are, in furtherance of Government policy, examining the expansion and improvement of telecommunications services with the neighbouring African countries and preliminary discussions have already been held with the Governments of Dahomey, Togo, Cameroun Republic, Liberia, Niger and the Congo. I believe that in the not too distant future, the whole of West Africa and the outside world will be more closely linked in matters of telecommunications. Despite the occasional breakdown through natural phenomena, our external and internal telecommunication systems have worked very well.

Similarly, the postal services continue to show great improvement. New Post Offices were opened at Lafia and Ibusa. Special type Post Office buildings were completed at Kano and Zaria, and that of Apapa will shortly be opened. Sub-Post Offices were built at Idanre, Ejigbo, Egborede, Umunede, Oji River, Mbieri, Okpala, Ajeromi, Asaba Cable Point, Eku, and Mbaitoli. 51 new Postal Agencies were opened and Savings Bank facilities were extended to 14 Agencies. Five special postage stamps issues were made during the year. Direct mail services were introduced to seven countries outside this country and internal mail services were further improved. By the coming year, the new Post Office building at Bende, Apapa, Jos Town, Jos North, Akure and Lokoja would have been completed. Modernisation will reach Maiduguri, Sapele, Uromi,

Awka, and Ijebu-Ode. Altogether 13 new Post Offices, of which 6 will replace the existing Post Office buildings, will be completed. We intend to build 46 new Sub-Post Offices and 50 new Postal Agencies in 1963-64. For this entire scheme, due regard will be paid to geographical location and the special needs of others to ensure even growth tempered with utility and economy. I have reduced the conversion units of a Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office from 24,000 to 18,000. The effect of this new policy which will shortly be published as a Sessional Paper would result in the further rapid increase in the number of Postal Agencies and Post Offices for the next five to six years.

In touching the question of Post Offices and Postal Agencies, I should refer to what I know to be in the heart of most hon. Members. This concerns the provision of better and more saving facilities in the rural areas through the agency of Post Offices. Frankly, we have not achieved development in this field, with the result that instead of its being a powerful influence it had tended to act as an impediment. Our difficulties here are numerous amongst which was the difficulty of identification on and of rapid transaction of business and of lack of liquid funds in rural Post Offices to meet the day-to-day transaction. I have introduced new reforms recently by the introduction of photography as a means of identification, and investigation is going on as to the best means of safeguarding and making available liquid funds in rural areas. I have no doubt in my mind that shortly the small savers would be able to make their full contribution to the development programme.

The development which has been achieved in the past year, and is still to be achieved in the coming year in our external and internal telecommunications and postal services, can only continue with momentum, and with the least waste, if we have a well-integrated national plan to ensure the provision of services at the least cost in time and money. Last year, I informed this House that I would seek the assistance of International Telecommunications Consultants in the preparation of such a detailed plan.

I am glad to inform this House that, through the auspices of the United States Government, we have obtained the services of such a consulting body of international repute. Here I will

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say, quite frankly, that we have sought and obtained the services of only the best. The consultants, of whom there are eighteen in number, will shortly be arriving to draw up the technical plans and specifications for our development programme. The plan will go beyond the bounds covered by the present programme and will go into the future as far as the human eyes can see. The past mistakes which created haphazardous and *ad hoc* planning will not be repeated. The supply must catch up with the demand in the provision of postal and telecommunications facilities. The unity of this country must become a reality indeed through the constant touch of the minds of the people at all hours.

At the same time that we are concerned with the drawing up of a rational and national plan, we have, as I have already informed this House we could do, advanced our administrative proposals for the reorganisation of the Ministry from the dead-weight of Government machinery to a *quasi* commercial venture that is able to withstand its own.

Some months ago, I made my views known in an article entitled "A Commercial Policy for Nigerian Postal and Telecommunications Services" in the Nigerian Trade Journal. I hope that when opportunity presents itself, and when all the difficulties have been resolved, I will be able to produce a White Paper. As a first step towards the realising of our ultimate goal, I have engaged another consulting body of international repute. A preliminary report has been submitted and, shortly, the final report will be proceeded with, and by next year the implementation of the report will begin.

I must, however, correct a possible misconception in this connection. The Government will never ignore the under-developed areas of the country. (*Hear, hear*). On the contrary, it is our intention to increase further services in the rural areas, and believe me, Sir, if hon. Members travel as much as some of us do, they will realise that the rural areas, even to-day, are not neglected in a state of strict economy. Our aim is to evolve a system which is a compromise between social demand and commercial reality. I have no doubt in my mind that I can give *all* the postal and telecommunications services required by every hon. Member in this House

within one year, with the proviso that such a gift can only be at a price. If we charge more for postages, telephones and telegrams, we can give every Division what it wants. The Government policy, however, is to provide these essential services at a reasonable price. Therefore, a proper balance must be struck. It is no use saying that in our plan a large sum will be spent in the larger industrial centres and very little in the rural areas since expenditure in commercial towns cover their cost and in some cases produce profit. What is more important, the services are paid for by foreign and indigenous firms, mostly foreign firms, which means that the nature of the services are such that they bring in more money into the country. The provision of some services in rural areas is a constant drain on the public revenue. Therefore, if we do not wish to pay more than we are now doing for these services, enough profit must be made from industrial and commercial centres to subsidize the supply of these services to the rural areas. The provision of social services at the rural centres must depend on the extension or provision of improved methods in the industrial and commercial centres. The progress in both are one and the same thing.

In furtherance of our aim to reduce government expenditure, I informed this honourable House last year that I would do everything possible to bring the various maintenance contracts which are costing well over half-a-million pounds every year to an end in 1962 and 1964. The General Electric Company's maintenance for automatic exchanges in Lagos area expired in May 1962, and since that date the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Division have performed all the maintenance work in these exchanges. The training of technical officers is still given the highest priority and we now have fifty-eight trainees in the Universities and Technical Colleges overseas. With the constant difficulties of filling several technical posts, we must continue to train our own people. For the interim period, we seek technical assistance from all over the world. Most of the top posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Division have now been filled by Nigerians, who now make up 82 *per cent* of the total staff as compared to 51 *per cent* three years ago.

An hon. Member : That is enough now ! (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Communications : So, the hon. Member does not want me to finish ?

Several hon. Members : Go ahead, good Minister.

The Minister of Communications : Before I sum up, I will make a brief reference to the Meteorological Division and the *Project Syncom* about which certain things have been said. I believe that the hon. Member for Uyo South-West (*Mr Brown*) who sometime ago criticised the work of the Meteorological Division on the 1st of April, 1963 for wrong weather reporting, said that while there was a heavy rainfall in his house at Uyo, the whole of the Eastern Region was reported as having a fair weather. With due respect to the hon. Member, it is not unusual that it should be raining "cats and dogs" at Ikoyi, while Lagos mainland enjoys excellent weather. Weather reporting is based on the laws of the average and it is never meant to be a fool-proof forecast of what happens in every square mile of the earth. The Meteorological Division has become "a forgotten one", and this is due to the technical nature of its work. The work of the Division is nonetheless progressing with speed. It supplies weather reports to Regional Governments for the purpose of agricultural development, to the Nigerian Airways, and to numerous bodies throughout the world for industrial and agricultural purposes. Our Universities are seeking information from it for their own work. The Meteorological Training Centre at Oshodi will be expanded for the benefit of other West African countries. Our delegation to the Congress of the World Meteorological Organisation is now in Geneva. The Division is now headed by a Nigerian Director. (*Applause*).

In regard to *Project Syncom*, most hon. Members are already aware of the fact that I was asked by my Government to visit the United States of America personally with a team of scientists and engineers to discuss the possibility of this country's participation, the purpose of which is to investigate the feasibility of improving long distance telecommunications by means of satellites. The Federal Government took the greatest care to investigate the project and satisfy itself that this country may participate with a clear conscience, and I have little doubt that with the coming together

of the Governments of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. recently in the peaceful use of outer space, a way is laid open for this country to keep in step with the progress which may be made by the great powers in this field.

An hon. Member : Will the Minister go into space to perform his own experiment ?

The Minister of Communications : Yes. If I may sum up. With the progress made in the past and also to be made in the coming year, it is that we will have more efficient service at no extra cost, more post offices and other postal facilities, and more and better telecommunications facilities, internally and externally. We are aware of the difficulties we will face. These difficulties may be due to natural calamities human failings and finance. At present, work has been held back due to the difficulty of carrying out some part of our programme in the absence of an overall national plan.

I have no doubt at all in my mind that, with the sympathy of this House, and with the support of my officers and other friends, we will go forward from strength to strength until we obtain a system which will be regarded as one of the world's best.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I am happy to contribute to the Debate on this Head of the Estimates. In supporting the amount voted for this Ministry, I want to remind the hon. Minister of Communications about the poor condition of telecommunication services in Port Harcourt area.

During my contribution on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill I mentioned the condition of the Port Harcourt Post Office. I met the Minister personally in order to know what to do to improve the situation, especially the congestion that continues in Port Harcourt Post Office. Now that we are on his Head of the Estimates, I think the Minister will make a categorical statement on the Floor of this honourable House on when he intends to give Port Harcourt a modern Post Office. I also said in my contribution on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill that a sub-post office should be provided at mile 2 which has a very thick population. May I remind the hon. Minister of Communications that

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post offices or sub-post offices have been provided in less developed developed areas like—

An hon. Member : The Minister's constituency.

Mr Okay : I am obliged to the hon. Gentleman ; indeed the Minister's constituency.

The Minister of Communications : As a matter of fact, I have installed no post office in my constituency.

Mr Okay : Another very important point I wish to raise under this Head of the Estimates is the fact that many applicants for telephone services in Port Harcourt have not been served with telephones. We want to know what is delaying the Ministry. At the Coronation lay-out which was opened in 1955 there is no telephone service. I think we need money to run these essential services. If the Telecommunications Division of the Ministry will install telephones there the people will pay for them. I am asking the hon. Minister to do the best he can to serve the people at Coronation lay-out with telephone services.

Another very important point which had been raised and which I want to elaborate upon is that there had been demands on the Floor of this House that every Federal constituency should have a post office. In the case of Port Harcourt, I am demanding from the hon. Minister that every lay-out in Port Harcourt should have a sub-Post office.

I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : Although the Minister of Communications has just told this honourable House what he has done and what he proposes to do to improve the postal and telecommunication services in this country, I still have a few observations to make about the work of his Ministry.

I have asked many Oral Questions in this honourable House about the provision of a post office for Gindiri and also appealed to the Minister to provide a post office for Gindiri, but no action has been taken up till now. The Minister has always told me that the unit of

business transacted at this Post Office is still below the 24,000 units provided for in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

The Minister has, however, just told us that this unit of business is now going to be reduced to 18,000. I will once again appeal strongly to the Minister of Communications to let the unit of business be reduced to 15,000. The Minister of Communications should realise that about three-quarters of the Members of this House come from the rural areas and it is only by giving these people post offices or sub-post offices and other amenities provided by the Federal Government that they can feel the existence of the Federal Government. The people of the rural areas are—

The Chairman : Order, order ! So much has been said about rural areas and communications, the Minister himself has made a statement about it. I think we had better desist from that tedious line of argument.

Some hon. Members : No, no.

The Chairman : I am not saying that hon. Members should not make straight forward points in putting forward the case of their constituencies but, certainly, to start reminding us all over again about rurality, I think, is going a bit too far afield.

Mr Damla : Thank you, Mr Chairman. All I am saying is that more post offices should be provided for the rural areas and the unit of business qualifying a postal agency for conversion to a sub-post office should be reduced to 15,000 units. When the people of our constituencies ask us about the provision of post offices what are we going to tell them ? I am strongly supporting the point raised on the Floor of this honourable House that a sub-post office should be provided for every Federal constituency in this country.

I support this Head of the Estimates.

Mr D. K. Aihonsu (Egbado South) : Several hon. Members have criticised the Minister of Communications and alleged that since he assumed office he has never done anything for their constituencies. My

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own remark is quite different. I agree that he has done something but I will put it to him that he has discriminated against my constituency Egbado South. Each time I put a question to him here he will put it back to me that the amount of business transacted is not up to the capacity for granting us a post office.

I know the reason why he is doing this, it is because my people have no faith in the N.C.N.C. Hon. Members should please imagine a constituency comprising of three District Council areas and with over 250,000 people not having a single post office! Each time we approach him the answer he gives us is that they will do it next year; every year he puts the date at "next year". I remember when some Councillors came from Ado Odo District area to interview him. Immediately those people left his office, he started telling a friend who was near him then that those people came from an Action Group dominated area and as a result of that he would not grant them anything.

I would ask the Minister to copy the Prime Minister who is a God-fearing man.

In addition to this I would also appeal to him to see that telephone services are extended to the five Local Government Council Headquarters in Egbado Division—Ipokia, Aiye-toro, Ado Odo, Oke Odan and Ilaro.

Finally, I would also appeal to the Minister to pay closer attention to the telephone operators. An incident occurred about two weeks ago. I rang up the telephone exchange and asked an operator to give me a telephone number. She rang back and gave me a wrong number. I did not know at first that it was a wrong number until when I dialled the number given me and the answer came that it was a wrong number. Then I telephoned back to her and she told me that she had given me the number I asked for and that if I was not satisfied there was nothing else she could do. What I am saying is that she has not got the qualities of a telephone operator and something should be done about this type of thing.

I beg to support.

5.43 p.m.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : I will begin my contribution by saying that the Post Office Division of the Ministry of Communications needs to be overhauled. The people in the post office counters are always very rude to the public. I would like the Minister to tell them that they are there to serve the public and in serving them they should not be rude to them. This is not applicable to the staff on the post office counters only but also to the telephone operators. Sometimes it takes one about a quarter of an hour to get a reply from an operator. I think that is too bad. We need efficiency in that Division of the Ministry.

Lowland Division is second to none in size in the Plateau Province. It is surprising that up till now there is no post office there. There must be a post office in the Lowland Division. There should also be telephone facilities.

An hon. Member : How many people are there in that Division ?

Mr Lar : There are well over 400,000 people living in the Lowland Division.

May I appeal to the Minister of Communications to see that postal services including telephones are provided as a matter of urgency in the Lowland Division. Distang, Shendam, Langtang and Wase are the principal towns in the Plateau Province. We also want post offices and telephone facilities in these places.

I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : About 99.9 per cent of hon. Members who come from the rural areas are now a little bit consoled.

Mr A. O. O. Ogunsanya : On a point of information, Orlu Division is not rural.

Dr Nzeribe : We are now consoled having heard the promises made by the hon. Minister of Communications who is listening to me now as I make my comments, particularly when he said, or rather promised, that over £1 million had been budgetted for the improvement of telecommunication facilities, with emphasis on the rural areas.

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I want to remind the hon. Minister of Communications that his problem is not just the importation of expensive machines. His problem is mainly the human element in his Ministry and not on importing complicated machinery from all over the world; not on attending conferences and so on, but on the improvement of the human element in the Ministry of Communications. I am serious about this matter because, even though the Minister has promised that the public relations are going to be improved, I want to remind him that there is tremendous amount of work left for him to do particularly in regard to public relations of his Ministry.

Those boys are basically very rude, particularly in the rural areas where they feel that they are the most enlightened people among the illiterates. They are extremely sulky, stubborn, stiff-necked and arrogant. Although it is unfair to discuss the conduct of a civil servant on the Floor of this House yet many Members from Orlu Division witnessed what happened about three months ago when I was personally insulted by a counter clerk. When I protested to the Headquarters the matter was treated nonchalantly.

Incidents like this occur everywhere. I would appreciate it very highly if the Minister himself would undertake to arrange to train a corps of public relations officers who will also go round to train the lower cadre of the workers in the Ministry of Communications.

The other point I want to make is this. While the Minister has promised that a sum of over £1 million will be spent in the reconstruction of post offices and postal facilities in the rural areas, I want to emphasize that what we from the rural areas want is not buildings. Personally I am not interested in building *per se*. What we want are facilities. We do not want bogus buildings, void of efficient workers, facilities, money orders and postal orders. We do not want monuments; we want facilities because a post office is known by the quality of the staff who work in it and the facilities it provides.

There is yet another thing I want to remind the Minister of. There is no sense in spending

£5,000 of Government money in building a house in the rural areas. If the people themselves can put up a building; let them go ahead. After all, that is a test of the people's desire for a post office. The Minister should say that the first area to put up a building under Government's supervision would have the facilities. If this is not done, my fear is that political considerations will override economic considerations. Unless their willingness, expressed in terms of providing initial funds, or blocks, or land, or some of the labour is met now, political considerations may override economic and social needs, and if that is done, the areas which do not have people here in the House may lose.

I am, therefore, advising the Minister again to take into consideration the people's willingness and ability to provide part of the cost of the building; and finally, I want to say that while we from the rural areas have been promised this *bonanza* of a postal facility, we cannot keep on waiting indefinitely. Give us daily mail now

In my own constituency, for example, Awomama, Orlu West constituency, with a great number of secondary schools, hospital staff, County Council offices, and many other development projects, still we have no telephone facilities. The patience of my people is being tasked to a breaking point, and, I hope that Orlu West constituency will be placed on priority list No. 1.

Once this is done, there will be peace, there will be concord, and my people will keep on supporting the Government.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): My hon. Friend is saying that if this is done, there will be peace and concord, inferring that there will be no peace and concord if that is not done, and that is treasonable felony.

The Chairman: It may well be that the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is an expert on that subject.

Dr Nzeribe: Mr Briggs is now so expert in the field of felony and treason that he sees nothing but felony in everything.

[DR NZERIBE]

While we support the vigour and energy with which the Minister has proposed his work for the ensuing year, we will ask him to take us into confidence and hold consultations with those of us who live in the rural areas, who wear the shoes and who know where the shoes pinch. We will give every co-operation, but we hope also that he will take us into confidence.

Thank you.

Mr S. O. Fajinmi (Iwo West) : I thank the Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Head. I want to make certain observations in connection with the poor postal and telephone services in Iwo district, Oshun Division. For instance, in towns like Oluponna, Ogbagba, Kuta and Bode, if a letter is posted to you from Lagos, you may not—*(Interruption)*.

An hon. Member : To me ?

Mr Fajinmi : Yes, and in fact everybody over there.

The Chairman : Members who do not address their remarks to the Chairman may not find it easy to catch the Chairman's eyes. But I think it was only this morning that we asked an hon. Member to withdraw an unpleasant remark such as the hon. Member has just made. I hope he will be kind enough to withdraw it.

Mr Fajinmi : I withdraw it.

One may not get such a letter until about a week or more. The reason for this is that in the places mentioned, there are no post offices through which people could get their letters. They might have to travel almost nine to ten miles before they get these letters, and at times, if one wants to post a letter—*(Interruption)*. Although these places are very large towns—in population and size—there are no postal agencies in these places, no telephones, and the people have to go long distances to transact their businesses. People living in these places still have to travel all the way from Bode, for instance, which is about nine miles away,

to Iwo. This situation requires the Minister's attention, and the earlier he looks into it, the better.

I therefore appeal to the Minister to consider without delay the question of opening more postal agencies in those places.

I would also like to mention that there is a place—

Mr A. Ogunsanya : On a point of order, Sir, the hon. Member is reading and I have respect for the truth.

The Chairman : Order, order ! I think the hon. Member is merely making references to his notes. He is merely doing what others have been doing.

An hon. Member : The Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is not being kind to the hon. Gentleman.

The Chairman : Leave the Chair to judge the kindness of Members.

Mr Fajinmi : There is a great need for the extension of telephone services to Oluponna and Ile Igbo, judging from their distances from Iwo township itself, and also considering their size and population. The Minister himself will realise that the time for the expansion of telephones services to these places is overdue. Oluponna for instance is about one and a half miles to Iwo and I see no reason why the Minister should not link the telephone in Iwo together with it so that almost the ten thousand people living in these places can transact postal business.

There is no reason also why Ile Igbo should not have a telephone exchange of its own. Ile Igbo which is about the second largest town in Iwo, with a population of about fifty thousand—

The Chairman : It is now six o'clock. Sitting is suspended till nine o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9 p.m.

Mr Fajinmi : I was about to speak on Iwo Post Office before the House rose at six o'clock. At Iwo the postman delivers letters to people at about 4 p.m. and I am asking that this appalling condition should be looked into as soon as possible. I also ask the Minister of Communications to see to the general improvement of postal services in Iwo Post Office.

If the Post Office is short of adequate staff, arrangement ought to be made to employ more hands in order to enable the entire people of Iwo to enjoy efficient postal services.

There is a direct automatic telephone exchange from Iwo to Lagos, but there is none from Lagos to Iwo. Will the hon. Minister kindly help us out in this.

An hon. Member : The hon. Minister of Communications is not present yet.

Mr Fajinmi : I am aware of that and I only hope he will read it in the *Hansard*, and come to the aid of my people.

Before concluding my speech I would like the hon. Minister of Communications to establish postal agencies in Ogbagba, Osigboda and Asa in Iwo District, Oshun Division.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Haruna W. Daji (Daura West) : In supporting this Head of expenditure for the Ministry of Communications I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Government, particularly the Ministry of Communications, for the efforts being made to extend telecommunication services throughout the Federation.

During the colonial days, it was only the Federal and Regional capitals, together with some few urban cities, that were enjoying telecommunication services; but now the Federal Government has started to extend the services to almost everywhere in the rural areas.

We quite appreciate the progress so far made by the Ministry of Communications, both in the development of urban and rural areas, since we attained our independence. This is evidenced by the fact that the Government has by means of improved telecommunication

facilities, started to connect some of the administrative headquarters in the interiors. It is also gratifying to note that the Ministry is now proposing to convert some of the sub-post offices into full-standard post offices.

In this respect I should like to remind the hon. Minister about our request that Daura postal agency should be converted into a standard post office, and it is my earnest hope that this request will be placed in the priority list.

I beg to support.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : There are just two aspects to which I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Communications in supporting this Head.

The first is that, as I said during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, the Ministry of Communications seems to wash its hands clean of letters when they leave, say, the bigger post offices for the postal agencies. The difficulty is that as soon as letters reach the postal agencies they are delivered by mail runners to the people to whom these letters are addressed. These mail runners are not paid by the Ministry of Communications but by the local communities, or in some cases, by the local councils.

The payment brings a heavy burden on the local government councils, particularly those in the Western Region. I think it will be a fair deal on the part of people who write and receive letters if their letters get to their destinations in good time. If the hon. Minister will take over the payment of wages to these mail runners—

Mr P. E. Ekanem : On a point of order, I just want to bring to the notice of the House that we are dealing with Head 25—Ministry of Communications, and the hon. Minister should explain why he is late in coming.

The Chairman : He is just one minute late after all.

Mr Ayeni : As I was saying, the Minister of Communications should put these mail runners on his Ministry's pay list and pay them for delivering letters.

The other point is that I have not seen any reason why we still use the British postal orders. I thought that by now we should be able to print Nigerian postal orders. I do not know who takes the commissions for the printing of

[MR AYENI]

the postal orders we buy, but if the commissions go to Britain, I think the Minister should think of printing something so that the commissions paid will go into the revenue of this country. At the moment, we still buy British postal orders and I do not see any reason why this should continue.

Another thing is that I do not know the interpretation we always give here to the phrase "as soon as possible". Whenever any Member asks for, say, a post office to be built in his area, the reply is always that it will be provided as soon as possible. It is never soon and it is never possible. There is always a ready answer to every question about a post office, namely that it is in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

I think the Minister should give priority to those postal agencies that were promised up-grading in the 1955-62 Development Programme so as to up-grade them, particularly the postal agency in Ora, my home place. The idea is that as far back as 1954 the Government decided to take it over, but up till now the reply is always "as soon as funds are available". If the funds are not available, the Minister of Communications should have consultations with the Minister of Finance and his other Cabinet colleagues so that money can be made available for the building of post offices.

I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Odey (Ogoja East) : The Minister of Communications spoke this afternoon and he did not seem to have satisfied us very much because he said it would take another two years before some of the things in the Development Programme as far as the Ministry of Communications is concerned will take real effect. That will mean then that the preparation alone will take half the period of the Programme. Plans are just being made even about this time.

As I say this, I have in mind certain promises that were made which are almost ten years old and up till now they have not been fulfilled. There are places things were promised in the former Development Plan. According to what the Minister said in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, all divisional headquarters were supposed to be supplied with telephone facilities. There are quite a number of divisions, including Obudu my own division for example,

which is a frontier division at that, which have not yet been supplied with telephone facilities.

The Minister happened to have visited that place some few years ago and he himself renewed the promise, but till now the promise has not been fulfilled and the people are very much disappointed because this same Minister made the promise to the people himself. The people are prepared to pay for the service and they are very much disappointed that the service has not been supplied to them.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, the Minister of Defence is late and I want his salary to be reduced by £10.

The Chairman : Surely, he is a little bit earlier than he should have been.

Mr Odey : The place has many Government Departments, the Police, the Prison Department, a number of schools, big hospitals and they want to be in communication with the outside world. One can, therefore, understand their disappointment as from year to year they do not see anything being done. A telephone office was opened at Ogoja. The people thought the extension would require just a very short distance and that they would be supplied, but up till now the service has not been extended to them.

The post office at Obudu is very poorly staffed. The Postmaster there is the only qualified man. He does everything, he sells stamps, postal orders, he receives mails and so on. I think he deserves more hands to get the work there done efficiently.

I beg to support.

Mr O. J. Eminue (Eket East) : I have just a few remarks to make on this Head of Communications. Last year on the Floor of this House, many hon. Members condemned the lazy, discourteous attitude of the workers in the post offices and I think the Minister of Communications did promise that the situation would improve. Up till this time there has been no improvement in the way workers in the post offices are conducting their businesses.

I do not know how long it can take a letter to travel from Lagos here to, say, my constituency, a place not up to 600 miles. When we arrived here for the present Budget Session, I posted a letter on the 27th of March to a person in my

constituency and up to the 9th of April, that letter was not received. Worse still, a telegram takes a longer time to travel in the country than an ordinary letter. If one wants one's telegram to reach a place one sent it to, then it means one has to make it a priority telegram, that is, one has to pay double.

If one goes to most of our post offices, one finds that the clerks in the counter are engaged in conversation, in filling football coupons, or reading newspapers during the official time they should be doing their work. I think the Minister of Communications should give a guarantee to this House that some of these things will be remedied in the post offices.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to this important point. In most of our schools and colleges, some of those primary lessons to be conducted in Geography are on weather observation, the taking of weather records, measuring the temperature, measuring the rain falls. Many a time headmasters of schools go to purchase implements like the rain gauge, the barometer and the thermometer from shops and many a time they are referred to the Meteorological Department in Lagos. On many occasions when they apply to the Meteorological Department, they are told that preference is given to such and such a place and that they are keeping the weather records for the whole area. I think this has a great deal of bearing on the schools.

The schools are quite prepared to buy these apparatuses for the purpose of giving lessons on weather observation. I feel that the Minister of Communications should ensure that these apparatuses are stored by the Meteorological Department to be sold out to schools without difficulty, or given out to them freely.

I think I have to congratulate the Minister of Communications for nationalising what was formerly the Cable and Wireless and now becomes the Nigerian Internal Telecommunication Services. I think this is the only avenue through which news is sent out from the country to the outside world and I believe the Ministry of Communications will see that there is all amount of security in this department.

I appeal to the Minister of Communications that the two postal agencies in my constituency, that is, the Eyubia postal agency and the Okobo

postal agency should be included in his development programme to be transformed into sub-post offices and that the main post office at Oron should be supplied with automatic telephone exchange.

I beg to support.

M. Garba, Turakin Paiko (Minna South) : I rise to support the Estimates under this particular Head. I quite appreciate the work done in this Ministry and I would like to say that quite a lot has been achieved under this particular Head. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Communications and to bring to his knowledge that during the opening ceremony of the automatic telephone exchange in Kano, no hon. Member from the Federal House was invited and in fact I quite remember that only one Member was invited but I do not know on what ground. As a result, so many people complained but it was difficult to answer questions put to me. Only Alhaji Aminu Kano was invited and I shall be grateful if the Minister of Communications would make a categorical statement in this respect.

Another point is that all the rural areas in the Kano Province experience great difficulty in posting letters. So, if sub-post offices could be established in some of the remote areas we shall appreciate it. I would also like to appeal to the Minister to open up post offices in Hadejia, Kazarue, Gumel and some other places adjacent to these places already mentioned; places like Goram in Kano Province and Birnin Kebbi.

Sometime ago I brought it to the notice of the Minister of Communications that a lot would be achieved if post offices were opened in these places but it all ended in vain. I shall be grateful if the Minister will look into this and give very careful consideration to this matter.

I beg to support.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, section 28 (3) of the Standing Order 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.

A Minister is reading a book which is very much unconnected with the subject of the debate. He should be asked to quote the title of the book.

The Chairman : I have seen him reading a book but I do not know whether it is connected with this debate or not. Probably I will examine it. It is probably far away from the estimates. Will the Minister please put it away.

M. Muhammed Ningi (Bauchi North West) : In supporting this Head I should like to mention one or two points. This Ministry is really doing well, but I feel that more efforts should be put into their work to meet the requirements of the public. The reason why I say this is because it is very difficult for people to telephone either from Lagos to Kano or Kaduna or Sokoto because there is no direct line at all.

Secondly, postal agencies are required in the rural areas. There is always delay in the distribution of letters to those who are living in the remotest areas. I therefore appeal to the Minister to do all that he can to supply telecommunications or direct lines throughout the Federation. More postal agencies are required in the rural areas because people experience difficulties in getting letters posted to them. These people sometimes think the staff are not active. But that is not so. The reason is because many people live far away from post offices and postal agencies. Some live fifty or seventy miles away from post offices. So, I appeal to the Minister to take active steps.

I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) : I simply want to draw the attention of hon. Members to one or two points. I notice that when the Minister was making his speech he said that it is necessary that all postal facilities should be able to pay their way. I think this is not correct; because in many countries postal facilities are not supposed to pay their way and I do not see any reason why Nigeria should be different. Even in the case of post offices, when people think of post offices in the rural areas people say that only the rural areas which are able to pay enough money to get post offices should be given post offices. It means that there will be no post offices in these rural areas at all. In Nigeria, there are many places too small to put up post offices and the Minister has up to this time refused to recognise such places.

One other point the Minister made was his intention to reduce the number of units from 24,000 to 18,000 units. I think this reduction is still not enough. He should reduce the units to 15,000. Referring to Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, I think that the idea of not providing a place with a postal agency which is about three or four miles from another postal agency is not fair. There are many villages, for example, in the Eastern Region which are about two or three miles apart and these places have a population of about ten thousand. By this standard set in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, it means that a place which has a population of about ten thousand and which is four miles from the other town of about ten thousand people will not have a postal agency. I think this is very unfair. The guiding principle should be how many people are going to be served by this facility that is provided rather than stating so categorically or making the whole thing dependent upon distances. I think that is very wrong. I also feel that the 40,000 unit target for sub-post offices to be converted to post offices is too much. In my opinion that should be reduced to about 30,000 units.

An hon. Member : 25,000 units.

Mr Mordi : If 25,000 units target is too small 30,000 units target would be a good average. There is one point I want the Minister to understand. The units of a sub-post office will not increase until that sub-post office is given a post office status. A postal agency is not supposed to transact money order and savings bank business. These are some of the things that increase the number of units of business. In effect, it will take as long as 15 years to be able to reach 24,000 units. But we all want development in our different constituencies.

I would like to say a word about the siting of amenities. It is my own view that even these conditions which are laid down are not essentially observed by those who happen to be at the head of this Ministry. I do not mean to be naughty but I cannot imagine how a place like Akure is far more important than Benin and so should have something like an automatic telephone exchange. If I may go a little further I want to know how places like Igbotako, or Okitipupa, are more qualified for automatic telephone exchanges. Well, I

do not mean to pull anybody's leg. The present Minister may be following in the footsteps of those who held that portfolio before him but what I am trying to say is that when amenities are to be sited, and we have conditions determining this siting, it is necessary that these conditions are fulfilled.

I want to say also that on this question of siting there is too much consideration for towns already oversupplied with amenities. In Lagos here if one walks along any of the streets one will find that almost every other house has a postal agency. In one street one can find about 50 postal agencies. In fact, if one starts from the beginning of Apapa Road at Oyingbo to the end at the round-about one will get over 50 postal agencies. This means that areas with many post offices are still supplied with very many postal agencies, and yet there are thousands of towns and villages still clamouring for postal agencies.

On this question of the Ministry of Communications I would like to say a few words about the inefficiency in the discharge of their duties. It is still true that in many places in this country if telegrams are dispatched they never reach their destination in good time. If a man wants to inform his friend that he is coming to Lagos in two days' time, it always happens in this country that the man arrives in Lagos before the telegram. In most cases the telegram finally arrives in Lagos 22 days after dispatch. I regard that as gross inefficiency.

I also should like to say that members of the public suffer in the hands of some of the counter clerks. This requires the Minister's consideration. An hon. Member has suggested that a sort of supervisory corps should be trained to go out and train the officials of the Ministry who work in the provinces. I think that is a very good idea indeed.

I would also like to say something about the Savings Bank. We have been clamouring in this Parliament about Government's savings campaign. Most of the postal agencies are good enough. When a postal agency is able to transact up to 15,000 units of business it should be allowed to provide Savings Bank facility so that those in the rural areas who have no opportunity of making use of commercial banks may take advantage of this.

Finally, I think that more money can be saved by the Ministry when it awards contracts for post office buildings. There are many buildings which are supposed to have been put up at £10,000 when, in fact, they should have been built for something less. The Minister's vigilance is required in such matters so that little money saved in that direction may be used in establishing many more postal agencies and post offices.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Mr Chairman, Sir—

Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East): on a point of order, I want to protest that the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has spoken once.

The Chairman: He has not spoken on this Head. After all a Member can speak on anything.

Mr Ekanem: I rise—

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed (Kubau Soba): I should be the first person to make an Amendment on that Head, but I was not called. I rose many times yet I was not called to speak.

Mr T. O. Oloyede (Ife-Ila): On a point of order, I wish to invite the attention of the House to Order 26 (9) which reads as follows:

"A Member desiring to speak shall rise in his place and if called upon shall address his observations to Mr Speaker or the Chairman."

The Chairman: The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) may continue to speak.

Mr Ekanem: I thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for helping me to get out of the hands of those who did not want me to speak.

There are a few points I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Communications. I also want to seize this opportunity to thank the Minister for what he has been able to do so far, but we feel that there is still room for improvement.

I now want to deal with two sections of the Ministry of Communications. The first is the Telegraph section and the second is the engineering section. I know that the Minister is not the cause of the delays in the despatch of telegrams and I also know that he is not the cause of delays to our letters. I think he has

[MR EKANEM]
 inherited this situation from his predecessors, and what I would advise him to do is to try as far as possible, to use his Government's language, "to improve all the existing machines". Whatever amount of money voted for him should be used to replace these old machines which were bought from scrap dumped somewhere in America or England.

It is true that if there is any section of the Posts and Telegraphs which will not satisfy the public for some years to come, it is the telephone section. If there is any section with civil servants who are rude to the extreme, it is the telephone section. I have no apology to offer for this, and if I had had a stronger word than the word 'rudeness' I would have used it. We shall therefore be very grateful to the Minister if he can find a way to eliminate the rudeness of the members of this section of the Ministry. Most of the operators need training and I think any complaint coming from the members of the public to the Post Master of any Post Office about the rudeness of these operators should be viewed with all seriousness. After all those of us who have installed telephones in our houses have not installed them so that they could be used as a medium to insult us, and I am sure that the Minister will be insulted one day by his rude operators.

Next I want to deal with the wireless section. I associate myself entirely with my hon. Friend Mr Ememe, in thanking the Minister and the Government. Anything that will make for the security of this country must be encouraged and everything that needs to be kept secret by the Cabinet should be treated with all the secrecy it deserves. I therefore want to warn that we do not want any expatriate in that section even if he is the cleverest man in the world. If we have not got a Nigerian who is not so trained as to man this section, I would appeal to the Minister to kindly amend this Head so that he can ask for more money in order that a Nigerian may be trained to man the section. I assure the Minister that if he brings an Amendment on the Head we shall support it. All we do not want is an expatriate to man that section.

An hon. Member : What of a man from Ghana ?

Mr Ekanem : When I say an expatriate I mean a non-Nigerian. A man is an expatriate here if he is not a Nigerian. I do not mean

Europeans alone, I mean also Africans who are not Nigerians. After all, we must keep the secret of our own country.

I am only too happy that somebody has been appointed Chairman of the Nigerian External Telecommunications and this Nigerian is a man I know very well. He is a man of integrity and I respect his business tactics, but I must warn again that any time we find that there is a European or an African who is not a Nigerian manning that section, or holding any of the key posts, we shall call upon the Minister on that day to resign as a Minister.

I do not want to dwell on the points which have been dwelt upon by my Colleagues, but I want to call the attention of the Minister to one thing. It is not possible in this Session of the Parliament to further reduce the units which will convert a postal agency into a post office, but I think he should give this very serious consideration. The number of units needed for a postal agency to be converted into a post Office was formerly 24,000, and in one of his speeches to this House the Minister stated that he has reduced the number to 18,000. We are very grateful to the Minister for that, but that is not enough. We want the Minister to reduce these units to the barest minimum so that every nook and corner of this country will have postal facilities.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr T. O. Oloyede (Ife-Ila) : I have a few remarks to make in supporting this Head. The point I want to speak upon is the relationship between the public and the counter clerks. Much has been said about this and the only point I want to make is that the counter clerks are not always provided with enough coins with which to transact business. Members of the public are finding difficulty in posting their letters due to lack of coins. When members of the public go to the post office to post their letters, if they have no coins and they present say a pound note to the counter clerk, they are always told that there are no coins and as a result the people find other means of sending out their letters. I feel that the counter clerks should be provided with enough coins.

The other point is that we have been told that training schools have been established in this Ministry to train the counter clerks in public relations. I would like to point out

that if it is true that there is such a training school for these counter clerks, and if there have been counter clerks trained in the school, they have not been putting what they learned in that school into practice. The counter clerks are very discourteous to the members of the public and I would like the Minister to put a stop to this.

I would also like to say that there are not enough post Offices in Ife Division. Ife Division is a very important Division in the Western Region and it is surprising to see that there is only one post office there.

Now we have postal agencies in Ipetumodu, Illa, Eguagan and different villages in Ife Division. So I am suggesting seriously that now that the Minister has thought it fit to reduce the number of units to 18,000 he will consider it fit to provide these places with sub-post offices. In Ife villages we have one postal agency serving about 50,000 people. I am therefore appealing to the Minister in charge to see that post offices are established in Ife Division.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): On a point of information, I have seen about five post offices at Ife. Now the hon. Member is trying to monopolise the whole thing by asking for more.

Mr Oloyede: We have an automatic exchange at Ife but may I respectfully invite the Minister's attention to the fact that there is still one trunk line from Ife to Oshogbo. The volume of business to Oshogbo from Ife is so heavy and I am appealing, therefore, to the Minister to see that more trunk lines are provided from Ife to Oshogbo and elsewhere in order to facilitate easy trunk calls to other places outside Ife.

With these few remarks I support.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central): I just want to make one remark and that is that with these expansions of telecommunications there is still need for this Ministry to provide direct trunk lines between one Regional Headquarters and another. If I may be allowed to give an instance, we still need more direct lines from Lagos to the North as well as from Lagos to Enugu and if possible to Ibadan. The number of business in this country warrants more direct trunk lines to contact Regional Headquarters, at least, with Lagos.

May I also say that in the whole of the expansion of these telecommunications facilities, I am afraid that Sokoto Province is entirely neglected. Nothing new whatsoever has been mentioned in the programme and I have carefully read the speech made by the Minister and I also carefully watched the programme in the Ministry of Communications. There is practically nothing new for Sokoto Province.

If I may be allowed to give another instance, we need a trunk line between Sokoto and Kaduna. At the moment we cannot have a trunk call from Sokoto to Kaduna, we have to go through Zaria and this is very shameful. We have plenty of business between the two places and I appeal to the Minister to see that at least a trunk line is connected between Sokoto and Kaduna.

If we want to contact Lagos for instance, we sometimes have to go to Kano and this is very curious. I appeal to the Minister to see that in this age of very high frequency which the Minister is mentioning all the time, we should, at least, have a trunk line between Sokoto and Kaduna.

May I also say that at other times on the Floor of this House we speak about telephone operators. I should like to mention, and it is more than an allegation, on one occasion I got an operator in Bernin Kebbi who was very rude in that he would not give me the number I wanted unless I told him what I was going to say to the person, and the person with whom I wanted to speak is a Member of this Parliament. I appeal to the Minister that he must warn the operators that they should be courteous as much as possible. I do not think commercialisation of this service will pay if these operators behave in the way they do at present.

I should like to say that it is very difficult to get the South from the North. We should have equal treatment. If you want to get Lagos from Kano it is very difficult but when you are here in Lagos it is easy, in two minutes you can get Kaduna or Bauchi or anywhere, but when you are in Maiduguri or in Sokoto or in Zaria, it takes time. So the operators must be warned that they are serving the country as a whole and they must give equal treatment to everybody.

I beg to support.

The Chairman: The Minister of Communications.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

The Chairman : Order. I think the Chair did appeal to Members to restrain their enthusiasm this morning. The day is coming to a close as far as the sitting of the House is concerned and we have got to pass to another important Ministry.

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile) : I think that I should start by speaking about, again, this very much belaboured demand of Members which is very understandable. It relates to the extension of postal services to the rural areas.

I have assured Members (including myself) that before the next General Election, we will give them cause to leave this House and face their constituents with confidence in the sense that we are considering now abolishing the distance condition attached to the creation of postal agencies. In other words, that we are studying ways and means whereby we should be able to say that whoever wants to open a postal agency, no matter what the distance, can do so. That is one.

Secondly, I have announced that we are reducing already the number of units for conversion of postal agencies to sub-post offices. The purpose of this is again to make available much more easily to our people the full services of the post office. I expect that as a result of it, between one hundred and one hundred and fifty new sub-post offices will be created in the next year. I believe that in addition to the post offices which will be built, it means that every Member will have, at least in his constituency, as many new postal facilities as are required. But I do want Members to know this one thing that in respect of actual building of departmental post offices and indeed of telephone exchanges, that the responsibility is shared between my Ministry and the Ministry of Works. The Ministry of Works are responsible for putting up buildings and we are responsible for equipping the buildings. To that extent, the rate at which we will produce full-fledged new departmental post offices and telephone exchanges will also depend on the rate at which the Ministry of Works will be able to produce for us the buildings which we also require.

I have had this suggested that we are not moving fast enough. Believe me, this is our

own feeling. We feel that we ought to move faster. But this country is spending in the next six years some thirty million pounds on telecommunication and postal services. The Government very rightly insists that there must be a complete national plan upon which we should work. Until this national plan is produced by experts, it will not be possible for us to start on the massive development which will come ahead. I also know that as a matter of fact, the post offices and the telephone exchanges which have been opened over the last two years were planned as far back as 1955. It is a matter of fact that nowhere in the world can one produce a new telephone exchange under two to three years. The important thing is that the programme appears and that work is begun. I want to assure hon. Members that there is enormous concern on the part, not only of the Government and myself, but indeed of our staff that we should move very fast because the entire economy depends to a very large extent on the rate at which we can spread communications in our country. I do want to say that this undertaking is not mine alone, it is also the undertaking by the Federal Government in its entirety.

It has been suggested here that we are still using British Postal Orders. This, of course, is true. But I want to let hon. Members know that two years ago, I began enquiries into this matter because I found that seventy-five *per cent* of the commission which amounts to three-quarter of a million pounds a year which we receive on Postal Orders, is paid to the British Post Office. Accordingly, we started our own arrangements and we have now got ready for printing Nigerian Postal Orders. (*Hear, hear*). Apart from this, we will also, before long, commence the designs. I think it is correct that I should claim that already this country has been commended for producing some of the finest stamps in the world since independence. We intend to continue in this way and to use as much of local talents in this country as possible.

I now come to talk about the External Communications. On the question of the External Communications Department, I am sure that Parliament does not know that when we took over last year, there was standing a licence for 18 years after independence which

we abolished in order to take over the External Communications. (*Hear, hear*). It is also true that there was not a single Nigerian in any position of responsibility in the Cable and Wireless. To-day, we not only have a Nigerian as Chairman of the Board as well as Nigerian Directors, but we also have a Deputy General Manager who I expect, towards the end of this year, to take over complete control of our external communications. (*Hear, hear*). Apart from this, the External Communications Department has been paying something like an average of £60,000 *per annum* to its European expatriates. In order to end this, we have, by negotiations with several Western European countries, obtained facilities for free training of as many of our young men as have the qualifications to take over from these expatriates.

I come now to the question of telephone operators and members on the counters. I think that I referred to this very much in the afternoon here to-day, and I did say that we ourselves were extremely unhappy at the manner in which some of our staff reacted to the public. I have suffered at the hands of my own staff myself and I think that what I said earlier this evening is true. One reason why so much attention is being paid to us is the fact that we are more in touch with the public than any other person. But believe me, there is rudeness among workers in various walks of life in our society. We all have a responsibility to see to it that even if people are our relations and friends, when as public servants they fail to treat, particularly in a department like our own, the public as patients and clients, then we should put our foot down and apply the stick. I would refer to the fact that one of our handicaps is the fact that Public Service is protected by the Public Service Commission which is a clearly different body from the Government as such. I would repeat again that when we become a commercial undertaking, we intend not only to tighten up discipline, but also to provide incentive for the best-behaved and the most energetic of our workers.

I want also to appeal to Members and indeed to the public to treat our workers as well with a certain amount of feeling because, as I said earlier, courtesy begets courtesy. I have been present where my own men had been unfairly treated, but this is not to say that we are in any

case going to condone discourtesy, lack of patience and politeness. I think that there is a great amount of consciousness on the part of all of us in the Government that the facilities for communication should be spread as widely as possible. I would like to assure this House that I am anxious to be able at the end of this period to claim and to show concrete proof to hon. Members that we have taken steps in every sector of our activities. To this extent, I think that the only thing left for me is to ask hon. Members to exercise patience with us and to give us, as they have always done, the same amount of advice and interest as they have shown in our work.

I like to thank this Honourable House.

£6,313,040 for Head 25—Ministry of Communications—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 26.—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Question proposed, that £179,600 for Head 26—Ministry of Defence—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): I will not belabour myself in this direction. Yesterday my Motion on this special item was rejected, but I am happy that through the Ministers' speech, I have got what I wanted. Through his explanation, he said that £7,000 was set aside for—

Minister of State (Hon. Mbazulike Amechi): On a point of order, we are not dealing with the post office, but rather we are now dealing with the Ministry of Defence.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh: On Defence, I have to congratulate the Minister of Defence on having been able to do a large amount of business by recruiting more soldiers. I would urge the Minister to see to it that soldiers are recruited from all parts of the Federation and also to station them in other places in this Federation than only in the North. A batch of them can be in the Mid-West, in the East and in the West.

I also urge the Minister to be very alert in his duties. He should also be very careful in giving rapid promotions to those academicians who are just coming in. Although we come here and criticise the colonial government, I feel that they are more mature than ourselves. They are not like some of us Nigerians who, I

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may say, are dishonest. We must try to learn from what is happening in other places. We should train the soldiers, but we should not train them to shoot us. I have never been a soldier; I have never been in the army.

I beg to support.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for allowing me to contribute to this Head. I humbly make a strong appeal to the Minister of Defence. In making this appeal, I want him to know that presently, we have to defend ourselves from the ravages of poverty and protect our lives. It is not very probable now that we are going to fight any war in the near future, but I think that the present war facing us is unemployment.

I remember two months ago, I was embarrassed with a question as to how employment is being rationed in this country. I made a statement which was challenged. Since then, I have made a research into that question. I have found out that boys from the South are employed into the army with not only standard six pass certificate but perhaps with class two, whereas those from the North are employed when they are a little bit literate—call that standard four or five. I wanted to know the reason, and the reason was given to me that boys from the North, when they enter the army, are always honest—what I mean by that is that they keep steady to learn the job and make the army their career—whereas boys from the South, once they enter the army, and since there is a privilege to study in the army, they go on studying and later take a higher examination, and when they pass they run out.—(Interruptions).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr D. C. Ugwu): Point of order.

Several hon. Members: Point of order.

The Chairman: Order, Order! I think it is not necessary to yield before a point of order is made.

Mr D. C. Ugwu: On a point of order, I am saying that this is a most apologetic way of withdrawing a statement.

The Chairman: I think that might well be either a point of reminder or a point of information, but certainly not a point of order.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): I think it is proper for a layman to be in order. As I said, I am making a very strong appeal and I would like the House to give me audience. I accept this to be a very good reason. If it is a reason for which a—

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): On a point of order. Order 36 (2): "*Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall order Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately...*"

The attitude of the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) was too bad when he deliberately refused to withdraw.

The Chairman: Order! I think the Chair notes the vigilance of the hon. Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*), but I think he has read it a bit short.

Chief Abii: I said that if the boys from the North make the Army a career and the boys from the South just go in, study and do not make it a career, that is not good. But that is not enough reason to demand from the Southerners a very high standard of education before they are recruited into the army. I humbly appeal to the Minister of Defence to know that to-day we have very great unemployment. Boys who come out from school want to do some job. If the Minister will be good enough to require the same standard of education for boys from the North and from the South and to recruit them into the army, let them sign a bond to make it a career. It will help us in the South because, if we allow that boys in standards 4 and 5 only come from the North and the Southerners just go there, study and run away, it means that in future we will get very few Southerners in that department. Secondly, when they come out they have no employment. Standard Six boys are roaming about at home doing nothing. I humbly ask the Minister of Defence, looking at him and knowing him as I do, to recruit boys from the South and from the North and make the service in the army national.

Another reason which I want to speak on—

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of order, I should like to know from my hon. Friend, Chief Abii, what is a Southerner born in the North called? Is he called a

Southerner or a Northerner or a Nigerian? He must be very careful about what he is talking.

Chief Abii : I am talking of anybody from the South, whether he is born in the North, I do not care. I want anybody from the North or from the South to get into the army with the same standard of education. Both are Nigerians. Let them go into the army with the same standard of education.

I would like the Minister of Defence to start now to think of national service in this country. I am saying it because it appears that industrialisation in this country will not help us very quickly in shoving out unemployment. The Minister should make it possible for boys after passing their, let us say, secondary school examination, to enter into the service and do about two years studying in the army, after which, they can go out from there to the different departments where they work. It will give us a little bit of relief. I strongly recommend an examination of the possibility of starting national service as early as possible.

As I said, I am making an appeal and I expect that the Minister of Defence will carry it out, as God has given him the power, to reduce immediately the standard of education required for all Nigerians to enter into that army and at the same time declare sometime in the future a possibility of starting a national service in this country.

I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai) : In contributing to the debate on this Head, I have a few remarks to make. It is really amusing to see the way that the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) has made his own points. I sympathise with his position. The point is not that Southerners run away from the army. It is the policy there that when people are being recruited into the army, apart from the fact that it is based on a 50 : 50 share—50 for the South and 50 for the North—there is discrimination again on the standard required. Those from the South are required to attain a high standard of education, and those from the North, whether they are highly educated or not, are just taken like that. This is most unfair. This method of recruitment should be looked into. I want to emphasize that the reason for this 50 : 50 basis and for the higher standard

required for those from the South is not because they run away from the army : it is because the policy for the recruitment of people into the army is wrong and we appeal to the Minister for a change of heart as far as this is concerned.

There is one other point I would like to make. When one looks around, one will discover that the ground for the training of these boys is only in the North. We want training grounds to be established everywhere in the country. We want people to be trained in the West, in the East as well as in the North. Why is it that the Northern Region is the only training ground for people in the army ?

An hon. Member : On a point of order, the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Mr Obi : It is unfortunate that the raiser of the point of order merely wants to discredit my speech.

The Chairman : It is not for you to make a ruling on a point of order.

Mr Obi : The point I have made and which I still want to emphasize is that this question of discrimination should not be allowed to continue in recruitment into the army, allowing 50 per cent to people from the North and 50 per cent to those from the South.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : For some days now, there seems to be a chorus of one type of song going on in this House—everybody talking about unity. I do not know where this appeal is being directed to, but if it is being directed to its proper quarters, I would like people to refrain from attacking others with the hope of gaining the unity that is being talked of so much on the Floor of this House. My hon. Friend and others talked about discrimination in the police, in the recruitment of soldiers, and so on and so forth, but they are not able to substantiate it by any fact at all. I think my hon. Colleague and Friend, the Minister of Defence, was right when he warned here that one can play with anything on the Floor of this House or on the pages of the newspapers, but the question of the security of this country is such a thing that we cannot play with it. If someone thinks that he wants to plant some satellites in the Army of this country or in

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the Police or in the Navy with a view to subverting the Government, then discrimination will be practised in the Army.

It is obvious that you cannot take all sorts of people who pretend to look like good soldiers and tomorrow stage a *coup d'etat* and overthrow the Government. Is that what we want in this country? No, certainly not. So it is wrong for the hon. Gentleman to come to this House to talk things like that when we all know that he belongs to a political party that subverts the Government.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai): On a point of order, I seriously object to the reference made by the Minister of Finance because after all my speech was not far from the point.

The Chairman: It is certainly contrary to the Standing Order to impute improper motives. But I take it that the Minister of Finance is making a general remark not directly personally to you.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Another point of order, is that we shall not get anywhere so long as these Action Groupers continue to raise irrelevant points of order.

The Chairman: I think it is the duty of the Chair to protect the interest of individual Members. General remarks can be made without calculated detriment to any individual.

The Minister of Finance: All I am trying to say is that no one can properly criticise the policy of recruitment into the Army or into the other security services of this country unless he has got an ulterior motive of trying to bring subversive activities against the Government. As far as I am concerned even as a Minister of Finance I do not want to know what sort of persons are being recruited into the Army. As long as I know that there is an Army that can defend this country, I am satisfied, I do not care what sort of persons are being recruited or what part of the country they come from. Every Nigerian is a Nigerian. It is wrong for the hon. Member to come to this House as a Member to dictate to the Government what type of people the Government should recruit into the Army. But it is true that the Army should represent the whole of Nigeria, and that is all.

Another thing I would like to say is that no better selection could have been made in this House as the Minister of Defence. The Minister of Defence is known for his broad-mindedness, and we all know that he is one of those who champion any cause no matter how difficult it may be. He does not even care to speak the truth to anybody. He is fearless. He is not a man with a narrow mind. It cannot be said that he wants to recruit all soldiers from Yola alone or Sapele for that matter because he is my friend. But all that is required is that we should have implicit confidence in him. And I am sure all Members of this House have confidence in him.

I feel we should not try to over-stress this question of our security in this country. It is a very delicate issue, and I appeal to the House that if hon. Members have one or two cases they can go and see the Minister concerned.

£179,600 for Head 26—Ministry of Defence—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 27.—ROYAL NIGERIAN ARMY

Question proposed, That £4,365,530 for Head 27—Royal Nigerian Army—stand part of the Schedule.

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): I have only a few words to say about recruitment into the Army. I cannot understand why people should discriminate in recruitment into the Army. There should be no question of people being recruited from one particular Region at the expense of the other Regions so long as we talk of one Nigeria. As long as we talk of one Nigeria, it does not matter what type of people of Nigerian nationality are recruited into the Army so long as they can defend the country. It does not matter to this country and to this Government if all the personnel of the Army of this country come from one Region so long as they can defend the whole of the Federation and not the particular Region from which they come.

During the colonial days we had in this country only one system of recruitment. But now we are independent some Members of this House are trying to bring confusion by trying to place recruitment of soldiers on Regional basis. We are the representatives of the whole of the Federation of Nigeria, not the

representatives of one particular portion of the country. So when we talk let us talk for the whole nation.

I must mention the point that during the Second World War, 1939-45 most of the soldiers in the Army came from Northern Nigeria. I am an ex-soldier myself. During the war most of the soldiers who went to Burma and India came from the North. You could hardly meet a soldier from the South during the time of war. Dr Kalu Ezera can bear me out.

Finally, I am appealing to the Minister of Defence and the Federal Government to see that we start manufacturing our own weapons locally. Unless we can do so we cannot boast of being able to stand on our feet to defend our country in case of war. We should not depend on weapons imported into this country.

The conditions of service in the Army should be improved. Attention should be given to the housing problems of soldiers.

M. S. D. Lar (Lowland East) : On a point of order—

M. Yerima Balla : Mr Chairman, I am not yielding.

The Chairman : Quite frankly, I think the persistent resistance of hon. Members to points of order is becoming alarming. I do hope that hon. Members will react much more favourably.

M. S. D. Lar : I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

The Chairman : Order. We have got some ex-servicemen in this House and I think we might as well hear what they have to say on this Head.

M. Yerima Balla : As I was saying, the housing condition of soldiers should be improved. Adequate educational and medical facilities should be provided for the children of soldiers.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : It is with great pleasure that I rise to say a few words about this Head of Estimates. I want to bring to the notice of the Minister of Defence one particular point. I want him to think very

seriously about the possibility of publishing a booklet like the one I am now holding, so that our children may be able to learn more about the Army whilst at school.

An hon. Member : What is the book the hon. Member is holding ?

Mr Afanideh : It is about the Nigeria Police Force, and I am requesting the Minister to publish something like this about life in the Army so that our children could develop more interest in the Army.

It is very easy for hon. Members to come here and talk about the Army. Most of them, I am sure, have never been to the Army and do not know the ordeal that recruits have to go through before they can become good soldiers.

An hon. Member : But you have never been to the Army and cannot claim to know what is obtaining there.

Mr Afanideh : I know what is happening. During the last war, you were in school.

The Chairman : Order. As has been said here several times, our *Hansard* is read all over the world, and our Standing Orders are in hands other than ours. Standing Order 26 (6) says that statements should be directed to the Chair, and when hon. Members use expression like "you have never been to the Army" or "you were in school when he was in the Army" it could be understood outside to mean that the Chair was either part of the Army or part of the school.

Mr Afanideh : I am sorry, Mr Chairman, I think it is proper that when a Member stands up to speak, other hon. Members should try to listen.

The Chairman : Order. It is improper to issue directives to the Chair. The hon. Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*) should speak in accordance with the rules of the Standing Orders.

Several hon. Members : Aye, aye.

The Chairman : I implore hon. Members to accommodate the hon. Member.

Mr Afanideh : I would like to see that the conditions of service of the soldiers are improved because if a soldier is very comfortable he will be very active in his job and will be able to discharge his duties more effectively.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) : I have just one point to make on this Head. I understand that the plan of our military base at Kaduna is to be designed by an American firm. It does seem to me that, if this is true, the security of this country is not very safe. It is absolutely unreasonable that people from America or Britain or any foreign country for that matter should design our Army base. From the security point of view, such a step is unwise. It is not always that we shall be friendly with these foreign countries. A time may come when we may have to disagree and when we do disagree and become unfriendly, definitely, our security will be in jeopardy.

I feel that in a matter like this Nigerian architects or designers should be made to do the work. After all, there are very many Nigerian architects in Nigeria who are very good and I am quite sure that, if given the job, they would do better than the foreigners.

I am asking the Minister of Defence to think very seriously about this because, as I have said, it is very unreasonable and unsafe to allow such an important project affecting the security of our nation, to be designed by foreigners.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu North) : I want to talk on Head 27, Sub-head 33—Crown Agents' Commission. It is clear from the Estimates that about £25,000 is being spent in London to pay Crown Agents' Commission for purchases of equipments, uniforms, and emoluments to personnel. I think it is time the Government of the Federation placed its orders through the Nigerian High Commissioner in London. The Nigerian High Commissioner in London should take over this duty and be responsible for the purchase of army uniforms, equipments and the treatment of personnel who are attending military courses overseas.

I am of the opinion that some countries like Ghana have their own representatives in the United Kingdom who carry out this type of work for them. We should follow suit.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : I am most grateful to my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, for coming to my aid so early in this debate. In fact, he has covered most of the points, and all I would like to do now is to correct one impression. There is too much talk about the South

and the North as evidenced by the speech of the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Mr Abii*). In fact, there is nothing like that in the Armed Forces. The quota system has been based regionally, that is, 50 per cent for the North and 25 per cent each for the East and West.

I have explained to hon. Members why we decided on this regional quota and this will continue until such a time when we shall introduce National Service. Chief Abii asked me to introduce it early. I am ready to do so and he will be the first man to be recruited into the National Service. I will even make him the Chairman of the National Service.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : I am too old for National Service.

The Minister of Defence : Again, I think hon. Members are being misled by the people who come for recruitment; the people who appear before the selection Board. For instance, if we advertise for 30 vacancies for the North 300 applicants may come forward; if we advertise for 15 for the West we may have 200 applicants, and same for the East. Definitely some of them will not be selected. They have to go back. Quite often they go to hon. Members and tell them all sorts of lies. It is nothing but lies that they tell them.

Another thing I would like to tell the House is this. It is wrong to think that once a person applies to join the Army he will be employed. The Military Forces are for the people who are prepared to sacrifice their lives so that others may live. Therefore, I would like hon. Members to refrain from regarding the Army, Navy and the Air Force as a place where people will go and get employment easily. Anybody who is employed in the Military Forces is told straightaway that his duty is to protect the borders of this country. In the event of war, they are the people who will die so that others will live.

Hon. Members spoke so much about unity. I think that this quota system is the only thing that can be adopted to maintain the unity of this country. If we deviate from this policy the unity of Nigeria will break into pieces. If the people of one Region are taken and the people of the other Regions are left out I can assure hon. Members that the unity of this country will flop. In the past the South, that is the East and the West, have been monopolising the civil service of the Federation. Now that

one or two Northerners have come in people have started to murmur that the civil service is now for the Northerners. Was it thought that the Northerners will continue sleeping while the other Regions marched on? All of us in this House come from different places.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : On a point of order, the hon. Minister should address the Chair.

The Chairman : Order. I think hon. Members should have more control of their enthusiasm. The Chair has not complained that it is not being addressed.

The Minister of Defence : Nigeria is a vast country which is full of different tribes, different languages, customs, religions and so on. Everybody has to work hard towards the unity of this country. The unity of Nigeria is not a small thing. Our country is a big one and if we all can be united then there will be no reason why we cannot lead Africa. But it is something everybody must work towards. If any hon. Member speaks in this House he should be sure that he is addressing intelligent people; people who can read between the lines and can understand what is at the back of any speaker's mind. In the North they can interpret what is being said and give it a different meaning. It is not a question of just making a statement. For example if Dr Mbadiwe makes a statement Members will understand; they can analyse it and get the point at the back of the mind of the person making the speech.

What is at the back of the mind of the person making this speech on discrimination is disunity and not unity. We all remember that when the Governor-General was installed he said there is work for everybody in this country. If we exercise some patience everybody will get something to do in this country. Nobody will stop anybody from getting work in this country. But if we start shouting discrimination because we now see people from the North whom we have not been seeing before in the service, will we be working for unity?

Some hon. Members : No.

The Minister of Defence : I would like to hear a suggestion from the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) that they have been running the civil service before and now

that the North has come, the North should be given four to five years, during which they should employ only people from the North. Then I will say that this is unity; this man is very sincere. But nobody is suggesting anything of this sort. What we think and we believe will keep the unity of this country is when we come to this House we find that all the sections of this country are represented here. If we go to any Ministry we also like to see the same. The same thing should apply to the Armed Forces. I would like hon. Members to realise that they may say something for saying's sake but it can do a lot of harm to the unity of this country. Let us all put our heads together and work towards the unity of this country.

May the Almighty God help us.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) has left his seat.

The Chairman : One may appreciate that after a sumptuous dinner and perhaps a few glasses it may not be quite easy to get calm. But, I do hope that discipline will overcome our momentary excesses. In that context one should expect that the Whips would give utmost co-operation to the Chair in maintaining calm.

£4,365,530 for Head 27.—*Royal Nigerian Army—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 28.—ROYAL NIGERIAN NAVY

£722,270 for Head 28.—*Royal Nigerian Navy—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 29.—NIGERIAN AIR FORCE

£443,000 for Head 29.—*Nigerian Air Force—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 18th April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Business Committee

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that Chief M. W. Ubani reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the *Order Paper* for Tuesday, 23rd April:—

(1) The Minister of Finance No. 94 in the Order Book ;

(2) Revolving Loans, Scholarship Fund No. 79 in the Order Book ;

(3) Public Corporations No. 80 in the Order Book ;

(4) Tourist Industry No. 80 in the Order Book ;

(5) Local Gin No. 19 in the Order Book ;

(6) Education to be a Federal subject No. 66 in the Order Book.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Motor Park Touts

O.381. Mallam Wada Nas asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware of the activities of touts at motor parks throughout the country resulting in loss of properties and physical assault to passengers and whether he will see to it that special constables are detailed at motor parks in the public interest.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr Abubakar Isandu): The Police are aware of the activities of the touts at motor parks throughout the Federation. Constant supervision by the Police is maintained at motor parks and subject to the demand made by the Local Commissioner police constables are, as a rule, posted to motor parks.

Nigerianisation of Police Force

O.383. Mr P. O. Tarkende asked the Prime Minister, when he hopes to Nigerianise the Police Force.

Mr Isandu : It is the policy of the Federal Government to Nigerianise the entire Police Force eventually. The present strength of Nigerian gazetted officers is 360 and it is estimated that this total would be increased to approximately 385 by the end of the year 1963. Also, by this time the expatriate cadre of officers consists of 48 permanent pensionable and 50 contract officers. By the end of 1964, all permanent pensionable expatriate officers will either have left the service or will be due to leave and contracts for expatriates, when they expire, will be reviewed in the light of specialised requirements.

1960 Tiv Riot

O.384. Mr P. O. Tarkende asked the Prime Minister, how much was spent on Police activities during the Tiv riot of 1960.

Mr Isandu : £14,881-6s-0d was spent on Police activities during the Tiv riot of 1960. This is made up as follows:—

	£	s	d
Transport	5,220	19	6
Motor vehicle maintenance	6,000	19	6
Ration	1,429	15	0
Allowances to special constables	2,150	0	0
Office and General	10	0	0
Lamp and lighting	10	12	0
	<u>£14,881</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>

Arrangements for Census

O.385. Mr P. O. Tarkende asked the Prime Minister, whether he will make a statement on the stand of the Federal Government concerning the proposed census arrangements and control by Regional Governments.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to question O.378.

Proposed Etche Police Post

O.386. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Prime Minister, what is causing the delay in the building of the proposed Police post in the Etche County Council area in Ahoada Division.

Mr Isandu : There is no proposal to build a Police post in Etche County Council area, Ahoada Division. A type 'B' Police Station was built at Ahoada in 1962, and work will soon commence on the construction of one Senior Service Quarter at Ahoada.

Strength of Policewomen

O.387. Mallam J. M. Damla asked the Prime Minister, what is the numerical strength of the Nigerian women police.

Mr Isandu : The number is 289.

O.388. Mallam J. M. Damla asked the Prime Minister, how many women police have been recruited from the North.

Mr Isandu : Ten, Sir.

Strength of Police Force

O.389. Mallam J. M. Damla asked the Prime Minister, what is the total strength of the Nigeria Police.

Mr Isandu : The total strength of the Nigeria Police Force as at 31st March, 1963, is 14,914.

Awgu Police Station

O.519. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider posting an Inspector of Police to man the Awgu Police Station and providing a van for duty in the hilly areas of the Division.

Mr Isandu : The present establishment of Awgu Police Station consists of 15 men as opposed to 44, recommended by the 1959 Survey of Police Establishment. It is hoped to implement this recommendation in phases as and when funds are available. Some land-rovers are scheduled for the Police in Eastern Nigeria during the current Financial Year and the Commissioner of Police will no doubt consider the needs of Awgu Police Station when deploying the vehicles at his disposals.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Is the Minister aware that Awgu is a station growing

very rapidly and that there are important Eastern Government establishments there ?

O.520. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, if he will reconsider employing Elementary School leavers with Standard six pass Certificate in the Nigeria Police Force.

Mr Isandu : Recruits into the Nigeria Police Force will be selected from the best material available. The minimum educational qualification for admission is a Standard six pass but candidates with higher qualification will be given preference.

Mr Chukwu : I want to know if the Minister is aware that recruitment into the Nigeria Police Force now is two-thirds to the North and one-third to the South ?

Secondary Four Police Recruits

O.521. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, how many school leavers with secondary class IV certificate enlisted in the Nigeria Police Force in each of the years 1960, 1961 and 1962.

Mr Isandu : The number of school leavers with secondary class IV certificate enlisted in the Force between 1960 and 1962 is as follows :—

In 1960—55

In 1961—48

In 1962—30

Mr Ekanem : Will the Minister explain to this House the cause of the year by year decrease in the number of those with class IV certificate recruited into the Force ?

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : May I ask my hon. Friend to tell the House how many of them are from my constituency ?

Parliamentary Delegations

O.522. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider sending parliamentary delegations to Regional Houses of Assembly to enable them to listen to Debates on important topics in the Regional Houses.

Mr Lana : No, Sir.

Mr Ekanem : Why ?

Ministers' Investments

O.523. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider making a rule requiring all Ministers of the Government on taking office to sell their shares in private and public companies and invest only in Government and Municipal Securities.

Mr Lana : Appropriate rulings with which Ministers on their appointment are expected to comply already exist.

Mr Brown : I do not know when such rulings started existing.

The Prime Minister : Ministers are guided by Ministers' code of conduct.

Owerri Senior Police Officers

O.524. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Prime Minister if he will provide permanent quarters for senior Police Officers in Owerri.

Mr Isandu : There is no provision during the current financial year to build any senior service quarters for the Police. First priority on the limited funds available for building is for accommodation for the rank and file and thereafter for the inspectorate.

Proposed Census

O.525. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Prime Minister, what arrangements are being made to ensure that people are properly counted in the next census.

Mr Lana : Preparations are going ahead for the forthcoming Census. Proposals to ensure that people are properly counted will be put to a Census Board at its forthcoming meeting. This Board comprises high government officials of the Regional and Federal Governments. The Board has been so set up in order to enlist the Regional Governments active participation and co-operation both of which are generally considered vital to the success of the census.

Until the proposals for the Census have been considered by the Board, my hon. Friend will agree that it will be unwise of the hon. Prime Minister to disclose them. I would however say that the Prime Minister is satisfied that everything is being done to ensure that the people will be properly counted in the forthcoming census.

Women in Purdah

O.526. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Prime Minister, what arrangements are being made to ensure that Moslem housewives who are in purdah are seen and counted in the next census.

Mr Lana : As I have already said in answer to Question No. O.525, suitable arrangements are being made to ensure that people will be properly counted and that everyone is counted. Arrangements are in hand to ensure that Moslem housewives who are important are counted in the next census. Where possible, women enumerators will be recruited but where this is not visible other arrangements not contravening the Statistics Ordinance will be made.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : (Awka North) : What plans is the Government making for the emancipation of the housewives in the North ?

Police Patrols at Eastern Border

O.527. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that there is not enough mobile police transport to patrol the Eastern border in Ikom Division and whether he will consider the providing of more Land-Rovers for the police there.

Mr Isandu : The transport situation of the Force is constantly under review, and in the current Financial Year, provision has been requested for more land-rovers. The Commissioner of Police, Eastern Nigeria will no doubt consider the requirements of the Eastern border in Ikom Division when deploying the transport under his command.

Nwaigwe Police Station

O.528. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider changing the name of the present "Nwaigwe" Police Station in central Annang, Ikot Ekpene Division, to read "Odoro Ikot" Police Station to accord the wishes and the aspirations of the owners of the land where the said Police Station is situated.

Mr Isandu : The Nwaigwe Police Station was established in Ikot Ekpene Division of Uyo-Annang Province in 1946. In 1960, Uyo-Annang Province was separated from the

Calabar Police Province and includes the Ikot-Ekpene Division which consists of Ikot Ekpene, Nwaigwe, Nto Ndong, Abak and Ikot Okoro.

The Police Station is at the boundary between Ikot Ekpene and Aba, and the Station is named after Constable NWAIGWE who was murdered in the area.

Mr Ekanem : Is the Minister aware that the man, Mr Nwaigwe, is not a native of the place and also that the Nwaigwe Police Station is the only police station in the whole country which is named after a person the question of whose death cannot be put on the Floor of this House ?

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : Is the hon. Member for Enyong South aware that Mr Nwaigwe was murdered by Ikot Ekpene people while on duty and that the Police Station was erected in his memory ?

Van for Nwaigwe Police

O.529. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider supplying the Police at Nwaigwe with a van in view of the distance from there to Ikot Ekpene Divisional Police Headquarters and in order to facilitate the apprehension of offenders in the area.

Mr Isandu : Provision has been requested in the current Financial Year for more land-rovers for the Force. The Commissioner of Police, Eastern Nigeria, will consider the requirements of Ikot Ekpene Division, along with others when deploying the transport under his command.

Mr Afanideh : Is the Prime Minister aware that when it comes to the question of amenities the people in that area are discriminated against ?

Replacement of Nwaigwe Police Station

O.530. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Prime Minister, whether he will take immediate steps to build a new police station at Nwaigwe, to replace the existing one which is now in a dilapidated condition.

Mr Isandu : The building of a new Police Station at Nwaigwe will be considered along with other building priorities during the current 1962-68 Development Programme, and will depend entirely on the funds available.

Cadet Police Inspectors

O.532. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the present policy of recruiting Cadet Inspectors-in-Training straight from secondary schools is discouraging to the large number of Police from the rank of Sergeant downwards, whose prospects of advancement is limited as a result of this.

Mr Isandu : Between the years 1955 to 1962, 601 N.C.O's were promoted Inspectors and 218 Cadet Inspectors were appointed. In the same period, 260 Inspectors were promoted to A.S.P. grade and 54 to the same grade from the Cadet Inspector cadre. It is not correct, therefore, to assume that Cadet Inspector's scheme severely limits the promotion prospect of serving members of the Force.

Agbani Road Police

O.533. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Prime Minister, if he will state why the rebuilding of the Police quarters at Agbani road, Enugu was stopped after the completion of only one storey building.

Mr Isandu : In 1961-62, Police Building Programme for Eastern Nigeria, a block of 27 quarters was approved and the money released for building a block of quarters at Agbani Road Police Station, Enugu. Work on this project has not yet started. A block of quarters of similar design approved in the 1960-61 Building Programme has been completed on the same site.

Police Post for Umunya-Ifite Ukpo Stretch

O.695. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider establishing a police post between Umunya in Onitsha Division and Ifite-Ukpo in Awka Division with a view to minimising the activities of highway robbers who had endangered the lives of the citizens of the area.

Mr Isandu : The Survey of Police establishment did not recognise the need for the creation of a Police post between Umunya in Onitsha Division and Ifite-Ukpo in Awka Division. The Survey however, recognised the need for the creation of more Police stations in Onitsha Rural Division and Awka

Division to afford effective Police cover and to effect rural patrols throughout the two Divisions. It is hoped to implement this recommendation by phased expansion as and when funds become available.

Charge of Awka Police

O.696. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, when a superior Police Officer of at least the rank of A.S.P. will be permanently stationed in Awka in view of the vastness of the Division.

Mr Isandu : A Divisional Police Officer with the rank of S.P.O. will be appointed to the Standard Rural Police Station at Awka.

Police Post for Obolo-Afor

O.697. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Prime Minister, when he proposes to build a police post at Obolo-Afor with a view to checking the activities of night marauders who constitute a menace to public security in that area.

Mr Isandu : The Survey of Police establishments recommended the creation of a Standard Minor Rural Police Station of 17 men at Obolo-Afor. This is being pursued.

Nsukka Charge Office

O.698. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the cause of the delay in starting the building of the Police charge office at Nsukka.

Mr Isandu : It was only recently that the building project was accepted as one of the priorities to which limited available funds could be applied. Funds have now been provided and work will start soon.

Sokoto Police Barracks

O.699. M. Abdullahi Maikano asked the Prime Minister, in view of the acute shortage of quarters at the police barracks in Sokoto, he will take steps to remedy the situation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : The answer to this Question is not yet ready.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sahara Nuclear Tests

O.382. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Prime Minister, what is the attitude of the

Federal Government towards the French Government on the recent and unending atomic tests in the Sahara.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mr M. O. Okilo) : This Government has made it clear that it is opposed to the continued explosion of nuclear devices everywhere in the world and especially in Africa. We stand by the United Nations resolution which declared Africa a nuclear-free zone.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : May we know when the Minister will consider abrogating our relations with France in view of France's continued tests of atomic weapons in the Sahara ?

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : May we know from the Minister of Foreign Affairs when we shall test our own atomic bomb in the Sahara Desert ?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : Very soon.

Nuclear Fall-Out

O.461. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, whether any nuclear fall-out has been recorded in this country following the recent French atomic test in the Sahara.

Mr Speaker : This Question has been transferred to the Ministry of Communications.

Foreign Ministers' Conference

O.535. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, how much the Foreign Ministers Conference on Togo held in Lagos cost the Government.

Mr Okilo : The hon. Member is referred to my answer to a similar question on the 4th of April, 1963.

French Sahara Nuclear Tests

O.537. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, what further steps he hopes to take against the persistent move by France to make Sahara its atomic bomb testing ground.

Mr Okilo : The area in which these nuclear tests were carried out is now part of the territory of an independent and sovereign African State. The hon. Member will agree that any further action we take in this respect must be in conformity with the wishes of the state concerned and by the common agreement of other independent states in Africa. We must do nothing to infringe the sovereign rights of an African country.

Conference for Foreign Ministers

O.538. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, what results were achieved by the Lagos Conference of Foreign Ministers on the Togo issue arising from the murder of President Olympio.

Mr Okilo : I have already commented at length on this issue during the debate on a Private Member's Motion on this subject about a fortnight ago.

Briefly, the Council of Ministers of the Afro-Malagasy Organisation adopted the principle that assassination and violence cannot be accepted as a means of effecting a change in Government among member states.

The Conference also laid down conditions to be fulfilled before the question of recognition of the Togo Government can be considered by the Conference of Heads of African States and Governments in Addis Ababa.

Dr P. U. Okeke : In the light of the most recent information on the circumstances surrounding the murder of the President of Togo will the Minister consider recognising the present Government of Togo ?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : If the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central will give us all the recent information at his disposal we shall consider the question of recognising that Government.

Diplomatic Missions

O.539. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, how many Embassies has Nigeria opened abroad, where are they located and what are the names of the envoys in charge.

Mr Okilo : There are 26 Nigerian Embassies and High Commissions abroad, as well as 1 Consulate-General and four Consulates. In addition, we have a Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and a Mission to the European Economic Community in Brussels. There are thus 33 Nigerian Missions abroad.

Details of their location and the persons in charge of the various missions will appear in the daily *Hansard*.

The details are as follows :—

United Kingdom	}	Alhaji Abdul Maliki, C.B.E.
Belgium		
Ireland		
U.S.A.		Mr J. M. Udochi
Sudan	}	Alhaji Ahmadu Waziri
Saudi Arabia		
Cameroun		Alhaji Bello Malabu
W. Germany		Chief Emeribe Ejimofor
U.S.A. (U.N.O.)		Chief S. O. Adebo, C.M.G.
Liberia		Mr N. A. Martins
Sierra Leone		Mr A. B. Oyediran
Congo (Leopoldville)		Mr A. I. Osakwe
Ivory Coast		Alhaji Abdul Razaq
Senegal		Alhaji Ado Bayero
U.A.R.		Alhaji Muhammadu Ngileruma, O.B.E.
India		Mr B. C. I. Obanye
Pakistan		Alhaji Abubakar A. Koguna
Italy		Mr L. O. V. Anionwu
Guinea		Chief O. Oweh
Tanganyika		Temporarily under an Acting High Commissioner
Soviet Union		Temporarily under a Charge d'Affaires
Ghana		Temporarily under an Acting High Commissioner
Ethiopia		Temporarily under a Charge d'Affaires
Dahomey		Temporarily under a Charge d'Affaires
Togo		Temporarily under a Charge d'Affaires
Niger Republic		Temporarily under a Charge d'Affaires
Tchad		Temporarily under a Charge d'Affaires

European Com-
mon Market . . . Dr P. N. Okigbo
1 Consulate-General in New York.
4 Consulates at Buea, Santa Isabel, Port
Sudan and Hamburg.

President Olympio

O.540. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, if he will make a statement about the Commission of Inquiry of which Nigeria was a member, appointed to investigate the circumstances leading to the death of the late President Olympio of Togo.

Mr Okigbo : The fact-finding and goodwill Mission appointed by the Council of Ministers of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation to visit Togo after the recent political crisis in that country has not yet completed its work, and it would therefore be premature to make a statement before consulting the other member states of the Organisation.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : Will the Minister make the findings of that Commission available to the Members of this House ?

Hon. Jaja Wachuku : No, Sir.

Mr I. A. Brown : Will the Minister tell this House when one should expect the report on the findings of the Commission ?

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL
(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED
IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
HEAD 30.—MINISTRY OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed, That £435,090 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—stand part of the Schedule.

10.30 a.m.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : When one looks at the progress made in this country during the past year which is the first year of the current Economic Development Programme one appreciates that some change of mind has occurred in the minds of the Government. For the first time this Government has begun to appreciate the role which a professional economist, or rather a team of professional economists, can play in planning the development of a young country such as ours. The

old approach which was haphazard and which was a sporadic attack on the bottleneck items has been abandoned.

Nevertheless, I want to make very few observations on what has happened in the Ministry of Economic Development. In the first place, all economists know that from J. S. Mill down to Schumpeter of yesterday that the red thread running across the economic development, or economic growth, of any nation, has been the emphasis laid on capital accumulation and the use of natural resources. I am sorry to say that in this country, even though we have now a blueprint to guide our development effort, that emphasis is mislaid. If one looks into the root cause of the mislaid emphasis one may be tempted to say that it lies in the Constitution of this country.

In the first place, one of the biggest weapons we have in our hands for the development of this country is our foreign trade. The second is the use of our natural resources, and the third is our finance and control over finance. Analysing these three items very carefully one will see that the power to control finance, foreign trade, international relations and our natural resources is in the hands of the Federal Government. But this power is not fully used. The Regions rather carry on a bulk of the work. One of the Regions may have a scientific approach to the Development Programme what happens in the other Regions is enough to thwart the efforts of the other Regions. In other words, there is no co-ordination. The West, North and the East are each pulling a part in opposite directions. There is no cohesion. The Development Programme of this country lacks a spinal cord. If one wants to use a less dignified language one may say that it has no back-bone, or that it is spineless. There is no co-ordination; there is no continuous thread running across the whole Development Programme.

An example can be found in the field of basic research. If one looks at the research programme of the three Regions of Nigeria one will see that they are almost the same thing. This is a very dangerous phenomenon. We are wasting our money and manpower which are very limited. We are also wasting our time. I think that the Federal Minister of Economic Development should take a very deep breath and face the programme more boldly. He

should either lobby his fellow Ministers in the Regions, woo them, and bring them together to co-ordinate their efforts so that the limited resources of Nigeria will be saved.

The other thing I want to mention is the utter neglect of one branch of the economics called preservation of natural resources. We tend to waste our natural resources. We use the resources without replenishing them. Again, we tend to leave the use of certain items of our resources in the hands of foreigners. This anomaly has been growing bigger and bigger since our independence.

One example stands out clearly. Let us take a look at our timber industry. How many of the Governments of the three Regions and of this Federation are making an effort to control the destruction of timber in Nigerian forests? And how many of these Governments are making any effort to replenish the timber which has been so carelessly and so planlessly exploited, particularly by foreigners and some indigenous timber combines? And what is worse, because of lack of control in the timber business that business is now becoming a very risky one. Our people dump their money in the business. When they ship their logs to the United Kingdom, America or Canada and those logs cannot be sold profitably because of lack of control in the consumer markets the next thing the businessmen do is to dump them there at a loss.

Thus Nigerian resources are wasted in two ways: destruction of timber and waste of capital invested in the business. This is also true of our mineral resources. There is just an uncontrolled traffic in the exploitation of Nigerian mineral resources, I want to warn that many of these resources, once they have been tapped, can never be replaced. And I think that the Minister of Economic Development should know that oil is an important item in the Development programme.

While on this subject of resources, I want to say that human resources are the first of all resources. It shocks me to recall that even at this time of our development indigenous economist in the Federal Ministry of Economic Development and in the Regional Ministries of Economic Planning are not properly treated. They are not given the same treatment

which other professionals are given. Just for example, a person like Dr Okigbo has been sent outside Nigeria. Why should such a person be thrown out of this country? Normally, no country can afford to get rid of people of his calibre. We know that he is representing this country at the European Economic Community. But why should we lose such a first-class economist? Why lose an economist of international standard?

An hon. Member also told us in this House that Dr Isong has left the Central Bank of Nigeria. What are the circumstances of his departure from the Central Bank of Nigeria to New York? Only recently we also heard that a well known economist like Dr Aboyade and Dr Onitiri left the Ministry of Economic Development. What is worse is the rumour which is now gaining ground all over the place that one person who is internationally known and whose intelligence is widely reputed not only in Nigeria but also outside Nigeria in the person of Mr Godfrey Lardner is now being surrounded by circumstances which are very difficult to interpret to the world and to Nigeria.

I do not know what is happening in the Ministry of Economic Development and I will be the last man to condone anybody sabotaging the security of this country be he my friend or foe. However, I think that a person of the calibre and experience of Mr Lardner, whose case is no longer a local case because he is known all over the world in the field of economic science, should be handled with all the caution and prudence at the command of the Government. Fairness should be meted out to him so that the intellectual pillars of this country may not be scared away from the country. This use of human resources is so important that I cannot over-emphasise it on the Floor of this House.

Also, there should be a concerted effort made to train more Nigerian budding economists. We must train them in the art of basic research. It is one thing to train an economist at Oxford or Cambridge or Cornell or Harvard and it is another thing to bring him to Nigeria and give him the basic tools for doing the basic research in an under developed country; because our problems are unique and different, the approach to the solution must be different and unique.

[DR NZERIBE]

Last year, I suggested that seminars and symposium should be held in our universities so that the experience and knowledge of men in business could be interpreted into the things that the Ministry could use in making our economic programmes pay off.

Finally, I want to say that the Federal Government of Nigeria has not yet been able to spark the plug of economic development in this country. The bulk of the work of projecting development emergency to the nation is left in the hands of the Regional Governments. The Local Councils, the County Councils, the Urban Councils and the Provincial Assemblies are not yet conversant with this idea of development. The Federal Government has not yet come out openly to say—"Now let us develop Nigeria". If Government is determined to let use the big hammer of development emergency in this country I am sure that the impact will be felt.

The other day I suggested although I did not have time to explain the point, that if Government want to manipulate the currency of Nigeria for the purpose of getting more money to improve this country they can do so first of all by controlling imports, secondly by encouraging indigenous industries and thirdly by increasing taxes. This can be done easily if we take the imports into Nigeria and group them into three categories. First, luxuries then essentials and lastly middle of the road importations. For example, if I want to import an American car into Nigeria the Government could ask me to pay £2 for £1. If I can afford to pay £2 for £1 well God bless me. But if somebody wants to import building materials that cannot be made in Nigeria at this stage the Government should subsidize that importation.

The same thing goes for tyrelene shirts. Why should Nigerians import tyrelene shirts? Why should we even import shirts? Why should we also import woollen suits made in London? If a person insists on importing woollen suits into Nigeria let him buy a suit worth say £1 for £1-10s-0d. What I am saying is a simple illustration of my statement that the Government has not yet taken development seriously. Our economy has not yet been sufficiently reorientated. That is why we talk about these things as though they are symbolic

and no effort is being made to really live austerely. American or British Minister of Finance or a team of industrialists come to Nigeria to inspect what we are doing at home. The British Minister of Finance may be riding a 1951 model Ford. He comes to Nigeria to find that a junior M.P. here is riding an American Ford or Cheverolet. How do we think they will lend us money?

An hon. Member : But you are riding one?

Dr Nzeribe : I am riding one because I can afford to have one.

An hon. Member : And you think others cannot afford it?

Dr Nzeribe : Yes. There is a lot of anti-thesis between the Government's idea of development and what the law of economic development is. When we speak of *Deus Ex Machina*, the God of the machine it has its own laws and if these laws are not followed development breaks down. So, I am asking the Government particularly the Ministry of Economic Development, to tighten its belt and put in more effort and to use more influence on its counterparts in the Regions and to realise that unless this Government takes on to itself the big hammer of leadership in economic development, planning, execution and the reviewing of problems, it will be impossible for us to make an appreciable headway in the field of economic development. We must do these things if we want to use our natural resources to the full, particularly human resources.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North) : I rise to support the expenditure under Head 30, Ministry of Economic Development. In doing so, may I contribute my gratitude to the Federal Government and in particular to that brilliant, courageous devoted, and straightforward Minister, Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, for executing the policy of his Ministry with frankness and all sincerity of purpose.

As the stability of any civilised country depends upon the utilization of its natural resources, I hope the hon. Minister of Economic Development will indulge in working out a comprehensive planning scheme in order to make use of the raw materials already found

in this country to make the progress of this great country successful. The efforts being made by the Ministry of Economic Development are fully appreciated, and we wish the Ministry could continue with its efforts in making researches and all that is possible to standardize and uplift the economic status of this country.

I support the expenditure for the Statistics Section of this Ministry because of the work that this Section of the Ministry is doing for the Government. Some time ago there was drama in this honourable House over the issue of our census. Our brilliant and capable Minister, the Minister of Economic Development was falsely blamed and wrongly misrepresented for the mere fact that he was frank and straightforward and called a spade a spade on the Floor of this House. He was victimised simply because he read *viva voce* a sheet of paper handed to him containing facts and figures about the census, in answer to a question in which the whole House was interested. What was wrong in that, Mr Chairman? What happened and what followed? There was drama.

Imagine, just for calling a spade a spade and for making a frank pronouncement, the House was in uproar with false accusations, misrepresentation, victimization and all sorts of nonsense against the brilliant and capable Minister, the Minister of Economic Development.

Does the Chairman know the motive behind all that? The motive was the high ambition of a section of a political party to control majority of parliamentary seats and thus assume power. The N.P.C. being formidable this ambition could not be realised. When a fox fails to reach the grapes, it says the grapes are sour. But these people did more than that Sir. The accusers who were also the offenders went on bamboozling and misrepresenting the accused, the Minister of Economic Development, to the press and public because they found him so confident, so invincible, fair and straightforward. He is full of frankness. The Right hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa took a wise decision when after consulting with the Regional Premiers, he announced that the last census had been nullified.

I have commented enough on the drama over our census, and I wish to say that now is the time that we must unite and co-operate to produce something better and cast away our ambitions and also face facts with goodwill and faith in our country's future.

I also wish to support the expenditure on agriculture, and in doing so, I wish to urge that measures be introduced to increase agricultural production in this country. We should find means whereby commodities such as groundnuts, millet, guinea corn, rice, wheat, yams, potatoes and beans can grow in abundance. The farmers should be allowed to make use of results of agricultural researches for increased production. They should be encouraged to use fertilizers so as to raise their production and protect the young plants from termites and harmful insects.

I also wish to comment on the irrigation systems along our rivers and marshy valleys. Irrigation will contribute a lot to farming and keep the people busy farming so that they will obtain additional harvest instead of depending on the normal harvest. This will promote the economy of our country.

I wish to say that this scheme which now operates along River Hadejia has proved successful and should be extended to all other rivers at suitable places for the greater production of wheat, rice, onions, tomatoes and other vegetables.

I also want to suggest that Egyptian cotton seeds be introduced into this country as they excel all other seeds in the world to-day. I will conclude this part of my speech by saying that more production will mean more wealth and more wealth will mean more health too.

I also support the expenditure under Forestry. Although I am not a conservator of Forests, I have to say that I am very interested in the development of the trees, fruits, seeds, flowers and green grass of our country, and this shows my keen interest in forestry. Apart from encouraging forest reserves in this country, I wish also that economic trees be introduced into Nigeria, in addition to our own. A lot has been done and is being done by this Ministry especially in the far

[MR UDO-INYANG]

census without achieving any satisfactory result. I am appealing to the Minister of Economic Development to see that such a thing does not happen again in the future. The Minister should be more serious in his responsibility as Minister of Economic Development, because before he was appointed a Minister in charge of that Ministry, the Prime Minister was satisfied that he could cope with such ministerial responsibilities. If the Minister is ignorant of the duties devolving upon the work of his Ministry, how can he lead a delegation abroad to represent this country? I think before he goes abroad on any economic mission he should know well in advance the economic problems confronting this country so that when he gets there he knows exactly what to present and what to look for.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West): In supporting the provision under this Head I have few observations to make. First, about research. When one goes through the Estimates one finds that a lot of money is being spent on one type of research or another. There is nothing bad about that. But the only query I have is that the results of these researches have not been produced and presented to the farmers of this country. For instance a lot of money has been spent on the oil research near Benin during the last year, but I do not think that the very farmers who are going to benefit from the result of the research are aware of the results of these researches. Similarly we have a research in respect of rice and other products. If the country is going to benefit from the research farmers should be made aware of the results of the researches and be able to apply them.

The other aspect I am going to talk about is the much-talked of 1962-68 Economic Development Plan. I think the staff of the Economic Planning unit is so small, and I wonder how such a small unit will cope with the demands of economic planning all over the country. One would have thought that such a unit would be spread throughout the country instead of being centralised in Lagos. It is because of this centralisation that the Minister finds it difficult to ensure that industries are extended to all parts of the country. Industries are sited in one place whether or not that place has natural advantages. We must not cater for one parti-

cular place alone. We should look for other places to see if such places have the same natural advantages for projects.

The other point is that in spite of the fact that we have a lot of minerals in some other places the Geological Department has not been able to put it before the Minister of Economic Development that these places should be developed. I have particularly in mind, lime stone deposit, near Igara in Afenmai Division which I understand is quite suitable for the manufacture of cement. The difficulty is that in this part of the country which is far from the centre of productivity, like Nkalagu or Ewekoro the price rises considerably. People living in that particular place should be encouraged so that what is naturally situated in their own environment could be tapped for the purpose of producing those things which are needed for development.

I know it is difficult to draw a parallel between the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Yesterday many hon. Members spoke about the question of encouraging our producers, in other words, they were all speaking on the side of the producer. Well, what about the consumer? We are the consumers. In a free competition consumers should be allowed to select their own goods, and if a good businessman like Mr Opia insists on purchasing home-made stocks, such home-made stocks should be of competitive charges with the imported ones. I think this Ministry and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should look into it. It is not just a question of saying "buy Nigerian goods". I, for example, one finds that furniture made in Port Harcourt is not as good as furniture imported from the United Kingdom, one is entitled to buy what one thinks is better. So it is the duty of these Ministries to see that whatever is produced in this country compares favourably with whatever is imported into this country. It will be the duty of this Ministry to see that whatever is produced in this country compares favourably with whatever is imported, otherwise if we are being forced to patronise the home-produced goods and we know quite honestly that the imported ones are better, we are indirectly exploiting the consumer and we are making him to buy what he may consider as inferior goods in place of the commodity which he would like to buy if he were left with a free choice.

we are not told in what way. I think it will be very necessary, in the interest of justice, to say how this man leaked out the secrets, because the public are not satisfied with the flimsy excuse given by the Minister. I think

Manpower Board to succeed, I would recommend that the members of the Board should take time to tour other parts of the world, to see what is happening in places like the United States, Germany, or possibly the Soviet Union.

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The other aspect of the whole thing, which some people made mention of yesterday and which has been mentioned also this morning, is this question of retail trade. I do not think that there is yet enough capital for our people to carry on from where the big firms left off. If the capital is there, then there is no query about who should carry on the retail trade or who should not. The capital is not there yet.

Closely linked with this Head is the aspect which concerns this Ministry in respect of agriculture. We pay a great deal of lip service to the back-to-the-land appeal. In some places, particularly in the Eastern Region where little land for agriculture is available, there is difficulty to get people to settle down to the land.—

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : On a point of information, I would like to let the hon. Member know that Eastern Nigeria has surplus land for agriculture and we are utilising the land in Eastern Nigeria to the best advantage of the whole Nigeria.

Mr Ayeni : We are talking comparatively. Comparatively, Eastern Nigeria has smaller land than either the North, West or even the Federal Territory.

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu) : On a point of order, I am sure the hon. Member speaking has not gone to the Eastern Region before.

Mr Ayeni : The point I am making is this. If we are going to encourage people to go back to the land, the method being used at present in the Regions is not the best. This question of farm settlement is not the best, and I do not think it is going to do us much good. The idea is that a lot of money is being spent in bringing up one man to be interested in it, whereas when he leaves the farm settlement, he cannot practice exactly those things that he had been taught.

Co-operative farming will help us better in this country than the farm settlement scheme. The whole idea of our economic development should be based on precisely what this country is going to get so that the rate of industrial development might increase. The planning unit and the research unit should

be able to devote their attention to such projects that will quickly accelerate the pace of industrial development in this country.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : I rise to support this Head under our able Minister of Economic Development. In doing so, I have to congratulate the Minister of Economic Development on his achievements since he was appointed to this office. Though some hon. Members in this House criticise the Minister on the issue of census, the issue of census is not the matter of the Minister of Economic Development alone. The fault of the failure of census is ours. It is the fault of the Members of Parliament.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, the issue of census is not the fault of Members of this Parliament.

Mr Damla : I say it is our fault because we have done nothing. The confusion about the census started from the South, by getting 20,000 people to-day, to-morrow 10,000 people. (Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order, order. Members should appreciate that we are discussing Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—and not Statistics.

Mr Damla : Thank you, Mr Chairman. When we start saying anything about the South, some people here begin to shout. Some of them asked the Minister of Economic Development in this House to resign. If the matter of resignation does arise, then the Ministers in the Eastern Region should all resign because it is in the East that 20,000 people were alleged to have been discovered. (Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order, order. The hon. Member must abandon his attack on hon. Members.

Mr Damla : In 1952 when the census was conducted, the population of the Eastern Region was about 8,000,000. (Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order, order. Will the hon. Member please discuss something other than the census.

[MR MBAH]
 sort. The result is that these things are paper work. When a statement is made by a Minister, we would like to go home with the impression that that statement should be relied upon. This honourable House was given that assurance that there would be an economic survey up to the village level so that we could know how to plan the future, and it is really disappointing that up till to-day nothing of that nature has happened.

Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang (Opobo North) : On a point of information, there was an economic survey conducted last year, and a team was sent from the Ministry of Economic Development to all villages.

Several hon. Members : To where ?

Mr Udo-Inyang : At least to my village.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : The rural economic survey is actually in progress right now. This has started, and it is in progress.

Mr Mbah : I am really grateful to the Minister for the assurance that it is now in progress. I want to appeal that since this survey is in progress, efforts should be made to survey all the villages in the Federation. It should not be just a question of surveying townships and returning to Lagos, or somebody sitting in townships and sending emissaries to the villages to collect certain data. In this connection, we are all looking forward to a fruitful result of this survey so that the villages, the rural areas, will be remembered in the Six-Year Development Plan. Particularly Owerri Division, and my constituency Owerri North,—Ikeduru and Mbaitoli—should be surveyed. We have potentialities, raw materials and everything that can give Government the necessary opportunity to start industries in Ikeduru and Mbaitoli.

I want to make a moving appeal to the Minister in particular. It is not only in my constituency but also in the whole of Owerri Division which has been crying and appealing for years for something to be done to replace the Shell-BP which has left, thereby leaving a very big economic vacuum there, that something should be done in respect of this survey. I think if he can co-operate with the Minister of Commerce and Industry, in a very short time Owerri will benefit from a very heavy industry.

Well, the other point is about food production or increase in export trade. There is no food in our markets. If one goes to some of our markets one will find that they are stinking, because we have there rotten materials. Many eat nothing but chaff in this country. They do not eat food of any real quality. It is nothing but chaff. If one goes to supermarkets in Europe or elsewhere, one can hardly hear any odour. We hear this odour in our markets because the materials taken there are not properly taken care of. That is no food. During the tour of my constituency this question was raised. The complaint everywhere now is that there is no food in the country, particularly cash crops.

Last year the Minister told this honourable House that the United Nations has made available a sum of £9 million for certain projects. He did not analyse the projects. I think he left us in darkness, and he should be able to tell us what this £9 million was meant for.

The other point is about the economy of this country. I would like to say that this country is right now sitting on a tinder box due to faulty economy. The economy of the country has not been carefully planned, and unless efforts are made to plan the economy to the best interest of all of us, the future is definitely uncertain. The future of the country is clouded with uncertainty because of faulty economy. I am not blaming our Government, at least, for the present state of affairs. This is a relic of colonialism. Now that we are independent, it is the duty and responsibility of this Government to do something to re-plan the economy of this country.

I have always been saying in this House that the wide gap between the rich and the poor in this country should be bridged. I have also appealed that the disparity in the public service has to be bridged. If one goes outside one finds a lot of people going about. They are complaining, not necessarily that we are not doing something, but because the way we plan the economy is bad.

Now, I do not see how one can convince anybody that simply because one is a Member of Parliament or a Minister, therefore one is entitled to live a very descent life alone. I am not advocating that we should all be equal, but we should try to convince the people in the rural areas who gave us the votes to be here, that

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if we had been living on foofoo and all that before we came here, nothing prevents us from continuing to do so while we are Members of this House. When planning the economy of this country, we must think of the unfortunate brothers and sisters outside who cannot change the old system unless through our own efforts.

Therefore, to save this country from trouble and disaster, we have to do something about re-planning the economy of this country to the benefit of the common man, the working man, the farmer, the trader, and everyone of us. This is a challenge. I have been able to show that some of our people are on 3s-10d per day in this country. I have known people who earn 2s-6d a day under some commercial firms.

Nobody cares about all these things and if you go to any other part of the world you will see that a man is at least able to afford a full breakfast, a full lunch and a full dinner. A man should be able to afford the basic necessities of life: he should be able to eat well, he should be able to find a place to sleep and he should be able to clothe himself. I feel it is our duty to see to this. It is the duty of the Government because in this country Government is not only the civil authority, it is also the largest employer of labour. That is why I am making the appeal. I know that the question of raising the standard of living of our people is not the duty of Government alone; we have to seek the co-operation of the commercial firms and other industrialists in this respect. It is not a problem which the Government alone should tackle.

I know that it is only 2½ years since independence and that we cannot do everything overnight. I am only trying to draw the attention of the House to some of the things which may lead to trouble if we are not careful. If we think in terms of ourselves, only the 312 Members of this House and we do not bother about the 45 million people outside, then, we are in trouble. Therefore, the question of the economy of this country is very essential, and in exploring the economy of this country we have to make use of the talents and the experience of the people who are in a position to advise the Government.

I hate the idea of going through Government departments alone to look for people. If we really want to plan the economy of the

country let us comb the country and get experts. Let us get people from the universities, let us get people from the Government Service, let us get people from the labour movements and let us also get people from business houses to sit together and plan, so that we may be able to decide how much a labourer should earn, how much we should offer to a clerk, how much we should pay a manager and how much is to be paid to a Minister. We should not leave all these things in the way the British people left them for us. It is not in the interest of this country to continue to retain the British system of economic planning. After all, these people left us without any industry, they were only concerned with the collection of taxes and exploitation of our raw materials.

I quite appreciate the fact that the Government has done something to improve our economy, but I feel they should do more. There are people outside this Parliament who are suffering. There is dissatisfaction everywhere, and something has to be done to improve the situation; otherwise, we are in trouble.

The other point which is also a challenge to the Minister is how to improve the quality of our food. We are told by experts that the life span in this country is 40 years. In Europe and America it is between 65 and 70 years. If the life span in Nigeria is so low compared with what is obtaining in Europe and America, this is partly due to the quality of the food we eat. I feel the Government should do something about this. We all want our life span to be increased so that some of us can live for 100 years or more.

I do not want to belabour this point because I have made the point during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, but I am only saying this again so that the Minister may take note and see what he can do to improve the situation. We look up to him to help the country and to fight this disease which has plagued other independent African countries due to false economic planning. This is a technical subject, and something of interest to everybody. I can assure the Minister that if he needs the co-operation of those of us in the Labour Movements and those who can help him both in this House and outside it, he will get it. Once a Minister is willing to take advice and is amenable to public opinion, he will always

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progress. But when a Minister refuses to take advice and feels that he has the monopoly of intelligence, nobody will co-operate with him, and he can never progress.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

11.55 a.m.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :
In supporting this Head I wish to make very few remarks. It is becoming more difficult to understand the Regional and the Federal responsibility. Economic development is not only the responsibility of the Federal Government but also that of the Regional Governments. It is however too early to assess the achievements of the Ministry of Economic Development, and I hope that closer co-operation will be made between the Federal and the Regional Governments in order to make our Six-Year Development Programme a success.

I now come to the question of aids from foreign countries. It is disheartening to see that foreign aid in respect of agricultural projects from which the Minister said last year that the Regional Governments will benefit is not forthcoming. I think this is unfortunate because this is the first year of our Six-Year Development Planning when we are supposed to have the first anniversary and offer three hearty cheers to those who have helped us. The Minister has made it quite clear that our agricultural projects have not been having the support of foreign countries. I would like to advise the Minister in this respect that we should not depend on foreign aid alone. We should explore the possibility of having aid from the big firms in Nigeria who have been benefiting from our agricultural products. Companies like U.A.C. and others which have their headquarters in England should spear-head the question of aid to this country. The development of our agricultural products will be to their own advantage. They will be the first to benefit from it. I therefore appeal to the Minister to see that these companies are approached with a view to aiding this country.

The other point I would like to make is the question of retail trade. We come to the Floor of this House every year to complain that the retail trade is still being monopolised

by foreign firms. I think the time has come when the Federal and the Regional Governments should make concrete arrangements to see that the retail and distributive trades are only handled by indigenous people. It is no use for us to come here every year to talk of the retail trade being handled by foreigners. We should make efforts ourselves to see that these trades are handled by the indigenous people.

Co-operation is needed here because it is not only the Federal Government but also the Regional Governments who are responsible for their trade in this respect. I appeal to the Minister to have consultations with his Colleagues in the Regions and make concrete plans, give a specific time for the retail trade to be taken over by indigenous people.

Here I think the question of restoring companies could be mentioned because retail trade is monopolised by foreigners. I suggest that conditions should be imposed when licences are issued to foreigners specifying a time limit when foreigners must surrender such trade to indigenous people or else conditions should be imposed so that such trade will not be handled by foreigners alone. In other words, they should be made to combine with our people.

Last time we made mention of many industries which could be established in this country and others which could be improved in order to succeed in our economic development. One Member mentioned one industry which is very encouraging in the North. It is one of the best industries and if the Minister, through his research, could help the Northern Region a lot could be achieved in flour industry. I appeal to the Minister to see that the experiment which has proved successful is encouraged by this Government.

Every hour we are made to understand that flour is imported into this country whereas if our wheat industry is encouraged by this Government and the Regional Governments the importation of flour could be stopped and the one produced in this country could be used.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed) : On a point of information, we have got a flour mill which

can produce sufficient flour for the need of the whole of Nigeria. We no longer import flour into this country.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : I appeal to the Minister to see that the flour industry is encouraged in this respect. I should also like to advise the Minister to see that duplication of efforts is stopped between Regional and Federal Governments in our economic programme. The economic programme of the nation should come first and foremost.

I beg to support.

12.05 p.m.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba North) : It is well known that the financial resources of a nation constitute the pivot on which the nation revolves. It is also well known that the economic development of a nation constitutes another pivot upon which the financial resources revolve. In view of that, we should examine the revolution of our financial resources and our economic development, or on what sort of pivot they revolve. Do they make a jagged, distorted and staccato sort of revolution, or do they make a smooth, progressive revolution?

The greatest nation takes care first and foremost of its economic development. In view of the fact that economic development is so important, I feel that of the total amount voted for the Six-Year Development Plan, an appreciable sum of money, a very big slice should be devoted towards our economic development.

About a year ago the Minister of Economic Development got up on the Floor of this House and made a pronouncement in the course of which he said that his Ministry would see to the total eradication of mosquitoes and malaria fever in this country. That is a very great step towards development. But one full year has gone out of the Six-Year Development Programme and I wonder how many mosquitoes have been destroyed in the constituencies of all the hon. Members. I know—

The Chairman : Order. I think while we appreciate that there is almost a limitless scope in this discussion, we have to draw a line between what belongs to the Department

of Public Health and what belongs to the Ministry of Economic Development.

Mr Odebunmi : If we refer to the *Hansard* of a year ago, we will see the amount of time the Minister of Economic Development devoted to his speech on the eradication of mosquitoes. I would like—

The Chairman : Order. It may have been relevant that day but I think to-day it probably belongs to the Ministry of Health.

Mr Odebunmi : I am marshalling my points, Mr Chairman. It constitutes development. Drugs are made to fight malaria fever. Most of the raw materials are obtained from overseas and I know that right here in our country we can develop drugs from herbs of trees, from the roots of our trees and from our leaves. Such drugs could easily compete favourably with Quinacrine, Daraprine and all other drugs—

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : I think the hon. Member is irrelevant because this item he is discussing here belongs to the Ministry of Health.

The Chairman : I think he is more relevant now he is discussing uses to which our raw materials could be put. What the Chair objects to is discussing what the Ministry of Health should do.

Mr Odebunmi : Nigeria certainly could have more of these different types of herbs of trees, roots and leaves being a tropical country. So we are imploring our Minister in charge of Economic Development to please see that his Ministry taps the resources from our local herbs.

I should like to say a word or two about imported canned meat, cereals, beans, etc. I think more money should be devoted to the development and preservation of our locally produced vegetables, spices and fruits which in themselves are seasonal. We know certain times in the year when with six pence we can get spices to fill a basket and certain times of the year when six pence worth of spices can hardly fill our nostril. If we can develop a very good canning industry, I feel that much more money will be saved in this country and there will be less importation of these canned products.

[MR ODEBUNMI]

More money should be devoted to the improvement of our fish, meat, pine-apples, bananas, cereals, and various spices so that we can get these things produced in our country.

With these few words, I support.

Chief M. W. Ubani (Aba Central): I have very little comments to make on this Ministry and I am doing so to remind the Minister of the importance and responsibility attached to his Ministry.

As regards planning and scheming of all other Ministries, his Ministry is a rallying point for the consideration and development of all the plans we have. In fact, it will mean nothing to the people of the country if the plans do not lead to their aspirations. I think that the hon. Minister of Economic Development will not be aggrieved if we point out to him where we need his serious consideration and on various things that matter in our country.

On the question of retail trade, I think we need to know how far it has really gained sufficient co-operation from the Ministry of Economic Development. We have agreed that it is necessary to remove the expatriate firms from the retail trade. What then is the effect on the people—on the common man? We have agreed also that those Africans who engage in retail trade must be able to find ways and means by which the staff formerly engaged by the expatriate firms will also be retained and given assistance to exist otherwise what we call the common man, has not yet found his feet. It is very difficult to know how depressed the people are as far as our economic planning is concerned.

The position of our raw materials requires very serious consideration. I think everybody realises that the world needs our cocoa, palm produce, etc. But there are other raw materials in our country, as an hon. Member has mentioned, such as banana, plantain, even paw-paw that require to be developed. I would like to see a board particularly set up for the development of these raw materials which we might consider as not very important. Even the roots in our country require to be developed and I want the Minister to take a serious view of setting up such boards that

will take into consideration the development of our raw materials starting from the basic materials.

Our industrial development will not be possible unless we turn our minds towards the idea of developing our own raw materials. Our yam and corn should be developed in such a way that they will be good for human consumption and any surplus can be exported overseas. We shall then be making a headway towards real economic development of the country. There must be research departments that should be fully engaged in carrying out research into these little things which we produce in our own country.

We should give commendation to the Minister of Economic Development on one or two things. But before doing that, I am sure you will remember, Mr Chairman, that a Member on the Floor of this House spoke at length on the census of the country. As he was allowed to make reference to it, I feel that you will allow me to make reference to the work the Minister did when the census was in his portfolio. I would not like Members on both Sides of the House to be touchy when criticism is being levelled or when a Minister and his portfolio are being mentioned and then Members begin to feel that their party is suffering. We all appreciated the difficulties of the Minister of Economic Development when he was in charge of the census, and when he made a statement which really caused a flare in the House we did not mince words. We came out and told the truth. I think the hon. Member who praised him very well on that issue should remember that if the Minister of Economic Development was so capable in handling that particular assignment, there should have been no reason whatsoever for the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister to take that particular assignment from him. It should be made abundantly clear to the hon. Member who seemed to have attacked other Members who opposed the Minister on the Floor of this House that Members are entitled to express their opinion on the issue of great moment to the nation.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North): On a point of order, I did not attack the Members on the other Side of the House.

The Chairman: That is a point of information.

Chief Ubani : I feel that we should all leave that matter to rest where it is. I feel too that when the time comes for the recounting of the census which is now in the capable hands of our Prime Minister everybody will be entitled to know exactly what is going on with this matter that is very dear to the hearts of every hon. Member in this House as well as the public.

I think the Minister of Economic Development should be congratulated for setting up the Man Power Board. This Man Power Board is a thing which everybody had been very anxious to see set up. Now that it has come, it will have connection with our scholarships, and will build up the manpower that will be respectable as far as this nation is concerned. This is something that should be dear to the heart of the Minister of Economic Development. Unless we have good manpower, manpower that is not diseaseridden, manpower that is not suffering from hunger and manpower that is not meant for the benefit of the few to the detriment of the greater number of people, we will not be moving in the right direction towards our economic development. In fact, our economic stability cannot go on except we take all these things into consideration.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) rose—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, I filed an Amendment to this Motion and I shall be the first to speak on the Ministry of Economic Development's Head of the Estimates.

The Chairman : I am sure the Chair would not have ignored calling the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) if he had been here.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : On a point of order, is *Dr Okeke* doctor of Amendment ?

Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) : As from yesterday, I have been standing up and I do not know when I will be called to speak. I have not been called to speak since yesterday.

The Chairman : I am sure the hon. Member will like to know that both the Chair and the rest of the Members delight in seeing him in

the House. The more he stands, the more likely it is that he will catch the Chairman's eye.

The Minister of Economic Development : I do not think that anybody can under-estimate the importance of the economic problems of our country, nor can anybody say that the problems are easy ones. When we talk about improving the conditions of living of all our people, I often find it difficult to describe briefly what we are really talking about. I often say to myself, "Look at the farmers living in the remote parts of the country with their wives and children, who perhaps have never seen a motor car, a doctor, a hospital or a dispensary and who have no water supply, electricity, and some of them living in the thatched houses without proper latrine and without schools for their children to attend". I often say to myself that we have really got an extremely difficult problem. If we really mean to bring the standard of these people to anything like the standards we have in Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Kano and Kaduna—it is very difficult—it is going to take us so many years to accomplish. There is no doubt about it. Therefore, when the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) spoke and expressed concern over our economic problem and said that if we are not careful, we shall find ourselves in trouble, I could understand him very easily. I am sure hon. Members understood him too. The problems are really difficult, but we are determined to solve them, and since there is the will, I think we will succeed.

The hon. Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has also spoken about the weakness of our planning. He has mentioned the insufficient co-ordination between the Federal and the Regional Ministries of Economic Planning. I do not think that we can have a better co-ordination than the one we already have under the existing Constitution. The Regional Governments are allowed to plan their economy and we cannot dictate to them on this subject. However, we have the co-ordinating machinery, which is the Joint Planning Committee, where members from the Federal and Regional Governments meet every month to discuss the economic problems of the country—the projects of the Regional and Federal Governments.

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For instance, where there is any subject which concerns the whole Federation—like the Niger Dam project—the views of the Joint Planning Committee comprising all the experts of the Governments of the Federation, are taken into account. In fact, it is on the views of the Joint Planning Committee that the National Economic Council bases its discussions. Therefore, there is co-ordination. In fact, if Members know the extent to which the Regional Governments and the Federal Government co-operate in the planning of our economy I am sure they will be very pleased about it. I can assure hon. Members that there is even a day-to-day contact between the Regional Ministries of Economic Planning and the Federal Ministry of Economic Development. Under the present circumstances, where each Regional Government has the right to plan its own economy, we can hardly have a better system.

My hon. Friend the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) also talked about the timber industry and said that it is being exploited mainly by foreigners. Well, that can be true. It is a situation which cannot be helped. All hon. Members know that our policy in the country is that we should allow foreigners to come and invest in our country, to employ our people and also to give us loans and, in turn, they get a fair return for their investments. If this policy is accepted, then we cannot complain about expatriates doing very well in the timber industry. This does not exclude our people from investing in the timber industry, because there is still room for many more people to come in and take part. For this reason, I do not think that we can complain about the participation of foreigners in the timber industry. Unless we have got local people who can take over, I think it is not sound to say that they should leave it. When the foreign people who are in the timber industry leave, who will take their position? The Governments can take part in timber industry if they like.

In general terms, the Doctor spoke of uncontrolled exploitation of our natural resources, such as oil and mineral resources. I think the same argument as I have indicated above applies.

One of our problems in economic development is the shortage of capital and the shortage of the manpower, the technical know-how. While we try to obtain capital and the technical know-how, is it not then reasonable for people who have both of these means to come and develop the country, sometimes in partnership with the Federal Government or the Regional Governments? We all know that the oil refinery, for example, is a joint venture between the Federal Government and the Oil Companies. There is nothing wrong in this, and I am sure all hon. Members in this House agree with me about this. We have got the resources; we cannot develop them because we have not got the money and the technical know-how; then somebody comes and says, "Let us put our efforts together and exploit this for our mutual advantage." There is nothing wrong in it. Since Members agree that it is sound, we cannot complain about that either. If our local people or our Governments have the resources, then certainly we can control, to some extent, certain aspects of our industries, that is if we are to choose between two things: either to agree to develop with the participation of expatriates, or we say no and reserve them until such a time as we ourselves have got both the money and the technical know-how. That will take some years and then, of course, I think, it is a sort of wastage. Even in America, foreign participation, as hon. Members all know, played a great part before America came to its present position. Therefore, I would not like to say more on this. The hon. Doctor, I am sure, appreciates these points.

About our human resources, that is the training of our people, we have programmes for training our people in various fields. We send our people to other countries to learn different types of techniques; in our universities also we have our boys learning to do the difficult work of planning, research, and so on. We do recognise the shortage of trained people, but at the same time, we are pleased that we are doing something to remedy the situation.

I have been praised by my hon. Friend the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Ganyamma*). I found his speeches very encouraging, and that is what one would expect from a friend. I am not going to say anything on the subject he mentioned. I will only like to tell him that I feel very much encouraged.

With us human beings, we all like to be given credit when we have done something, but criticisms we do not like.

I will go back, Mr Chairman, because I have asked your indulgence to allow me to take the Committee up to the time we have this afternoon.

The hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) talked about the Manpower Board. I am glad he is happy that the Federal Government has set up this Manpower Board. It is the realisation of the problems of the country in manpower that made the Federal Government to set up the Board. I have taken note of the hon. Member's criticism of the composition of the membership of the Board. He suggested that there should be more members from trade unions and from other sections of the community. He has suggested also that members of the Manpower Planning Board should tour, go to other countries of the world to see how they handle their manpower problems. I am sure the hon. Member will be pleased to know that at the moment the Secretary of the Manpower Planning Board, Dr Yesufu, who is a Nigerian, is on a tour of India, England and Geneva. He has gone round to see how manpower planning is done in these countries, and he will be going to other countries also, not he alone, probably one or two of his assistants will accompany him when he goes out next time to see how other countries handle their manpower problems. We are encouraging Dr Yesufu. Some hon. Members probably know him. He is a very clever man. He was in Geneva some time. We intend to make him really a Specialist in this manpower problem and we will give him every encouragement.

On Statistics, the hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) expressed rather unfavourable views on the work of the Statistics Department. I can assure him that the Department has been doing very useful work. The Journal in which Members read about Nigeria is prepared by that Department; the *Digest of Statistics* which I hope hon. Members get, is also prepared by the Statistics Department of my Ministry. In addition, the rural economic survey, which the hon. Member has mentioned and which is in progress, is being undertaken by that Department. The Department also does keep a very important Information which is used by the Government,

especially, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Statistics such as the percentage of trade done by Nigerians, by expatriates; the import of commodities, who does them what percentage each company does, or each individual importer does—are prepared by that Department. But some of these things are confidential and are not normally given out to the public. Otherwise, I can tell the hon. Member that we get very many valuable pieces of information about all aspects, including cost of living. Of course, the rural economic survey will contain so many valuable informations, and that also will give more detailed information about the cost of living. But information on the cost of living is not a difficult one. I am not quite sure, the hon. Member may complain about the accuracy or the system of doing it, but I can tell hon. Members that it is being done monthly. In each Provincial Headquarters we get information about market prices, about wage increases—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North):
Not fluctuation in market prices?

The Minister of Economic Development: No, cost of living. We do know from the index we get from the provinces how prices on things have gone up, articles imported or locally produced and everything, and from that we do know the trend of the cost of living, whether it is going up or coming down. If the hon. Member can write to me specifically, I can supply him with any information he wants on this subject.

On the question of there being no food in the market, or poor food quality, that is true. I think the art of eating good food is something which we must learn, because I believe that in this country we have milk, eggs, good fish, and so on. But is it not true that people rather prefer buying expensive fancy dresses to buying some of these things for themselves or for their children? If somebody spends £3 monthly on new clothing instead of constantly supplying the family with milk, eggs, and good fish, then hon. Members cannot blame the Government. I think it is for us if the food in the market is bad, or if we have got variety of foodstuffs, which we have, and we do not eat it, then it is not the fault of anybody. It is lack of appreciation on our

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part, which I think is improving. We are all learning. It is not easy to change habit. I find, for example, that my native food—the one which I ate from my youth to my school age and so on—is the one which I still appreciate, even though it is poorer than definitely what doctors may call a balanced food. It is not a balanced food, I quite admit. It is either *tuwo*, *brabusko* or *fura* and I still eat them myself. I fully appreciate that they are actually lacking in vitamins and proteins. As I have said, we have to learn these things ourselves first of all, get accustomed to these types of food, and then we should give our food, and not to eat all the meat and then leave just the soup and the rest of it to the mother.

I think it will take a very long time if I try to answer all the important points raised by the hon. Member from Owerri North. I think I should go to some other points—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): What about the £9 million from the United Nations?

The Minister of Economic Development: Quite honestly, I was about to ask the hon. Member because it is not clear to me. I do not think the United Nations has given us any £9 million.

Mr Mbah: The Minister told us that last year.

The Minister of Economic Development: I did not. Probably, the hon. Member is confusing that with the £9 million of the American aid of £81 million promised us by America as grants and loans. We did have £9 million which was shared between the Regions. But I can assure the hon. Member, and I am positive about that, that there was no question of any £9 million given to us by the United Nations. If we had such an amount, I am sure the hon. Member will agree with me that no Government would have spent such an amount without hon. Members knowing it and without the details coming in the Estimates.

Mr Mbah: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister read the speech.

The Minister of Economic Development: Now, the same hon. Member spoke about sticking to British planning of our economy. We have changed from the British plan. We did as

much as possible to plan our own economy. We think we can plan our economy, and our Six-Year Development Programme is definitely quite different from what the British people used to do for us. I agree with the hon. Member. What did the British people do? I agree with him—nothing. They simply prepared a revenue and expenditure list and it was a straightforward simple thing, I agree. The hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) would agree with me at the same time that the Six-Year Development Programme is definitely quite different from what the British people used to do for us. But why should the British people plan for Nigeria anyway? They did not come to develop this country. Why should they?

In the question of agriculture, hon. Members talk about doing this and doing that instead of using £2,000 to buy a lorry to do transport business, which everybody is doing. Now, ten people each contributing £2,000, can get £20,000 to do plantation. That will make all the difference. But the problem now is that everybody seems to go to contract work because they get quick results. If hon. Members want to change the pattern of agriculture, then one of the things we can do is to resolve that we should not all go to retail trade—sugar, salt, shirtings—we should not all be contractors; we should not all go to buy lorries to be transporters. There are too many people on these things. We should now put our money together and go and do plantation.

Now, the Palm Oil Research Institute near Benin employed some thousands of people. If our people can put their money together and form farm settlements like that, they will employ 2,000 to 3,000 people, get very good harvest and good investment. Therefore, do not leave the changing of the agricultural pattern and so on to the Government alone. I think our people in private business can do a lot more. Therefore, my advice to hon. Members is to tell their friends, brothers and colleagues all over the country to form companies and then invest their money in agricultural settlements or plantations. If we can do that, I am sure we shall soon solve the problem of food shortage in Nigeria. In Nigeria we produce practically everything that all hon. Members know, such things as wheat, barley, rice, yam, millet, guinea corn, and yet the prices of these things

the hon. Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) is speaking on.

The Chairman : Actually, this expenditure is for the whole Federation.

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are very high, because we do not produce sufficient of each. If people can go and put money to it, I am sure the cost of living will come down and we shall also not find it necessary to import some of these things.

We now import rice from Thailand in Bangkok, and do hon. Members know that it sells cheaper than the rice we produce in this country? One can buy rice from Thailand, East of India and still make profit, because it is still cheaper after the deduction of ocean freights. One can still buy rice from Thailand for about £5 and make about 30s profit.

The Chairman : Order! I hope the Minister could wind up in three minutes.

The Minister of Economic Development : Thank you, Mr Chairman, I think I will stop now. The trouble is that I find the points raised by hon. Members to be very interesting. I think I will now wind up. In fact, you have been very kind, Mr Chairman.

The hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) made mention of the wheat industry. I think that is quite possible and I would like to inform him that in the project at Hadejia in the Northern Region wheat and barley are being produced.

I think that what we need is patience. Our Six-Year Development Programme has just started. It is only one year old and the preliminary survey will take some years. We cannot complete everything in six years. It is just impossible. It has never been possible anywhere, but I am sure that with patience, honesty, the good sense that one observes from hon. Members all over the country, and the eagerness with which everyone looks forward to the development of this country, we shall be able to achieve our objective and improve the standard of living of our people.

Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) : I want to speak on the unhealthy limitation of the Federal Government in regard to development. This unhealthy limitation is very deplorable. The Regions as a whole have minimised the achievements of the Federal Government. In fact, if we look into the whole affairs, it appears that the Federal Government is just like a team of endless

of Nigeria? We cannot keep on developing Lagos while other parts of the country are languishing in starvation, stagnation, hunger, trade paralysis, economic depression, unemployment and all such things. So, I am asking

researchers practising only on the toy lights of a village.

The Federal Government can be described as both the father and mother of the whole Federation, but the present state of affairs has no doubt placed the people in the rural areas and in the minority areas, particularly in my own Region which is the Eastern Region and with emphasis on the old Calabar Administrative province, in a very pitiable condition of life, quite hopeless, lifeless and with disrupted liberty. Everything is perishing in view of the fact that the Federal Government has not been able to establish any industry or initiate any development projects in the areas. Everything has been left in the hands of the Regional Government. This is a terrible state of affairs. It strikes terror into the minds of the people all the time, and there comes a time when terror gives way to madness and madness incites eruption without definite intent but with only an instinct of grief.

Patient endurance of injustice is more difficult than hard work. The people in the minority areas and in the rural areas must have to speak their minds and tell this Government that it should not leave everything in the hands of the Regional Governments. If the Federal Government is the master that it claims to be then it must initiate development projects in the Regions. I know that the Regional Governments are autonomous but I still feel that, in the question of development, the Federal Government should shoulder the responsibility for establishing industries in the Regions.

Any Region in Nigeria is bigger than the Federal Territory and there is no need concentrating the whole money in the Federal Territory and establishing everything there. If this continues, the Regions must continue to complain that enough has not been done for them. What I am trying to say is that the Federal and the Regional Governments should begin now to size up things in order to help the people in the Regions. The Federal Government should take the initiative and establish agricultural projects anywhere in the Region so as to help the development of that particular rural area. If that is done, the people will then begin to think that if nothing is done for them by the Regional Government, they can at least look forward to the Federal Government to come to their aid.

[MR EFFIONG-SPATTS]

virgin forest with trees measuring about ten feet across, and yet a Cheap Wood Industry cannot be established in Calabar because there were certain conditions not fulfilled. If these things had been done at the Federal level that industry would have been established.

We keep on saying—"Oh! the North is dominating the South, the North is preponderant". But when it exists in the Eastern Region we say it is a Regional subject.

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) : On a point of order, the Chairman has had occasion to warn hon. Members that they cannot use the Floor of this honourable House to castigate the behaviour of any Regional Government. More especially, the discussion at the moment is on economic development. It has nothing to do with the location of industries, particularly with reference to the Regional Governments.

The Chairman : The hon. Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) is referring to the economic development of rural areas which is in order.

Mr Effiong-Spatts : All I am saying is that the rural areas should be developed. When we talk of the economic development of a country it does not come from the moon or the stars, it is something that must develop from the conscience of man, and the conscience of man develops these things. Let us have farming, let us have glass industry, let us have wood industry. Before a country can be said to be economically developed, it must have all the basic industries, and these industries should be sited all over the country. It is not only by training economists, these economists we train are only theoretical economists. Let our people work, let them learn by experience, establish industries in the rural areas; let the people learn and quickly too.

I will give another example why I think industries should be established in the rural areas. Again there was the case of one Mr Blithe who had established a banana industry. Unfortunately due to soil erosion the scheme failed. Now, Mr Blithe back in England has discovered that he can establish either a paper industry or glass industry. He made all the plans to come to Calabar and last

November he submitted his plans to the Regional Government; but since then nothing has been heard from the Regional Government because the industry was to be sited at Calabar. That is why we are saying that if we cannot be treated well by our Regional Governments the Federal Government should come—

The Chairman : Really, the hon. Member should not drag the policy of the Regional Government into this debate.

Mr Effiong-Spatts : I am confident that if the Federal Government had been responsible for the distribution and siting of industries all over the country Calabar would not have been discriminated against. We have too many of our people coming from the rural areas to look for jobs in the Regional capitals or Lagos. If industries are established in the rural areas our people will be able to look for jobs in their area.

I have said once in this honourable House that economic development is not only the question of having the B.A. or the B.Sc. degree. It is a question of sending out Nigerians to train in developed countries of the world. Let them go to the developed countries and see how these things are done. It is then that they can learn on the spot and when they come back we must give them work to do. Let them apply what they have learnt to our raw materials out here. Give them the scope and opportunity to develop, to make research into our own goods and find out things for themselves.

When we say we are going into partnership with a firm, most of the firms we go into partnership with, although we hold the greatest percentage of shares, still it is the foreigners who control these industries. What I would advise the Government to do is that when these trained Nigerians come back they should be given facilities to establish their own industry, they can even be given loans to establish on their own. Government may even build workshops for them.

We keep on shouting about nationalisation in this country, we want the Government to nationalise other people's property. Let our Government finance our own men so that they too can stand on their feet instead of nationalising other people's industries. When the Government sees that these people are well established they can withdraw and let the people carry on.

in their trading activities. It is all right to say that the indigenous people should only be given licences for importing cement or for importing one thing or the other, but we must remember that it takes about three to four months for an indent to be filled.

increasing importance and that should be recognised at this stage. In my humble view I think we ought to create a department or appoint a high-powered official to do the job of advising the Government on ways and

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Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : May I call your attention, Sir, to Standing Order 3 (2)—

A Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him, provided that Mr Speaker may change the allocation from time to time.

The hon. Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) has been moving forward all the time.

The Chairman : Order ! If there is no hon. Member sitting on the seat I think he is quite right in sitting there or speaking from that position.

Mr Effiong-Spatts : Thank you, Mr Chairman. All I did was to move nearer to the microphone so that I can be heard. The last time I spoke it was recorded that I was inaudible.

Working in industry does not need very high education. It is just like carpentry work. Members do not seem to know much about it, but I am saying what I know. Industry does not need very high education. If we take a boy to any place, show him calcium, show him many other things, and teach him how to analyse them, then ask him to produce things from banana, he will be able to produce them. I am talking of what I know. I am not talking of oral education. Industry is almost like music. Take anybody before an organ, teach him the alphabets and show him how to play, and he will be ready to do these things ; so that when we are trying to look for our people who are B.Sc's., M.A., and the rest of it, it means that industry in the rural areas is losing badly because there are so many in Nigeria needing development.

That was why I asked the Minister of Economic Development to go into economic survey, and I am very pleased that he has gone into it, and I am definitely sure that if the economic survey is very well conducted, he will find many young men coming out with novel hand-work, and then the Government can improve upon that hand-work, so that this country could be developed without depending on expatriate development. If we depend upon expatriate development we will be languishing in hunger throughout the whole day in Nigeria.

Thank you, Sir.

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

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : On a point of order, order 26 (10). My observation here is that the Chairman does not look at us at all. All he does is to look at the list in front of him and people continue to bring this list every day. We are not all from the same Constituency, and one man cannot be given all the chance to speak all day while others remain silent. That is my point, Sir. The hon. Member standing has spoken already.

Another hon. Member : As the hon. Gentleman has said, I myself come from a Constituency, and I can assure the Chairman that ever since the opening of this Session, I have not had a chance to register my views. I have been approaching the Chairman several times, but there was no chance.

The Chairman : These irrelevant points of order are really unwarranted.

Mr E. C. Akwivu : I support the expenditure on this Head. In so doing, Sir, I would like to crave your indulgence to refer to the quarrel picked up by my hon. Friend the Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) about the minority areas. May I say, with respect, that the old Calabar province was very prosperous in commerce and otherwise until the people of that area started to be hostile to none natives of their area.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I thank the Chairman for giving me this opportunity to raise this point of order. May I refer you very respectfully, Sir, to the occasion when I was moving a Motion here for the Government to take over the ferry service being run by the Elder Dempster Lines.

An hon. Member : Is that a point of order ?

Mr Ekanem : My point of order is that of improper motive. My hon. Friend, the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) whom I very much respect, is very fond of ridiculing the name of Calabar when he comes here, and I would wish, with your permission, that he be very severely warned.

The Chairman : If you have any bones to pick this is not the place to do so.

Mr Akwivu : I did not want to dwell on this matter at length. It is only that the Member for Calabar dwelt exhaustively on this point while the Member for Enyong South. (*Mr Ekanem*) was not in the House.

[MR AKWIWU]

be followed with great caution, and if at all it should be followed I think we should concentrate our efforts far more on finding less harmless jobs for them to do than taking them to the Army to train them and leave them unemployed.

£435,090 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 31.—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

Question proposed, That £287,050 for Head 31—Agricultural Research—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): I noticed that this Head deals with research on agriculture.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo): On a point of order, I am sorry to say, Mr Chairman, in most cases we are overlooked here in this corner. We know that we are in the extreme corner, but I hope the Chairman will help us next time by giving us a fair opportunity to speak. For three days we have been standing without catching your eye.

Mr Gbolagunte: I was saying the main duty of the Federal Government in agriculture is research. I just want to suggest that a lot of research be made in the preservation of certain food stuffs and cash crops. I am referring to yams, beans, maize and other food crops. Take the example of a farmer who cannot sell all his yams, he cannot consume all, and unfortunately he cannot preserve them till the next year. The yams will rot. I hope the Ministry of Economic Development will help in finding a way for farmers to preserve their yams.

The second point is about maize. Here too, I hope the Ministry will help in trying to find some more use for maize. The other time I suggested that we can make use of maize for flour. Wheat is being used for making flour with which we make our Nigerian bread. I feel if a research is made flour from maize can also be used for making bread.

Let me go back to the question of yams. We can also find market for yams outside the country. I understand several people in other

West African countries eat yams although they do not grow them as much as we do. Even the people of Northern Nigeria do not grow as much yams as the people of Eastern Nigeria.

Chief A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North East): On a point of order it appears that the hon. Member on Seat number 111 is sleeping now.

Mr Chairman: I believe Mr Abii is not sleeping. He does not look sleepy either. He only bent his head on his seat.

Mr Gbolagunte: Moreover I think we can find money to make researches into many of these local crops. Take guinea corn for example. Guinea corn is grown in Northern Nigeria. It is also grown in my constituency. I was made to understand people make local drink out of guinea corn. I think with the help of the Ministry of Economic Planning this should be encouraged with a view to finding a new locally made wine from the guinea corn.

Beans is also grown in Northern Nigeria. We buy beans from the North for consumption here in the South. But unfortunately we find competition the importation into this country of tinned beans. Tinned beans is sent to this country from overseas by Heinz and as a matter of fact people in this country prefer Heinz beans to ours. Instead of importing tinned beans into this country why would the Federal Government not find ways and means of tinning our local beans in order to avoid unfavourable competition from abroad? We could export our tinned beans as well if we succeed in doing this. That is what we should have done since, but unfortunately we spent a lot of money on projects that are supposed to be obsolete.

Somewhere under this expenditure I find that some amount of money is being used for subvention of certain institutions that are rather obsolete. I mention the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. I would also mention the Imperial Forestry Institute and the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. All these Imperial institutions should have been obsolete because there is nothing like Empire now. I do not know what empire is being referred to. We also have the West African Research Office on

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which we are going to spend the sum of £11,930. I think Nigeria should sever relations with such obsolete Departments.

Some time ago we were a member of the West African Cocoa Research Institute. Ghana and other West African countries back out of this institution. Why cannot Nigeria do the same thing? It is time we got Nigerian research institutions of our own to be named after this country.

This year we are going to spend only £1,000 on the rice research sub-station, Birnin Kebbi in Northern Nigeria whereas on the Rice Research in Sierra Leone we are going to spend £15,000. One thousand pounds on the rice research in Nigeria and fifteen thousand pounds on rice research in Sierra Leone. I think some thing should be done about it. That department should have by now been obsolete and we should back out of it.

I think the farmers can be helped if we experiment on the expansion of oil as well. Melon seed is grown in my constituency on a very small scale because the Government do not encourage the farmers to get more oil from this seed. The farmers can get only very little oil out of that crop. If the Government cannot encourage the farmers they might stop growing useful crop.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Although I only realised that Agriculture is a Regional subject, I have just a point to mention in connection with research which has been carried on for quite a long time. I fully agree with the hon. Member who has spoken just before me that it is time this section of the Ministry made known to the public what achievements they have made. We have been hearing of research being carried out. We have been hearing of people investigating the possibilities of evolving better crops, but we have not practically seen any results. The wheat which our great fathers were growing continues to be the same size ; it continues to be the same grain, it has no better flavour, nothing new has been added to it.

We would like to see what results this section of the Department has so far achieved in making, even in a modest way, agriculture a popular occupation in this country. What

is the reason for carrying on research work in agriculture when we know that, though Nigeria is an agricultural country, agriculture is not, particularly to the younger generations, a popular occupation ?

I would like the Ministry of Economic Development to look into this even if it means working in conjunction with other Ministries or with the Regions, and see to it that agriculture in this country is made much more popular than what it is to-day.

I beg to support.

3.50 p.m.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : I wish to say that agricultural research is an important item as it makes for economic progress. I do not associate myself with those Members who seem to say that agricultural research should be discontinued. The idea of making results available to the public as suggested by an hon. Member this morning, is a good one and I think the results have been published. The point is that some people never care to read the results which are published quarterly or yearly. There have been plenty of reports, but Members have not been reading them. I do not know whether they want publicity to be given in the newspapers or people should carry about a new type of rice or a new type of maize in the market places and along the streets so that Members may see them.

If Members can go to the places where research is carried on, they will certainly be impressed by the different species of plants and animals which are being bred. I think research departments can really experiment on giving a photographic sort of publicity that is to say, printing photographs of what has been achieved on various plants and animals, to satisfy the public.

Shettima Ali Monguno : On a point of correction—

Mr Ogbalu : I do not yield. What is he going to correct ? He cannot correct me.

The point I am making is—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, it must be made known to Members here that Shettima Ali Monguno is a United Nations expert. The hon. Mr

[MR ODULANA]

Ogbalu's not yielding to his raising of a point of correction, is a shame because he does not want to learn from an expert.

The Chairman : I note that you are trying to be a point of order expert.

Mr Ogbalu : It is amusing to listen to the specialist on a point of order which is more or less funny indeed. Let me continue with the points I was making. I was trying to say that it would be a good thing if intensive research work is carried out in various fields so that there may be increases in the cash crops which we produce and so that we may have different species of crops which are suitable for our climate.

Let me take the question of animals, for example. In the South we have an important breed of cows, that is the ones we call native cows in the Southern Provinces. Proper research work has not been carried out in this direction so as to get a good breed which can really thrive in the South. A really satisfactory research work on this line will do the country a great deal of good.

One other point I wish to make is on the efforts which the Regional Governments are making in the field of farm settlements. Here again research could be carried out in the farm settlements. I had really thought that the Federal Government would establish an agricultural bank which would enable the Regional Governments to get loans from the Federation because they are carrying out very important and gigantic tasks without which it would be difficult for this country to have a sound and firm economic structure. In this direction, therefore, research work in various stations should be encouraged.

I wish to conclude by reiterating that there is a great necessity for establishing an agricultural bank by the Federal Government, to give loans to the Regional Governments and help in their research work.

I beg to support.

Minister of State (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): On the subject of research—

Mr V. L. Lajide (Ogbomosho South): I would like to know in what Ministry the hon. Member is Minister of State.

The Chairman : He is Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Dr Mbadiwe : They do not know that the Prime Minister's Office can speak on several topics, but this question of research is an intriguing one. I believe that human existence begins with the democracy of the stomach, the standard of living of the individual.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, since we know of the democracy of the stomach, may we know what is the opposition in the stomach ?

Dr Mbadiwe : I am particularly happy that a few days ago there was a resounding acclamation of the activities and the decorum of the leadership of the hon. the Prime Minister of this Federation. I am happy that the observation has been current in this House because the beginning of an individual to me is the beginning of existence which comes from a healthy living.

I cannot but praise the Minister of Economic Development who is doing everything possible on a subject which is of concern to all of us : agricultural research, fundamental human activities. If the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister, who is the head of the Cabinet Office to which I am happy to belong must continue to discharge his obligations to this country there must be continued nutrition in agricultural research for which the Minister is responsible ; and for that reason, I am giving full support for the work he is doing.

We continue to forget that the guidance of the present and the future is the lamp post of the past, What is research ? Turning back, a review ; review to exist and exist to continue to exist for the service of others. That is the purpose of research. The day hon. Members forget research that day human existence becomes static. But we must grow. That is the fundamental rule of human organism.

When we talk of £16,000 subvention to the West African Rice Station in Sierra Leone it is chicken-feed. What is £16,000 ? I want our people to get away from the psychology of colonial mentalism.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : The language of this honourable House is English. May I ask the hon. Gentleman where 'mentalism' is in the dictionary ?

Dr Mbadiwe : When we talk of £16,000 our heads swell. We think it is something. I do not blame our people because research into colonial history is a psychology of smallness. £16,000. But £16,000 is not sufficient for the cosmetics which a lady in Hollywood uses. There are several types of rice: there is the brown rice and there is the white rice. We may feel that there is no nutrition in the white rice and we are still importing a certain type of rice. But if the Minister of Economic Development with the research stations in several sections of Africa can demonstrate that we can grow that type of rice in this country on only a subvention of £16,500, he would have saved this country in foreign exchanges so many millions of pounds in rice that we buy from various countries of the world.

This Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad is not an imperial college in Nigeria. We cannot dictate to Trinidad or any country in Africa. The Prime Minister of the Federation, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, made it clear that we are not to dictate to any country of the world. If they want to come along, the better, but we cannot dictate. If they want to use the Imperial College it is up to them, but there is no imperial college in Nigeria. We have changed that psychology for good and it will not come back here.

I want to say that the Minister of Economic Development is a happy Minister and successor to a programme of economic stabilisation: we can export and import. But what we grow in our country is fundamental to the exchange and sterling stability of our own currency. I am sure that hon. Members know that. We have the land and we have the manpower to dig deep into research to go back.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of information, may I say that every inch of the ground in my constituency is suitable, very fertile for rice growing. From Lagos to Abeokuta; it is the best place for rice growing and I support it.

Dr Mbadiwe : I hope that the young Minister of Economic Development will take note. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu spoke last night in a great fever of emotion and said that he was correct. We want to feel that every inch of the territory of this country, no matter

where, is good for rice growing, and that should be the concern and the interest of all the people of this country. We feel that when we take a ministerial chair, it is not the chair of the N.C.N.C. or the N.P.C. or the Action Group or the U.P.P.; it is the chair of Nigeria. Where we see any good thing we say it; if it is in the North it is for the Nigerian people; if it is in the West it is not being carried to Germany, and if it is in the East it will not be carried to Moscow. It is still within our territory.

I was happy when I heard the Minister reply to many questions put to him. I was here with my great colleague, the Power of powers.

An hon. Member : Who is that?

Dr Mbadiwe : Alias the Minister of Defence. Power of powers, natural and constitutional. He answered his questions—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Is he confirming that the Minister of Defence is the power behind the Throne, because he denied recently in a press conference that he was not ruling the Cabinet?

Dr Mbadiwe : Mr Chairman, after all I am a lawyer of lawyers. I am LL.D., and my language is direct. Power of powers has nothing to do with the Cabinet and the Constitution. It is the man, and when he speaks he speaks from the noblest of hearts and I can stand to say that you cannot get a finer man anywhere in the world.

We heard the Minister of Economic Development make the submission for his office and I want to say that the money is even small and as we move higher and higher, we shall increase this vote for research. Because to research is to review, and to review is the beginning of human experience. To review at a certain stage is to return to the lamp-post of guiding fortress where human life can progress from time to time.

I support—

An hon. Member : Everything.

Dr Mbadiwe : I support everything under this Head, and I want all hon. Members to accept it in the spirit of continuity of existence of a great nation.

Several hon. Members : K.O. !

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : I think hon. Members would agree that after my Colleague and Friend, Dr Mbadiwe, has spoken, there is very little I can say. I think he has very well covered the points.

What I want to add is this question of investment in agriculture. Now, all of us in the past, and up till now, have left to the Governments the development of agriculture in the country, and that is why the expansion of agriculture has been rather limited, and it has been more on experimental basis.

If individuals can invest in agriculture, the acres of rice field which the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has just mentioned, in his area, can be cultivated. But if we request Government that it must do the research, the resettlement, and so on, then the expansion in agriculture will continue to be very slow. So, I suggest to hon. Members that when they get back to their constituencies, they should give a thought to this question of investment in agriculture.

Hon. Members should talk to people to put their moneys down for co-operative societies, small trading firms or companies, as is done in America or in Europe. In those countries agriculture has been developed mainly by private enterprises. That is why I am recommending this to Members of Parliament. Let us not all depend on petty trades. Hon. Members have all learnt about Agricultural Bank from my Colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and, so, on hon. Members' part, they should start preparing the minds of the people on this new idea of investment in agriculture.

For a moment, people should stop buying vehicles all the time, and people should cease to struggle in selling sugar, cigarettes, and so on. Everybody is doing the same thing while we have thousands and thousands, or millions of acres of fertile land uncultivated, and this will only be cultivated if private people can put their money into agriculture.

Now, we can, for example, successfully grow sisal in this country and export it. It is possible to add to our export trade by exporting sisal, and I can assure hon. Members

that this is going to be a very good investment. The hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) has got a rope making industry which will be established very soon. Now, there should be people who are ready to start the farms to grow the sisal and sell to his factory, and there should also be sisal growing for export. We can soon earn £3 to £5 million, because in Tanganyika, for example, export of sisal is a very important item there. We, too, can do it in Nigeria. And melon seeds which another hon. Member has just mentioned, can be grown also in sufficient quantities. There are markets for all these things. There is market also for sunflower seeds, and if we can produce large quantities the outside countries which do not grow these things can buy them, and then we shall get more foreign earnings.

Research in agriculture truly has been theoretical, as people say, but I would repeat that we have got very good results, and if any Member of this Parliament or anybody else wishes to have these results made available, I can assure him that I would gladly do it. Anybody who wants to start farming can ask me, and we can give as much as we can about improved seeds, and if required, instruct on how to use fertilisers, and so on.

An hon. Member : What about money ?

The Minister of Economic Development : As far as the money is concerned, that I am afraid is a bit difficult, and there I think I would come to the importance which the Agricultural Bank will play. In the business world, without the co-operation of the banks no one can do anything. If the banks are ready to give short-term loans to farmers, then, of course, a nine-month loan, or an eleven-month loan, will help greatly. Unless the commercial banks are able to do that, I am afraid the question of money will continue to be a problem just as it is on the question of distributive trade which the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivwu*) has mentioned. The problem will be solved if the banks can give short-term loans for import and export business. The answer is very simple.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, I do not think that I have got anything more to add.

Whereupon Mr D. D. U. Okay rose in his seat and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put and agreed to.

£287,050 for Head 31—Agriculture (Research)—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 32.—FISHERIES SERVICE

Question proposed, That £61,210 for Head 32—Fisheries Service—stand part of the Schedule.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I might appear critical this afternoon, but I have just the same thing to say as well on Fisheries.

We are not really going to wait again, certainly not, after we have achieved our independence. When one thinks of so large a lake like Chad with millions of fishes in it, one wonders why we should still be importing fish into this country. The conditions under which fishes are caught in Lake Chad, smoked, transported, and sold still remain almost the same as they had been prior to the British advent in this country. I am appealing to the Minister concerned to see to it that there should not be merely a very small scale individualistic development in fisheries in this country, but a much larger scale of development to improve the conditions of people whose occupation is fishing. This is still a part of the research which I would like the Minister to bear in mind. If research is carried out, it will yield results, no matter how long it takes. We are to a certain extent naturally impatient, but when we develop a thing like fishery for 40 or 50 years and the conditions remain the same, we might as well leave it.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu) : This is a matter of establishment of—

Mr D. D. U. Okay (PortHarcourt) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) is from Enugu, and there is no water in Enugu. I do not know what he is going to say about fishery.

The Chairman : Of course, I do not know whether the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) is making such a remark because of his limited parliamentary experience. A Member can support as well as oppose an expenditure. As an Enugu man the hon. Member

(*Mr Chiedozie*) might support the expenditure on coal and probably ask for the expenditure on fishery to be deleted. He is entitled to that.

Mr Chiedozie : There is a very big river in Enugu and the hon. Member for Abaja and Ngwo (*Mr Eneh*) who is in charge of Udi division can bear me out.

I am appealing to the Minister to see that fishing industries are established along the areas where there are rivers throughout the Federation. Nigeria is blessed with a lot of rivers. In fact everybody knows the importance of fish to people. Phosphate which improves the brains of our children is very nutritious and it comes from fish. The only way to encourage fishing industries in this country is for the Government itself to undertake their establishment along all the areas where we have water.

At the moment, it appears that fishing is left in the hands of ordinary people who fish with canoes and all these archaic and old materials. There is no doubt that fishing can be made to be one of our trades, because we want to export as much as we can to be able to increase our export drive. There is no doubt that we can export fish to our sister countries, especially to those areas where there is no water.

Another thing is that we want our fishing industries to be properly mechanised. A little effort should be made in this direction. If the Minister can tour the country, he will find out that it is not very impressive to see fishermen all over the place simply fishing without knowing the essence of it. They do not have the equipments with which to fish. I think that the Federal Government should send out some of the experts in the Fisheries Department to go round and train these people in the method of catching fish. This may be a very good opportunity to inform the Minister that if fishing industries are established in the Rivers areas where we say there is always smuggling, the activities of the people will be diverted from smuggling to fishing, particularly in areas along Nembe and Calabar.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : On a point of order, I think the Chairman has overruled on the Floor of this House that no mention should be made again of Calabar province as far as smuggling is concerned.

Mr A. A. Odunrinde (Oshogbo North) : I would like to refer the House to Order 27 (1) which reads as follows :

"Any Member deviating from the provisions of these orders may be immediately called to order by Mr Speaker or the chairman, or by a Member rising to a point of order. A Member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to Mr Speaker or the chairman for decision."

The Chairman : That should be the procedure.

Mr Chiedozie : There is one more point I would like to touch upon in connection with the establishment of a fishing industry in Calabar area. I want to say emphatically that the Calabar area has got a lot of development going on, and it will be very wrong for anybody, particularly the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*), to come to this House and say that the Government has done nothing for the Calabar people. They have the rubber industry, the fishing industry, the oil industry, and in fact, they have everything in that place. Again, they have the best main road in the whole of the Eastern Region, and they come here to deceive people and to misinform the House. In my own area there is not one good road. Everything is kept in Calabar to please the people and to rehabilitate them.

I beg to support.

Mr Brown : I am surprised to hear my hon. Friend (*Mr Chiedozie*) saying that. I do not know whether he is specially sent by the Eastern Government to come and attack the people of Calabar province here. I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that if you come to Calabar province you will see that neither the Federal Government nor the Regional Government has done anything for the people of Calabar province.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I just want to call the attention of the Minister to the question of imported stockfish from Norway and other parts of the world to Nigeria. We have sea in this country, and we can establish a fishing industry in Port Harcourt. Port Harcourt is the second largest port in the whole of the Federation. If we cannot establish a fishing industry in Lagos, I think we can establish one in Port Harcourt.

I want to inform the Minister that imported and dried stockfish has no nutritive value at all. It is dried by electricity. If the Government can afford to encourage indigenous fishing industries or establish one itself, the people of this country will be very grateful.

I seize this opportunity to thank the Minister, and to demand very respectfully and humbly the establishment of a fishing industry in Port Harcourt.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : I am supporting this Head 32 because it is very important for our lives. Fish contains a lot of protein, and we know that is very good in our diet because our food in Africa is mostly carbohydrates and is not mixed diet. That is why sometimes our food is condemned by some civilised countries of the world. If we encourage the eating of fish, that will improve some of the deficiencies that we have in our meals. Therefore, we must encourage fishing industries in Nigeria.

I praise most of these our people especially in the Delta area, in the Eastern Region and in the North who use the old type of boat in order to catch fish. What the Government should do is to help these people by some form of grants which they can use to build modern boats like trawlers and so on, which can make their industries easier for them. It is because they use old boats that they get accidents most of the time. We read of these accidents in our daily papers day in day out, and the Government is not thinking of a way out in order to help these people. We should realise that they are giving us a lot of things. They are helping us to get protein which is very important for our lives and which will make the Nigerian citizens very healthy in order to be able to face all the problems awaiting us. If we do not help these people, they cannot improve. The Government should give them grants in order to build modern boats so that they may avoid the risk of accidents.

I know this may not be the sole responsibility of the Federal Government ; it may affect the Regional Governments. If the Regional Governments and the Federal Government actually, co-operate, they can think of a way by which

they can help these people in the Delta area, in the Eastern Region and in the North where they have got abundant supply of fish.

I do not agree with my hon. Friend (*Mr Chiedozie*) that we should export fish. We are not ripe for that yet in Nigeria. What we have now is not sufficient for local consumption. Therefore, I do not think we can export fish meanwhile.

I disagree with another Friend who said that we should stop the importation of stockfish. The sale of stockfish in this country encourages employment and we do not want unemployment. This trade provides employment for many people who otherwise would gather at the doors of the Ministers begging them to please find jobs for them. If we say that stockfish should not be imported into Nigeria, we shall actually be creating unemployment. Unless the Federal Government can give them other jobs, I think they better continue in their trade. Stockfish too is nutritious and it contains some protein. If it is analysed chemically, it will be discovered that it has some protein.

Another thing which we have to do is to think of awarding scholarships in fishery. I have never read it in the papers that our Governments have awarded scholarships to some people to study aspects of fishery in order to come to teach our people the modern way of smoking fish. I do not know if something has been done in this respect: perhaps the Minister of Education can tell me how many scholarships have been awarded to our sons and daughters to qualify as fishery officers. It is very important.

It is not only when we read economics that we know how we can develop Nigeria. Let some people go to Norway to study the aspect of fishery so that when they come back they can help some of our local fishermen, especially in the Delta area. This year, if possible, we should award at least one or two scholarships on that. We can get some people in the Eastern Region and perhaps in the Delta Area who are very good in that aspect. They need not be university graduates before they are given the scholarships. If they know how to catch fish, send them there. It is when we do that that our country will develop.

Maybe a time is coming when laws and regulations will be made to compel everybody to

take fish in a particular day of the week. If that is done, then it will be an encouragement to the people fishing in that they will be able to sell their fish.

Fish is very important in our meals and Africa is very deficient in animal protein because we do not know just what to do. If we can encourage our fishermen, they will be able to have markets for their fish, and if we can give them some grants to build modern boats, thereby reducing the risk on their lives by using old canoes, Nigeria will benefit greatly.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): Mr Chairman this is just a short reply. The hon. Member for Oyo South (*Mr Kolade*) has spoken about training of Nigerians in fishery. We do have three people now in Japan very near Tokyo, about two hours journey by car. In addition to that, we do have experts on fishery who train our people locally in the use of, for example, the different types of mesh and also curing techniques.

In this respect, too, we have got an expert of the Food and Agriculture Organisation who has been in the employ of the Northern Regional Government based in Lake Chad. This gentleman has produced very improved methods of drying fish with salt. Now, I have tried to bring a sample actually to show to hon. Members, but I have not been able to. This new method is by soaking the fish in a certain quantity of solution of salt and then drying it. After drying—

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): On a point of order, I cannot see why the Minister of Economic Development who is in charge of Heads 30 to 35 should choose to make a reply now when we still have Forestry and other things under that Ministry.

The Chairman: Order, order. I do not see why Mr Oronsaye should be interrupting. The Minister is not moving closure.

The Minister of Economic Development: This new method, I think, as soon as we are able to prove that it can be used by the small fisherman, will be used all over the country and is going to improve greatly upon the smoking method which has been quite rightly criticised.

[MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]

The hon. Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) has mentioned that we should improve the method of smoking. That also is being done. I was there on the 22nd of last month. On the Lake Chad, I did fishing for about two hours and then I watched the curing of the fish with the salt.

An hon. Member : Did the hon. Minister catch any ?

The Minister of Economic Development : We caught very big ones and we had some of them for dinner. They are very nice.

As soon as we are able to finalise this new method, I am sure it will be very popular all over the country. It looks very much like stock-fish and has good nutrition. There is one Indian fish expert now in Lake Chad who develops it. As for the smoking method he has improved that also, so that the fish which you normally get very black comes from Lake Chad. Surprisingly about ten thousand tons of it is consumed in this country. In a matter of two years the condition will be much better.

The hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) has spoken about establishing a fishing industry and the hon. Member for Enugu (*Mr Chiedozie*) has also said the same thing. Here again, I think it is a question of private enterprise, and more individuals going into the fishing industry. I think it is wrong to say that Government should do all these things. Something like fishing is better done by private enterprise and when perhaps our Development Bank gets going, people who have sound ideas of establishing a fishing industry will probably be considered. Therefore, it is not for Government.

I am not going to comment on the nutritional value of the stock-fish. I do not eat it myself and I do not know much about it. But if we can definitely reduce the importation of fish by making substitutes locally, we shall certainly do it. At the moment, we have to import stock-fish simply because we have no local substitutes in sufficient quantity. A few months ago, I also went on the ocean here on one of the research boats. We went right into the Atlantic and I saw how our research is being done. I was satisfied with what I saw and what is now left is for us to encourage fishermen to buy bigger fishing boats—

travels and then go a bit far into the sea. If they can do that by getting perhaps loans—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Give them the money.

The Minister of Economic Development : We cannot give money ; it must be loaned.

Mr Chairman, I think that is all I have got to say on this.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : We are of the opinion that fishery should be a paying concern. But unfortunately under Explanatory Details to this Head 32, Government say that they want to provide additional labour for the Chad research project. Those Members who live near the water know that there is no need for anybody to go and research on how to kill a fish. Killing of fish is more or less something practical and is done by experience. Some of the Members who go to the Victoria Island know one Mr Joseph. He makes almost a thousand pounds everyday. This man goes to the sea with his team. They come back in the evening. You would like to see how the whole Lagos lines up to buy fish.

Under this Head 32 it is shown also that the Director will earn £2,750 a year and many other names are shown there. We have not been made to understand whether this fisheries industry has paid the Federal Government because the way they are doing it is not the practical way of doing it. The practical way of killing a fish is not to go and do some research ; this is not agriculture. Get your engine, boat, and whatever you have and go to the sea and catch fish. Under this Head provision is made for this research and for that research. I think this is a waste of time on the part of the Federal Government.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Is the hon. Gentleman suggesting that we can catch fish with hands ?

The Chairman : That is a point of question

Mr Elenwa : I was just trying to say that we should not waste all that money, all that manpower, if at the end of the year nothing comes into the coffers of the Federal Government. Efforts should be made to provide engines or boats if needed for the fishing industry instead of going to do research.

I support.

be lacking in trees which will produce timber for our use within the country. I think that it is absolutely necessary that afforestation should take place at the rate at which disafforestation takes place. The need for this should be more realized when it is understood that

Geography that the desert approaches Nigeria at the rate of a quarter of a mile in 25 years or a mile in a hundred years. If we do not take this into account, then we are not planning for the prosperity of future generations. We may

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[Appropriation (1963-63)]

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Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East): I wish to support the expenditure under this Head with few observations.

I would like to observe that there is a vital issue confronting the fishing industry in this country. If the modern fishing industry must grow, Nigerians must be trained on modern fishing techniques. This can best be carried out by the Federal Government. Nigerians should be given opportunity for such training.

The second point is equally vital. The volume of fish produced in the country is admittedly low. This is caused by lack of application of modern fishing technique. In view of the pressing need for developing the industry both for boosting our national economy and for the purpose of satisfying nutritional needs, I would ask whether the hon. Minister of Economic Development will not consider the necessity of setting up a Federal Fisheries Training School where young Nigerians can be trained in elementary navigation, maintenance and repair of fishing vessels.

The last point I wish to mention and for which I beg leave to mention through this medium, is the question of import duty of 4s per lb. on fishing twines. Fishing nets are imported free of duty, but the twines for top and bottom lines are dutiable. The importation of twines to make nets locally has been made impossible by this excessive duty. I appeal to the Minister to do something about this, particularly at this time when the Government looks for money to use in our economic development programme. The cry of the fishermen is that the duty is too high. If this is difficult to remove completely, then a twenty per cent *ad valorem* can be more tolerable.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East): I wish to support the last speaker who said something about twines for making fishing nets. Sometime ago, all these cotton twines were imported at twenty per cent *ad valorem* and it was then suggested that in order to encourage fishing in this country, and to help the indigenous fishermen, a move should be made to import all these fishing materials free. Now, instead of helping the fishermen by trying to encourage this industry, the only

thing that the Federal Government did was to increase the duty on twines from twenty per cent *ad valorem* to about four shillings per pound. This increase is causing untold hardship to those fishermen engaged in this trade, and at the same time making the price of fish in the market higher.

Now, when fishermen buy nets and their nets get old or torn, instead of buying new ones, they simply mend them because they cannot afford to pay the increased cost of these twines, as a result of increase duty on them. I would therefore request the Federal Government to explore the possibility of reverting to the old custom duty of twenty per cent, or abolish the duty completely.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

£61,210 for Head 32—Fisheries Service—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 33.—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

Question proposed, That £134,410 for Head 33—Forestry (Research)—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): We are now on Head 33—Forestry (Research). It is clearly stated that £134,410 has been provided for expenditure in this current year. If such a huge amount of money is being proposed, it will not be out of place to give one or two pieces of advice to the Minister of Economic Development.

Much has already been said about Forestry on the Floor of this House. Members have been told in the past that it is a Regional matter. Now I have to congratulate the Minister of Economic Development and the Cabinet for creating a special Head for Forestry which will be of great benefit to the whole of the Federation.

I would call upon the Minister of Economic Development to come along with me to certain forest areas in this country. There he will find *mahogany*, *iroko*, *aboras*, *opepes*, *cidars*, all kinds of soft and hard wood, and with their significant uses, we can bring the forest home and make it what this House is to all of us. Hon. Members may wish to know what I mean. If Members look round they will agree with me that but for the aid of the forest and all good things it contain, all the fine furniture that

[MR AKINBOWALE]

But years afterwards, there was division in the Department and we now have research as a Federal subject. This research that is known now as a Federal subject was staffed with many officers. We have Forest Botanists, Forest Utilisation Officers, Forest Technical Officers, and Forest Research Officers. All these officers have been working in the Department and yet we did not see much of their work, whereas in agriculture we see the result if their experiments.

That brings me to another point. If this arm of Government is to be supported, if the allocation should be supported something must be done to improve the working of this arm of Government. This Department used to be responsible for the creation of forest reserves, creation of communal forestry areas, creation of plantations, making of forest laws and preservation of game forests and has had a great deal to do with the exploitation of timber. But since we have had this research section of the Department not much has been shown to us except the success reported some time ago on paper-making. Whereas, all over the country, members would agree with me that indiscriminate felling of trees is going on and we are losing much of our timber.

There is one disease that is known in forestry as wood-boring. It has not now been arrested by officers in this Department and yet every year much money is being voted for service in this section.

I would suggest that the officers of this Department and the Minister should see to it that wood-boring is arrested once and for all. It should not continue to waste our money every year. More than that, indiscriminate felling of timber should be checked by the Department. A Member has said on the Floor of this House that in the Northern Region there is need for afforestation. I endorse it because all over the Northern Region, Northerners here will agree with me, we have what is called the Savannah forest. It is time that this Department tackled the problem of afforestation in the Northern Region. So too, there should be afforestation all over because, of all I remember, it is only around Onitsha that we have some forest reserves. There is also a small area in Obubra Division where we have some sort of forest reserve; but all over the area there are vast areas needing the attention of this Department,

With due respect to hon. Members it is only in the Western Region that we can talk of deforestation because we have natural forests there and we are exploiting all and whatever we realise as revenue to-day from timber is much from the Western Region. So it is incumbent on the Minister to see to it that afforestation is carried out in the Northern Region and in the Eastern Region too.

One particular point I would like to invite the attention of the Minister to is that for over ten years now we have got Forest Research Officers. I think it is about time that we should Nigerianise the Head of that Service. We have available materials there and all the indigenous officers there have acquired a variety of experience. All the experience of the expatriates was acquired at the Botanical Gardens at Kew in England.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): Mr Chairman, an hon. Member is sleeping! This may be due to the way he sits in his place.

The Chairman: I do not think we have been terribly strict on how Members sit, but I take it that if his eyes are shut he is probably thinking.

Mr Akinbowale: As I was saying, all these officers are being trained for their work at the Botanical Gardens at Kew in England. Most of these indigenous officers have qualified and they are giving good service. I think it is about time that the Head of that Department was Nigerianised.

An hon. Member: Has the hon. Member got a suitable Nigerian to take his place?

Some hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Mr Akinbowale: Yes, and they have got the requisite qualifications for the job.

I beg to support.

£134,410 for Head 33—Forestry Research—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD. 34—STATISTICS

£283,590 for Head 34—Statistics—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 45.—VETERINARY RESEARCH

£250,550 for Head 35—Veterinary Research—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION).

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu): In view of the fact that the Regional Governments are spending considerable proportions of their revenues on education and yet are finding it extremely difficult to cope with the ever-increasing problem of education the hon. Minister might wish to make a statement on the efforts the Federal Government is making to give substantial financial aid in the form of grants to the Regional Governments in order to enable them to meet up with their pressing educational problems.

For example, the Eastern Nigeria Government spends about one-third of its revenue annually on education alone. At the moment the number of children of school-going age there is approaching 3 million. This number excludes children in secondary, technical and commercial schools. The financial problems of education in the Regions are so pressing even to the detriment of other essential services such as health, road maintenance and water supply that financial assistance from the Federal Government has now become a matter of the utmost urgency.

I am now calling upon the Federal Minister of Education to come over to Macedonia and help us. Would he make a statement?

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Under our Constitution, it is within the competence of the Federal Government to make grants available to the Regions for educational purposes. It is essential, however, that such grants must be in furtherance of the manpower needs of the country as determined by the National Manpower Board. Already a start has been made in the assessment of the manpower needs of this country in a range of disciplines.

The National Universities Commission has been assigned the responsibility of making grants to university institutions. The finan-

cial burden of giving grants for primary, secondary, vocational, and technical education is, however, large. Consequently, the amount of assistance which the Federal Government can give will depend on the amount of funds available. It must be stated, however, that a general provision of grants can hardly be contemplated under present constitutional arrangements. What the Federal Government will be in a position to consider is the injection of funds into certain aspects of education which are considered critical in the national interest. (*Hear, hear*). In this regard, I may mention university education, scientific and technological education, the expansion of technical education at the secondary and post-secondary education levels, and such other activities as would enhance the widening of opportunities for primary education throughout the whole of Nigeria.

STRANDED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): The question of assisting stranded students came before this House sometime ago, and the Government replied in the negative. It was, however, clear that even though the Government's answer was in the negative, this matter continues to agitate everybody's mind. Here are students who, by the very fact of their admission, have given eloquent testimony of their manpower training, because it requires a lot of academic qualifications, interviews, and so on and so forth for a student to gain admission into a university, and, therefore, there is no doubt about their efficiency at all. Yet, they are stranded and may soon go to waste-backstreets. Many had so gone. I have known of many students who were in the universities and, because they had no fees to pay, had gone to waste.

Happily, the Speech from the Throne contains some useful portions for students, and, with your permission, Sir, I will quote some of these portions:—

My Government is planning to set up an Agency which will be known as a National Agency for High Level Manpower Training. The Agency will conduct a register of all trainable young persons in order to provide a reliable basis for statistics and educational planning. It will also set up a vocational guidance service for high level manpower occupations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 19th April, 1963

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 36.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £1,992,590 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I want to say in contributing to this Head and in supporting it, that I note with satisfaction the excellent job being done by our able Minister. He is a very erudite and simple gentleman, and works very quietly and unobtrusively. (*Hear, hear*).

The Chairman : As there is power failure this morning, I appeal to hon. Members to talk and cheer in such a way that the reporters who are recording our speeches may be able to hear us. If there is too much noise, they will not be able to do their work at all.

Dr Okeke : That is what I call service without blowing a trumpet. He is a man who knows what he is doing for the nation. He works very hard without trying to catch the headlines. The effect of his work is felt throughout the nation. He is a man who is always going out to look for people capable of doing the job. In fact recently, an able administrator by the name of Mr F. O. Awokoya was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : On a point of information, the name of the person is Mr S. O. Awokoya.

Dr Okeke : I am grateful to the Minister for the information. His efforts in recruiting able Nigerians to serve in the Ministry must continue. In this connection, I must commend the work of the American Peace Corps in their

efforts to improve our education at all levels—elementary, secondary and university. They are doing a good job, and the Minister of Education should see to it that the efforts and activities of this humanitarian group are co-ordinated.

There is one disturbing factor in this recruitment of educational experts who teach in our schools. I noted that there are many of our boys and girls who are stranded in many countries all over the world, and it seems to me that these boys and girls whom we have trained to help Nigeria are not being used. Many of them are stranded in the countries where they are being trained. Either they are not wanted in their country or their country cannot pay for their services.

I was thinking aloud once that the efforts of the American Peace Corps will benefit Nigeria immensely if the American Government will be kind enough to recruit these Nigerians who are now stranded and spread all over America either because they are not wanted or there is no job for them. The Ministry of Education will be contributing more to our own development if only our young boys and girls are absorbed into our universities. May be there is no money available but, somehow, we have to use our trained manpower.

There is one disturbing factor in our education. Our university education requires the acquisition of the General Certificate of Education as an entry qualification. This G.C.E. (Advanced Level), I want to tell the Minister of Education, should be stopped as a requirement for entry into our universities—the University of Ibadan, the University of Ife, the University of Nigeria, and the Ahmadu Bello University.

Our four universities must not use the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) as entry requirement for the simple reason that our boys and girls waste their talent and their effort cramming their lessons to pass the G.C.E. examinations after their School Certificate. They warp their intelligence and their intellect trying to acquire a qualification to enter the university, and by the time they get through it their whole effort and energy are so frustrated that a lot of time is spent in the university trying to correct the wrong habit acquired when they were endeavouring to master the subjects for the G.C.E. to be able to go into the university.

I want to talk again on the School Certificate Examination. For a long time now, any boy who fails in English will not be awarded a certificate, no matter the number of Credits

would have allowed both of you but I think this should be the end of it.

Mr Ogunsanya : I took my own meaning of U.P.P. from this House.

Federal Parliament Debates

1615

[Appropriation (1963-64)

19 APRIL 1963

Bill : Committee]

1616

Since the Ashby Commission has recommended that Nigeria needs 80,000 graduates in the next ten years, we must have to educate our boys and girls. We set the requirement so high that we stop our own boys and girls from entering into our own universities. I am saying that when a boy leaves secondary school—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of order, Sir, we have power failure and I am calling on the Minister of Mines and Power to explain why there is no light.

Dr Okeke : My hon. Friend, the member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) cannot call me to order since I am not the Minister of Mines and Power.

I am saying that when our boys and girls leave school they should be absorbed into the universities straight away, if they are qualified without having to wait to obtain a pass in the G.C.E. examination, because at this impressionable age education is not only what you have but what happens to you in the process of learning. I want to say that when these boys are acquiring the G.C.E. their counterparts in America, England or India go straight from secondary schools into their universities, and by the time our younger boys and girls enter our own universities these boys overseas graduate B.A., B.Sc., etc., and we go back to recruit them to come and teach their counterpart just entering our own universities.

This practice of waiting to pass the G.C.E. must have to stop since it could be seen that our own boys are much younger than their own counterparts in other lands, and there is no reason why we should deny them the opportunity at that impressionable age when they are still growing very rapidly in their intelligence. We deny them the opportunity and then their counterparts overseas grow in ascendancy and later come back to teach in our own universities. I think we have to enrol our boys in the universities we have—Ife, Nsukka, Ibadan and Zaria—immediately they leave secondary schools.

We must have to standardize examinations in our universities. We must abrogate the foreign examinations which our boys and girls from our universities take at the end of their B.A. and B.Sc. course, because if there is any place a professor should be trusted to do a good job it is in the university; and when

we recruit these able professors from abroad to teach in the universities of Lagos, Nsukka, Ibadan, *et cetera*, and we call outsiders to set the examinations for our boys, I think it is a vote of no confidence in the professors who are teaching those boys, because examination is also a means of teaching.

Examinations at the end of any course constitute the stimulus, the incentive and the motivation that you have aroused in the boys who are studying, and if you cannot control examination then you cannot teach effectively. If you want to teach effectively you have to control the examination system, and unless this is done both the teacher and the student will become a prey to the outside examining body. Until we correct the situation whereby our teachers and students work for some outside force, we cannot begin to redirect effort in our education, to look about ourselves and work with our own materials, so that we can improve our lives from the basic grass roots where it matters. I think we can be trusted to examine our own boys, so that as we examine we will be able to control their progress.

Some people have alleged that we Nigerians cannot be trusted in conducting examinations. They fear falling standards, corruption, nepotism and all that sort of thing. But we have to begin now to correct these things and to have confidence in ourselves. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Will hon. Members refrain from making too much noise ?

Dr Okeke : I want to call the attention of the Minister of Education to the delay in publishing this year's result of the West African School Certificate examination. The result is being used by all the Regions in the Federation for employment purposes as the financial year starts in April; in fact, on April 1 the new financial year begins. I would rather think that the examination results are very important to us in this country and as such they should come out around the middle of March; as far as possible, in March of every year because boys who failed must be thrown out by the Regions who had employed them and who require boys who were successful in the examinations to continue in the job. They must know in time so as to be able to adjust this.

[MR TAIWO]

when these scholarship holders reach the foreign countries they are not given the courses of study promised them by the Federal Government. At one time some students from this country won Italian scholarships to study Geology. One of the boys was given a part scholarship by the Italian Government. The Federal Government accepted responsibility for transport. When the boy got there he could not get the necessary funds to go on with his studies. We had to keep on collecting money and sending to him. Even last month I had to send him more money because he was stranded. This is one point that I want the Federal Government to take note of and see that these boys are given their fair share when they go to any foreign country on a part scholarship. All of us have the right to benefit from the Federal Government.

In this respect I want to talk about King's College. We are all aware of the fact that this College is one of the premier Grammar schools in the country. There is no doubt about it. The selection of boys for admission into this school is causing grave concern. For some time, as far as I know boys from a privileged class have been admitted into this College. They may pass the entrance examination and they may not. Those who pass the entrance examination in most cases are not admitted while those who fail but are from the privileged class are admitted. I do not blame anybody for doing them a favour. It is not bad to do a favour, we all sometimes do a favour. But I want this favour to be extended to our people as well and get our boys admitted into this school. If 50 boys are to be admitted this year, it is not bad if ten of them come from my area. We shall be very happy to have that chance. In my area we have many brilliant boys who are not admitted into King's College because their parents are poor. I want the Minister of Education to note this. We also want our girls to be admitted on the same basis.

I want to talk about a matter already mentioned by the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*), although my views are different from his. We have two boys who are really qualified for admission but we have tried in vain to get them admitted. People continue to read advertisements in the daily papers but when they apply and pay the fees they are not admitted. There must be a fake

department in the Ministry of Education which puts up false advertisements in order to deceive the public. For instance, a certain person advertised in the papers that he had a school in which to admit boys. Many applied and paid the school fees. But when the day of the opening of his new school came the man changed his premises. He ran away. Such people must be checked and when caught sent to gaol straight away.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : May I first of all congratulate the Minister of Education.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : My name appears first on the Order Paper and I think I am entitled to speak before the hon. Member speaking now.

The Chairman : You have not completely lost that chance.

Shettima Ali Monguno : As I was saying, may I first of all congratulate the Minister of Education and the entire staff of his Ministry for what they have so far done in not only advancing the standard of education in this country but also making a great deal of effort in placing Nigeria educationally on the world map. Nigeria is destined to play an important role not only in Africa but also in this complex world because we have historic and fine cultural and educational traditions.

In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Education to one very important aspect of our educational system in this country, I refer to higher education. Rapid economic and social development in this country will be impossible without a well-developed system of higher education. The Federal Government must first of all see to it that all capable young men and women in this country have higher education, however humble and poor they may be. Again we must seek out talent, encourage it and at the same time provide it with the opportunity to flourish. We must encourage research because research is fundamentally important as the results transform the social and educational aspects of our lives.

When we think of teaching we must not forget that teaching and research go together, because it is only then that we will reap the benefits of research. It was only yesterday that I appealed to the Government to scrap

the research in agriculture if the results of such research will not be made known to the public. This morning I may seem to contradict that appeal, but I am appealing for the encouragement of research into our higher institutions of learning.

I would like also to appeal to the Government to avoid educational expansion at the expense of quality. There is also need in certain higher educational institutions in this country for improvement in student and staff relationship. It is only when one provides a healthy and congenial atmosphere for learning that one can claim to have minimised the chances of student strikes. No right thinking man would like to see our students strike *en masse*. There must be something wrong either with the authorities of the institutions concerned or the administration which composes both the student body and the staff.

We are very glad that the Government established what is known as the National University Council. This Council, I understand, is responsible not only for distributing grants to our higher institutions in this country but also, in conjunction with the authority of the institutions concerned, for looking into the development of higher education and the needs of such institutions at the national level.

We have no doubt as to the integrity and the eminence of the members of this Council, but at the same time I would like to sound a note of warning that this Council must take into account, the fact that certain institutions have their own plans based on long term policy, and I would, therefore, like the Council to take strictly into account the real needs of such institutions.

I would like, also, to appeal to the Government not to hesitate, if necessary, to probe into the administration of any institution of higher learning in this country the moment there is evidence of maladministration in that particular institution. I know this will be objectionable to certain members of the public, it will be unpopular but in the face of necessity, such a step should be taken no matter how drastic this may be in the eyes of the public.

There was recently the case of a student who died overseas. Serious alarm was raised in this country over the sad incident. When

this Nigerian was alive and kicking abroad he did not cause any concern; and from whichever Region he came he did not cause any trouble whatsoever. But the moment he unfortunately died he was disclaimed. This is sad. I am not saying that the Minister of Education should have stepped in and taken immediate and appropriate action, but I was merely suggesting that between the Minister of Education and the Minister of Foreign Affairs they should have acted so as to prevent the concern the matter caused to the public.

The Chairman : Order. There should be a break. Sitting is suspended for five minutes.

Sitting Suspended : 9.57 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.07 a.m.

Shettima Ali Monguno : As I have said quite enough on higher education, I would like to appeal to the Minister of Education to see if we can find the possibility of awarding scholarships to people in other African territories because these people look to us for this sort of help, and leadership and magnanimity go hand in hand.

Coming now to the question of technical education, I agree with the hon. Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) that technical education in this country has been neglected to the extent that we are now dependent on outside supply of technicians. The Ministry of Education should do all in its power to see to it that we recover from this very unfortunate situation of negligence.

We are very grateful to the Government for setting up Inter-Regional Secondary Schools, but I would like to appeal to the Minister, if possible, to try and introduce French as a subject, especially now that we come in contact from time to time with non-English speaking people both at home and abroad. We cannot afford to depend on English language alone.

Finally, I wish to say that I agree again with my hon. Friend (*Mr Taiwo*) on the question of delay in releasing the School Certificate Examination results. The West African Examinations Council should see that this is remedied. It is unfortunate that students who have passed the G.C.E. advanced level or the Higher School Certificate examination have to

[SHETTIMA ALI MONGUNO]

wait for almost one year before entering a university. This is what is happening now, and the West African Examinations Council should do all within its power to remedy the situation.

I beg to support.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West): I rise to support the estimate on this Head. I wish to start by joining the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) in congratulating the Minister on the appointment of Chief Awokoya as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. He is the right man for the job.

I have some comments to make in respect of some sections of this Ministry. The first of them is the Scholarship division. So far, the section is doing its utmost to help those who are in need, and it is also encouraging those who have made the grade but who are unable to finance their course in the various schools of higher learning and universities. We are also very happy for the recent cut in the amount of money spent on each scholarship holder in this country. This will help to increase the number of recipients of scholarship. I think this is a very wise step. Each Federal Government student receives about £400 *per annum* as allowance. If a private student can manage with about £300, I do not see why a Government student should receive so much. I hope the cut will enable the Ministry to give us more awards.

I come now to the question of undergraduates. Honestly, I do not know what the Ministry is doing about the undergraduates who are stranded either in this country or overseas, particularly those of them in the University of Ibadan who were unable to pay their fees for the last session. Nobody wants scholarship to be automatic, but I feel that if these students are given loan scholarship, it will help them get over their present difficulties, and it will be in the interest of the country as a whole. If these boys are sent out of their respective universities, they cannot return to their various places of work from where they resigned before they went into the universities, and this may result into their roaming about in the streets. I think the Government should think seriously about giving these students loan scholarships. If possible, they should be attached to voluntary agency schools or

institutions so that these institutions will be responsible for the refund of such loans which the students get while in training.

The difficulty we have in our schools is that as soon as these students graduate, they do not want to teach in voluntary agency schools, and even when they are advised to come into these agency schools, in most cases they refuse. I think they have good reasons for their refusal to teach in these schools. I would like to appeal to the Minister to see what he can do to recruit Nigerian graduate teachers into all our secondary schools in the country. One of the reasons why these graduate teachers refuse to teach in these voluntary agency schools is because they are not given car advances—and that is not our fault. We have not got the money.

If the Minister will consult with all other Ministers of Education in the country and agree on an arrangement whereby something like car grant loans are paid to each voluntary institution to be disbursed to graduate teachers when they join the staff, this will induce the graduates to accept to teach in any school. The Government may ask for this grant to be paid back quarterly so that there will be no difficulty placed in the way of the schools to pay back the loans.

I feel that graduate teachers in voluntary agency schools should be given cars because their counterparts in Government schools are given cars. Unless we are able to give these teachers the cars which I think they rightly deserve, they will not stay in our schools; they will be going about looking for other schools, with the result that most of the voluntary agency schools approved by the Government find it difficult to recruit Nigerian graduates into their schools.

I quite agree that if we recruit expatriate graduates they will do very well. But after about 18 months or so, nearly all of them employed about the same time go on leave. There is a particular case in my area where about nine expatriate graduate teachers are going on leave this month. I do not know how that school is going to survive before those expatriates return.

If we encourage our own boys, give them what I may describe as their legitimate rights, we shall be helping this country. These people do not ask us to give them the cars

free of charge, they do not ask for basic allowances and things like that. All we want the Government to do is to grant these loans to the schools and let them disburse the loans to the teachers, and this could be deducted from their salary accordingly. This will help us to retain the services of our own graduates in our own schools.

The other point that I want to make is the question of secondary school leavers. I think the Eastern Region has started well by having comprehensive secondary schools. I do not know what the Federal Government is thinking about it, but I feel the Minister of Education should give priority to the possibility of establishing a comprehensive school in Lagos. This has an advantage. When we have boys in this comprehensive school we shall be able to discover those of them who are good in arts, those who are good in medicine and so on, and as a result, by the time they leave school we will have been able to help them to choose a career for which they have aptitude.

The reason why some boys find difficulties in their course is because they are always being dictated to by their parents on what course they should take. But if we establish this comprehensive school, by the time the boys finish their course, we will have been able to know in what field each of them will be very good. This will help us to remove frustration among our children.

Another point that I want to touch upon is the professional division of the Ministry of Education. We have as many as eleven professional advisers in the Ministry at present. I am not quarrelling about this, but I would like to advise the Minister to consult with his counterparts in the Regions to find the possibility of revising the present syllabus for the School Certificate Examination, particularly in respect of history and geography. We find that there is no co-ordination in history at the moment. Some schools do the British Empire history of 1485 to the present date, some do the European history and some do the African history. I feel there should be some sort of co-ordination so that one school will have an idea of what is being taught in the other school, and when the students pass their advanced G.C.E. examination and go into universities, they will not have to start on a new field. They should be given the background to help them in their university

education. I understand that the University of Nigeria at Nsukka has a very good branch of African History. I think, if the Minister of Education would consult the Head of that Department, he would give him an idea about co-ordinating the syllabus.

One other aspect about this school certificate business is the part being played by the West African Examinations Council. I think the Council is doing a very useful work, particularly in the present arrangement to train Nigerians to be examiners in some subjects. There is one bad thing which is not yet remedied. There are no good textbooks for use in the schools. If one is going to examine people, one must be able to give out such books as will lead the people to what is required of them. There is a lot of padding through a series of textbooks in the schools before the children get up to the school certificate classes from where they are put in their proper places. Therefore, one of the things to do is to encourage the writing of textbooks or encourage textbook writers in this country by way of subvention or grant.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): On a point of order, as the Minister of Education has said at one time, he is not ready to give any aid or subvention to African or Nigerian authors. This is something to be really looked into.

Mr Ayeni: What I was saying is that the Minister should think seriously of giving grant or subvention to African writers. What we find in the market is not very suitable. If one picks up some of these books (I do not say all) which are written by my fellow African teachers one will find that they are more or less ballad books, they have questions and answers and some of the questions are drawn from either Wolsey Hall or Rapid Results College. As a result, they are not really teaching anything new. They are plagiarising: they only transplant into their own little pamphlets what they got from those tutorial colleges. The only thing to do is to encourage our own men to write books so that those books could be used in schools and our people would understand the contents better.

For instance, books in arithmetic are not suited for African environment. There is a problem like—"A train leaves Waterloo for Paddington, if it leaves at so-so-and-so time,

[MR AYENI]

when does it arrive there?" We do not know where Paddington is and we do not know where Waterloo is. The children in England know the distance between Waterloo and Paddington, but in our own case it means nothing to us.

An hon. Member : But that was what the hon. Member himself studied !

Mr Ayeni : That is why I do not like it. Our textbooks should be related to our environment so that we may be able to put in the African or the Nigerian idea into our own syllabus and textbooks which we use in the schools.

The other aspect is that, last year I remember that an hon. Member mentioned something about the place of the Federal Emergency Science School. I do not actually know how to locate it. Is it a Higher School Certificate class or is it a Sixth Form class, or is it a preparatory class to a university? It seems to occupy a unique place and it seems to be a dead end place. What one would have thought is that with the establishment of a university in Lagos, the Federal Emergency Science School would have been a part of the University of Lagos. As a result, people can get into the University from that place and do degree courses instead of ending up with only the Higher School Certificate course which they could easily have done in the Lower and Upper Six Classes in other secondary schools. Also, we can scatter them all over the universities in the country. I think the Minister should think seriously of doing something to improve the status of the Federal Emergency Science School or, on the alternative, to merge it directly with the University of Lagos.

Another aspect of my speech is about the advanced teachers' training in Lagos. I understand that teachers from the Western Region were not granted admission into it last year. I have not seen any reason why. If the argument is that because we have such an institution in Ibadan, then why did we accept teachers from the Northern and the Eastern Regions and leave out the Western Region? The idea is to train Grade One teachers in our teachers' training institutions for the various secondary schools in this country. The Federal Government should open the door to us in the West so that our own teachers, too, can go there for their training.

As I said last year, the subjects which students should specialize in should not be as many as nine, as they do in the Higher Elementary, but about two or three subjects which they can easily teach when they leave the training. This will be of immense advantage to the system of education in this country.

I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : In contributing my quota to this Head, I would like to say with emphasis that praise is due to the Minister of Education for the efficient way in which he has discharged his duties. We are here to speak the truth and when the occasions arise for us to say the truth, we say it. The Minister deserves praise, and I must emphasise this fact. There are others who do not deserve any praise at all, and when we come to their Heads we shall tell them.

I agree wholeheartedly with those hon. Members who have made suggestions and contributed to the debate on a Motion filed by my hon. Friend, the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbaku*) sometime last week, that the Government should do something to award loan scholarships to students who are stranded either in Nigeria or abroad. There is this argument that when students are given loan scholarships, they do not usually refund the money. I believe that the students will be willing to go into any written undertaking to assure the Government that such loans will be refunded. It is a measure that will help the country.

To avoid further headache in this regard, I also agree with an hon. Member who suggested some time last week that there should be a common entrance examination for the award of scholarships to students who are willing to enter various universities. Students who are qualified for admission into universities should take a common entrance examination so that those who are successful will be awarded scholarships, and the awards should be such as can go round all those students who are eligible for admission. It does not help us enough if only a few students are beneficiaries of our scholarships because such students, as an hon. Member suggested sometime ago, live a very luxurious life, they live like princes in their various universities. It will be better if everybody benefits, no matter how small the amount is.

As was said by the hon. Member for Afenmai North-West (*Mr Ayeni*) who has just ended his contribution, we would like the Advanced Teachers Training to be a course that would benefit people from all over the country. It was not to my knowledge that people from the Western Region were not admitted. What I had thought, as I said last year, was that those who had attended secondary grammar schools were the people who were admitted to this course. I feel it is teachers and not those who have attended secondary grammar schools who should be given preference while admitting students for the advanced training course. That is my point.

It was suggested some time last week that there should be an arrangement whereby teachers should be tested centrally, and I am happy that the Minister of Education has given us an assurance that something is being done in this regard to ensure that there is a sort of central examining body for teachers.

Take the question of primary education. We have something which shows that there is a unified method in our schools, that is that, children go to secondary schools in the various Regions and at the end of their course they all take the same school certificate examination throughout the Federation. As regards teachers, if there is one body to examine them, this body should be permanent and the people who comprise it should be paid by all the Governments of the Federation. It will go a long way in helping to unify this question of certificates because, at present, people in the East might have some disregard for those teachers who have got their Grade Two in the West or in the North. I feel that much emphasis should be laid on this point so that the Minister will realise that it is a matter that requires his urgent attention.

There is one allegation, one rumour which is circulating all over the place, and I believe it is correct. It is that there is much impersonation in all public examinations in the country. I want to start from the Teachers' Certificate Examination. It is alleged, not only in the West but all over the country, that some people, when they are referred in some subjects, hire people who are intelligent to sit the examination for them. The same thing obtains in the G.C.E. examination to the extent that there are so many quack graduates. Graduates who have genuine certificates do the examinations

for them. This is a very serious allegation and from facts and figures available, it is quite correct. If we do not want certificates in Nigeria to lose their real values, the Minister should take appropriate steps to make sure that the way we do our examinations conform to the general method.

I want to suggest that if a person is putting in for the G.C.E. examination, or Teachers' examination or whatever public examination at all, their applications should be accompanied by a passport photograph of the candidate, and when people are being admitted into the examination hall, they should be in attendance at the place of examination one hour earlier, to enable the invigilators to check through the passport photographs accompanying candidates' applications, to make sure that they are the real people who put in for the examination.

You may not believe this, but it is a fact that there are very crude ways of passing examinations now in Nigeria. I am appealing to the Minister to investigate and consult with the Regional Ministers of Education to make sure that this type of method does not continue for long. For example, the marks awarded for the G.C.E. examination range from 9 to 1. You get somebody getting 1, which is the maximum in an advanced subject, and when he goes into the university he does not come even within third best. This is evidence of the fraudulent method by which people pass examinations nowadays. It is a very serious allegation which I believe is correct, and I am appealing to the Minister to look into it and make the necessary correction.

We appreciate the efforts of the Federal Minister of Education. The schools in Lagos are up-to-date, equipment and everything up-to-date, but we feel that the Federal Capital is too small a Region for us to concentrate all our efforts. The Regional Governments spend quite a lot on education, and it will not be out of place if we call on the Federal Government to go to their aid by way of grants, because already we see that there are so many schools to be maintained by the Regional Governments and, having regard to the smallness of the Federal Territory of Lagos, we feel if the Federal Government can give some grants or subventions to the Regional Governments to help them in their educational pursuits, it will go a long way to help those of us from the Regions and the country at large.

[MR OBI]

The country is turning out school leavers at a very rapid rate. Let us not lose sight of the fact that it is also our own duty to make sure that we provide jobs for them. Something must be done to encourage people to continue sending their children to school, because after leaving secondary schools and they find no jobs to do, they may be disappointed or frustrated and others will not be willing to send their own children to school. Let the Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments try as far as possible to find jobs for those who leave our secondary schools.

Already, it is only the North that has taken, in my view, a very appropriate step towards progress in the field of education. I say this because I think they are a bit gradual. Not that the West and the East have not done something substantial, but I think that we have been too rapid in our own way to the extent that at present we have thousands of teachers who are facing the sack.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Northern Region is the most progressive in all respects and not only in the field of education.

Mr Obi : I made that special reference to the North because of certain recent happenings in both the East and the West. If there is any aspect in which the North is backward, I will be bold enough to say that the North is very backward in that aspect. I am not afraid.

I say this because many teachers in the East and in the West are now being threatened with termination as a result of the steps we have taken in this our own policy in education. I suggest that it will not be quite safe and it will not be proper. There are so many teachers who have taught for about ten, eleven and fifteen years who are going to suffer this thing. I would appeal to the Minister also to have consultations with his colleagues in the Regions to see what can be done, at least, to help these teachers who are facing this very deplorable situation in their own lives.

Finally, I come to the question of unifying our own methods in this field of education. I agree that the Minister is already doing his best to ensure this. I want to say that there should be a uniform scale of salary for teachers

all over the Federation. At present it is not so. We have a different scale for those in Lagos, a different one for those in the East and a different scale for those in the North. I feel that we, as people in one country, should have one scale of salary for all the teachers in the Federation. Something should be done about this, and I appeal to the Minister to see what he can do after consulting with his Regional colleagues.

I support.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : The total amount to be appropriated under this Head for the current year is £1,992,590. I hope, undoubtedly, that with this large sum of money, the Government will be able to found several teachers' training colleges, technical institutions and secondary schools in each Region in order that they may serve as feeders to our young emergent Universities in the whole Federation.

The Federal Government should open more Trade Centres in the Regions in its move calculated to assist the Regional Governments towards their educational development. History had it that expatriates brought to us what we inherited known as education to-day.

It is highly important that educational and technical co-operation should exist between all Regions of the Federation. We require more knowledge and it is only through the co-operation of other advanced Regions that we can gain the knowledge. With educational and technical co-operation, all parts of the Federation will rightly feel that they are brothers from the same father with equal opportunity to face the ordeal of life. In order to ensure perfect unity through educational and technical co-operation within the Federation, may I suggest to the Government that all our advisers on teacher training colleges, secondary education and technical colleges should be non-expatriates. I do not say that Government should Nigerianise all educational institutions; what I really mean is that we should remove all the psychological and colonial mentality in our education.

I would suggest to the Government also that the examination fees paid by referred Grade II teachers before retaking the subjects in which they were referred should be waived. This should be done because it is a continuation of the course for which they had already paid,

As regards adult education, I would finally suggest that the Federal Government should loan money to the Regional Governments for this purpose. Adult education is of vital importance to every nation and the Government should not lose sight of the fact that adult education is the concrete foundation for all primary, secondary and technical schools in the Federation.

With these few remarks, I support Head 36.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): My rising to reply to some of the points raised by my hon. Friends does not mean that I am stopping other Members from making further suggestions. I think it is wise that as many Members who have contributed to this Head have said the same thing, although in different ways, I should at this juncture say a few words on the points they have raised.

I have in return to thank hon. Members for the very good things they have said about my Ministry. I think this is the result of having in my Ministry educationists who are interested in what they are doing and also the very fact that we are relentlessly pursuing the policy of Nigerianisation in my Ministry. This is a true reflection of the very good work they are doing and the unrelenting interest they have in the affairs of the Ministry.

I thank the hon. Dr Okeke for saying good things about the Peace Corps. The work the Peace Corps have done in this country is praiseworthy. This good job is also being supplemented immensely by the British summer vacation teachers who have always come during the long vacation to help us in our educational development.

The points made by Members are identical and I think if I am able to go through the same points made by one Member I shall have covered the points made by other Members on the same subject. Hon. Dr Okeke mentioned what he called 'disturbing factors'. He said that many boys and girls abroad were not encouraged at the completion of their courses to come home and teach. I know that many of them who would like to come back for the building of this country have always returned at the completion of their courses. At one time I had the occasion to meet students in

New York and what they told me was that the salary paid in Nigeria was scanty and for that reason they were not prepared to come home. In return I told them that New York was built by the concerted efforts of people like themselves in their hard days and that if they felt they would remain there for ever I could assure them that Nigeria did not know that they were there. I also said that those who were prepared to help us would be welcome.

Coming to the question of the General Certificate of Education which hon. Dr Okeke said should be scrapped because in Britain they no longer take into consideration the G.C.E. Advanced Level—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): On a point of explanation, I did not say it should be scrapped. I said it should not be used as the university entrance requirement. It should be used as a terminal course so that those who have it can gain employment at the appropriate scale. If a student passes his School Certificate examination in Grade II he should be qualified to enter a university. If he is accepted on his performance at the School Certificate level then he should be admitted. But he should not be required to spend four or five years trying to get the intermediate or the G.C.E. Advanced Level before he is absorbed. It does not make sense to me.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West): On a point of information, I think Grade II Certificate will lower the standard of university education in this country. What we are after is that the standard should be raised.

The Minister of Education: As the hon. Member for Afenmai North West (*Mr Ayeni*) has rightly said, it will not help us in our standard of education because in Britain and other countries the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) or Higher School Certificate is the requisite qualification for admission into universities. In Scotland which is part of Britain they do not even take cognisance of G.C.E. or H.S.C. They lay much emphasis on the Scottish entrance examination which I think is higher than G.C.E. or H.S.C. to admit students into their universities. I do not think that Members would like our standard to be lowered to the extent that when these boys enter the university, they will not make any progress.

[THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

The hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr Exera*) during this Session told the House about the very good performance of Nigerians in the United States in the field of education. This is because of the very strict way in which we select our students. There is one testimony by educationists in any high institution you find Nigerians. They always say that Nigerians are not only gentlemen but they are great scholars. I think that is a very good report to be made on our boys and girls abroad. If we are to have able professors as the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has mentioned, I think our future professors should have sound educational background and this sound educational background does not stop in primary education, it goes from primary to secondary and then to the university level.

The hon. Dr Okeke also mentioned the delay in the release of West African School Certificate results. This matter came up a few weeks ago at the conference of the West African Examinations Council held in Bathurst. It was then discovered that two examiners did not submit their markings and consequently the question of failing or passing or assembling results was delayed. The West African Examinations Council felt greatly concerned and have promised that a stop will be put to this and that in future the results will be released earlier than they were this year.

With regard to technical education which hon. Members have said should be taken over by the Federal Government, I would like to refer Members to Educational Development 1961-70 Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1961, paragraph 41. There Members will see that Federal grants will be given to the Regions for the expansion of technical institutes and for the recruitment of suitably qualified teachers to promote scientific and technical education as a basis for economic and general development. The Federal Government has accepted to do this, but this will be done in negotiation with the Regional Governments concerned. They have to say in what field they will need Federal assistance, either by way of recruitment of teachers or by way of grant.

The hon. Member also mentioned bogus schools. I know of no bogus school flourishing here. If that comes to the notice of my Ministry I will do all I can to stop it. Schools

designated as bogus that have come to our knowledge have always been closed down. I would like Members to help in speaking to parents. Although our boys and girls have the thirst for education they should be very careful in the way they run to those schools. It is not the duty of the Ministry alone. A fairly good number of Members in this House are teachers, some at one time have been teachers too and I think they will be helping the Ministry by thinking twice before they allow themselves to be duped. My hon. Friend, the Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) has mentioned here that he was a victim to this type of business. I know Mr Taiwo is an honest man and it is always easier to dupe an honest man than a person of questionable character, because an honest man will think that whatever is said to him is true and will not take it with a grain of salt.

The question of training in Nigeria was also raised. We are doing all we can to see that those courses which are available in our institutions of higher education are done in Nigeria and only those ones which we have not got in our institutions should be done overseas.

About the award of scholarships to rural areas we have always sent out advertisements inviting applications for scholarships early enough, and candidates are given sufficient time to apply. I would like to say that if a candidate from an hon. Member's area applied for Federal scholarship and fails to secure it, he should know that though he was basically qualified, he might not be as qualified as those who received the award. For example, if in one field of study we want to award about twenty scholarships we may get a hundred or a thousand applications. You can now realise the difficulty which would face the Scholarship Board in perusing the applications of over a hundred candidates. Certainly, scholarship would be highly competitive and I do not in any way think that the members of the Scholarship Board will do anything to show any form of favouritism because they are, to the best of my knowledge, men whose names inspire confidence—great educationists who would like the very best material to be awarded scholarship.

Coming to the question of impersonation I would say that my Ministry has done a great deal to combat this. If a candidate is applying for scholarship we always want him to send

along with his application, a passport copy of his photograph, so that when he comes his application will be laid down and his picture will be seen. This is to make sure that the person is the very one who applied. Similarly in the entrance examination for Secondary Schools set by the West African Examinations Council the Principals of such colleges have always demanded the pictures of would-be students. Therefore it is not easy for one to impersonate.

I now come to the question of Italian scholarships. We have on very many occasions tried to go into the question of foreign scholarships, but when we do this Members say that we do not want our boys and girls to accept foreign scholarships. There is a case in which one student was promised foreign scholarship and the Government was asked to pay the transport of that student. The student accepted the scholarship and when he got there he discovered that it was not a full scholarship. There are many cases of this nature coming to the Ministry and we have always done our best to augment the little money they pay on behalf of the boys. Especially in Italy, we have a case of forty or more students, and we had to make bulk grants of about fifty pounds each and we have continued to help them. In this case, I will ask those who apply for foreign scholarships to take my Ministry into confidence. We have always wanted them to pass through us so that we can make sure that when they get there, they will not be stranded for it is not easy after we have spent money for Federal Scholarship awards to get another money from elsewhere to pay for those stranded students who were lured to scholarship awards by foreign countries.

About grants to our institutions of higher education, I made it clear in one of the Questions asked during this session that the National University Council has as an interim award received the sum of £450,000 as grants to our Universities. I think this money will be fairly distributed.

The introduction of French in our Secondary Schools and Advanced Teacher Training Colleges is going on now, and it is not true to say that the Advanced Teacher Training College in Lagos refuses to take students from the Regions. What happens is that the Federal scholars are sponsored by the Federal Government and the Regional students are sponsored by their Governments.

An hon. Member : What about voluntary agencies ?

The Minister of Education : Voluntary agencies can sponsor them if they wish. The door is open to those people who wish to come. We have in each Region Teacher Training College. These colleges are being established in all the Regions through the help of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and if any student wants to come to Lagos, provided there is a vacancy, he is welcome.

Concerning the recruitment of graduates, we have accepted to do this because in this very Paper which has received the blessing of this House, the Federal Government said that apart from training by means of scholarships tenable in overseas institutions, training colleges in Nigeria will be extended and new ones opened and by 1970 it is expected that half the staff of secondary schools, teacher training colleges, technical colleges and other institutions will be graduates and half will be teachers with diploma in education. So we are doing our best to encourage graduates to teach in our secondary schools and in our technical institutes.

Mention was made of 11 professional advisers. This figure is even meagre because there is a great demand from the Regions for our professional advisers here in the Federal Territory to go and help them and advise them in their educational development to the extent that at times we do not have even one adviser in the Ministry to advise us. I have also noted the point made by the hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr M. C. K. Obi*) that the syllabuses for History and Geography, should be revised so as to show the geography of Nigeria and give the history of our eminent men and women.

About the question of text-books, an answer has been given that all our Nigerian authors are not original authors. They get hold of a text-book and ask what might be the examiner's favourite and then give an answer to that question; or they copy old questions from Wolsey Hall or from Rapid Results College or from Bennett College and give answers to those questions. In other words they have not produced any original work of their own; they very strictly follow other books, questions and answers.

[MR KOLADE]

not be paid for it. I think there should be a new system whereby teachers would be encouraged. Those who have no opportunity of attending universities, as long as they do well in their work, should receive promotions, even as teachers in Government schools do receive promotions.

I just want to make some suggestions with reference to King's College, Lagos. It is a college which has actually produced so many important personalities in Nigeria, and we thank the authorities for the wonderful work there.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Oyo North West (*Mr Taiwo*) has suggested that the intake there is one-sided in that children in the Federal Territory of Lagos are considered more than others. When we think of this tiny island of Lagos and consider the whole of Western Region or the whole of Eastern Region or the big Northern Region, I do not know how we can take more children from Lagos every year since the College belongs to all of us in the Federation. My suggestion is that it should be co-educational. The idea of boys alone should be changed now.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Mr Kolade : Hon. Members are just saying no, no, without any reason. I have my own reason and I am coming to prove myself. The modern system of education which is approved and which most of the educationalists are craving for now is co-education. The King's College has been for boys all these years. I am not talking about Lagos only. I am speaking in general terms. Why do we separate them when we know that they will come together again? Why do we separate boys from girls when at least we know that they have to marry and come together? For example, what is spoiling so many marriages nowadays is because boys and girls have not been trained together—(*Laughter*). If boys and girls have been trained together, the boys will know the habit of the girls and the girls will know the habit of the boys. For example, most of the Regional Governments are now thinking of having most of the Teacher Training Colleges—(*Interruptions*).

Now, with reference to the Domestic Science Centre at Yaba, I think there has been great improvement there. But I think the

emphasis should be on our meals and not on the European diets. Some of the lecturers at the Domestic Science Centre give lectures on European diets. This will not be useful to the students when they leave the institution because they will never prepare European diets for their husbands. The place should be reorganised. Let the girls learn how to prepare the food of their own environments and let them know the techniques of their own diets. Let them know how they will improve the vitamin content of the African diets. We have got a lot of vegetations and plenty of vegetables in Africa. Let them know the way to cook our own meals so that when they leave the institution, they will be useful to their families. Our education should take care of our own environments and the African background.

With reference to scholarship awards, I think it should be intensified and the more awards we can have the better—may be on merit or by constituency arrangement. We need to increase the award because so many Nigerians are now reading fast; they are eager to learn, but they are very weak, financially, and the more we can help them the better. The Government has tried, but I am still imploring the Government to think of more scholarship awards, especially for the backward areas.

An award which I know is not very common and which I think the Government should intensify is the award to teachers who will teach handicapped children. I think we have not been speaking on that in Nigeria. We want teachers specially trained to help these handicapped children. Usually, I watch scholarship awards when they are released in the East, in the West and in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Government only awards scholarships in science, arts, and so on. These are good, but we need more scholarship awards for specially trained teachers who would teach these physically deformed children. After all, we are not only to care for the able-bodied. We are to care for those who are disabled. For example, some of the children at the Orthopaedic hospital at Igbobi are handicapped as a result of, perhaps, accidents. The Government should not be one-sided. Something should also be done for the citizens who are disabled.

For example, in more advanced countries like America, Japan, Australia and even the United Kingdom, there are institutions of higher learning where teachers are specially trained to handle such handicapped children, and if we are to embark on such a system now, it will definitely be an improvement on what we have been doing for many years past.

I think also that there should be stricter measures taken against some officials who leak out examination questions. I thought the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) was going to mention that point in his speech, but he did not. In addition to what he has said, I would like to add that apart from the fact that certain people go to the examination rooms to sit for others, we still have people who indulge in leaking out examination papers. This thing has happened in the Eastern and Western Regions and it makes nonsense of our standard of examination. Whenever we get officials of the Ministry of Education indulging in this practice of leaking out examination papers, such officials should be taken to court and jailed for some years.

An hon. Member : They should be jailed for twenty-five years.

Mr Kolade : I think that is too much, but I will recommend that at least they should be severely disciplined, and if the hon. the Attorney-General could bring to the Floor of this House, at its next sitting, a Bill with reference to this, I am sure every hon. Member will give it his support.

I think that on Tuesday next there may be a debate in this House on the question of making education a federal matter; I also think that Members will support it. If we give it our support, this idea of Teachers Grade II examination which is not of common standard in the whole of the Federation—

An hon. Member : It is common.

Mr Kolade : It is not common. Teachers do not take the same examination papers. I am connected with this and I know what is happening. There should be a uniform standard. In our own time—when we took our own examination—it was a federal matter and some of us can boast that we can work

to-day anywhere in the Federation. But what we are breeding nowadays is a class of school leavers who will only love their own region. This kind of examination, if we are not very careful, can easily cause disunity in Nigeria, because when it becomes impossible for a certificated Grade III teacher to secure employment in any other Regions than his, then there is likely to be disunity. I believe that if all our Ministries of Education in Nigeria can come together and find some possible solution whereby we may be more united in our educational standards, generations yet unborn will be grateful. After all, the essence of education is to develop to the full the potentiality of every child at school in order to make him an asset to the community of which he is a member.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : I rise to support this Head and to associate myself with the kind sentiments—

Mr D. K. Aihonsu (Egbado South) : On a point of order, I beg to point out that we, on this side, are a coalition of Opposition, and whenever a Member speaks from one side, I think the other side should also be given the opportunity to speak.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : We refuse to form any coalition with the Action Group. (*Interruptions*).

Mr C. K. Obi (Afenmai) : On a point of order—

The Chairman : Order. I want hon. Members to know that I strongly deprecate these unwarranted points of order.

Mr Enefola : As I was saying, I think the Minister of Education is an able and willing Minister. He is progressive and we all laud his plans. However, I have some few observations to make. In doing so, I will, first of all, start with the position of our education in this country to-day.

If we view the educational pyramid in this country very objectively, we will find that the attitude of our Government is to plan to make the peak very attractive and to allow the base to crumble. I have said this because so many things are happening to-day, and the attention of our Ministries of Education should be

[MR ENEFOLA]

invited to them. They all seem to direct their attention to the top of the pyramid without giving due regard to the base. In short, they are allowing the base to rot. By base I mean elementary and primary education. Teachers pay very little attention to the primary section of our educational planning. If we face the top only and neglect the base, I think something will happen and eventually the whole pyramid will collapse.

There is a plan now by which teachers who will teach in secondary schools are mostly being trained in the higher institutions. This, it is true, will enable them to teach various subjects. Unfortunately, teachers who teach in primary schools are neglected. As a result, these teachers become dissatisfied and their sorry plight has resulted in the lowering of the standard of education in this country. If the teachers are not satisfied and are not well cared for, they will continue to labour very hard to pass their examinations, instead of concentrating on their pupils and their classroom work. There are teachers who have been teaching for about ten or twenty years and who are still Grade II Teachers, while their contemporaries in school, who are now in the civil service, are now senior service officers earning upwards of £2,000. The plight of these teachers in the primary schools should be looked into and the Government should endeavour to plan in such a way as to improve their status. All these Grade II and Grade III Teachers' examinations should be abolished.

As the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) said sometime ago, the Northern Region is coming up gradually to overtake the other Regions in matters of education. They are effecting so many changes in their educational plan. There is a five-year course now in the Northern Region with a view to eliminating these grades of teachers. They are planning to have their primary schools manned in future by one grade of teachers. I think, so long as we continue to allow teachers to climb the ladder by self-effort, that is, making it compulsory for them to pass examinations before they can make progress, so long will the standard of our primary education continue to be lowered in this country.

I would like to praise the Federal Minister of Education for his free universal primary

education. It is very progressive and smooth-sailing. There has been no trouble in Lagos like the ones we had in the East and the West. The Federal Government is doing very well in this field. But there is one thing I would like the Minister to do. I think the time has now come in Lagos when we should have a compulsory free primary education. It is actually pathetic to see young boys and girls roaming and hawking about the streets. If these children are asked any question, they cannot answer. We should have compulsory free primary education.

The tendency to-day is to mechanise everything, and I think it will be a very good thing for everybody to be educated. If the Federal territory wants to go the industrial way and become an industrial area, it is also good that a compulsory free primary education should be introduced, so that the children who will be turned out from schools in five to ten years' time will be able to man our industries. This they can do only if they are able to read and write.

I would like to say something that perhaps our Minister of Education and the Federal Government have not taken notice of. That is this idea of having summer vacation. I think this summer long holiday was something started by our colonial masters in years gone by when we had not achieved our independence. I feel that in this tropical climate students will study better during the rainy season than in the dry season. I feel that should we have more Nigerians taking over responsibility for education and less expatriate officers who would like to go during the long summer vacation so that they may be able to enjoy the long summer holidays in their home. I think we should now change so that the long vacation is given during the dry season. We have no summer in this country, so there is no need having summer vacation in this country. Our schools should close, say, by the end of November and then open again in March ending. It will be very good because some of the examinations to these schools and universities are held in September and in January. I feel that it is time we changed this summer vacation to the dry season because the dry season is very hot and students find it difficult to learn.

I would also like to say something about King's College and Queen's College. Many hon. Members have said something about the

schools. May I ask whether King's and Queen's Colleges are public schools in the sense of Eton College in Britain? Are they public schools with a tradition that must always be kept? They are conservative to changes or they are state public schools. I think that King's College and Queen's College are state-owned schools. It is the Government that supports the schools. If King's College is a state-owned school, why is it that so much fees are charged in this College? When application forms are filled the school authorities would like to know the parents of the child who is applying, what he does and so on. If a child comes from a poor home we all know that the parents will not be able to afford the fees and the students will be eliminated from the entrance examination.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): On a point of order, King's College is the cheapest secondary school in Lagos. The fee is £10 per term: I go there always.

Mr Enefola: I challenge the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) to produce the prospectus. It is up to £40—(*Interruptions*).

The Minister of Education: I would like to disabuse the minds of hon. Members. The hon. Member for Igala South (*Mr Enefola*) is misleading the House. If hon. Members get hold of the prospectus of either King's College or Queen's College, it will be seen that these two schools charge the lowest fees in Nigeria. The essence of wishing to know who the parents are is in order to determine those who will be able to pay the fees. It is the general practice in secondary schools that they should know the parents in case the school authorities want to write the students' parents. Either the students fail to pay their school fees in time or there is something like misbehaviour. In the absence of parents, they always like to have the names of those who have these students as their wards. That is what actually happens.

The other point mentioned by the hon. Member which I would like hon. Members to know about is on making free primary education in Lagos compulsory. We are going towards that, in that, in compulsory education we must provide for the sick, the blind, the maimed and so on. We are doing this. We have a school for the blind and we have a school for the dumb. In other words, we are pursuing

compulsory education. Not only that, at present, the school children population in Lagos is so high that we are beginning to experience difficulty in providing school buildings. We had 15,000 pupils for class one in January this year.

Mr Enefola: I still stand by my words if the Minister of Education—(*Interruptions*).

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): On a point of order, the Minister said that primary education in Lagos is compulsory because they provide books and so forth. That does not make it to be compulsory. In order to be compulsory the children must—(*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Quite a number of hon. Members have recently been adopting the habit of being unruly. I have discountenanced them thinking that, being hon. Gentlemen, they would at least sometime behave. I shall not allow this in future.

Mr Enefola: As I was saying, it is only the tuition fee in King's College that is £10, but there is the boarding fee, money for books and other charges. That is what I have seen in the prospectus, and I will show the prospectus to the Minister of Education.

The last point I would like to make here is about community development in this country. What I mean is that when we find some of our chaps in the universities looking for vacation jobs—and there are so many of them now—it will be very good if we in this country begin to inculcate in them the idea of going in for a course in community development. There are many people in the rural areas who need the help of the people who know. There are many areas in this country that need help, and if the Government can budget a special amount to help these university chaps go to the under-developed areas within our own country, it will be very good.

It is quite true that we get loans from overseas for the development of this country, but between ourselves we should be able to make the effort to tell our undergraduates to go into the rural areas and try to help our people. There are some places where the people are conservative to changes. The Minister of Economic Development was saying the other day that once some people are used to a habit it is difficult to change them from it. Community development is an art, it is something

[MR ENEFOLA]

that people study. When these students are given these courses of instruction in community development, they can then go to the rural areas and help with the development of roads, building new markets, and so on. We have seen areas along the River Niger that are not accessible by road except by water, and we have some under-developed areas in the plateau province to be developed. I think the Ministry of Education should try and work in conjunction with the universities, so that some of these university students, during their long vacation, can help develop these under-developed areas.

Finally, I would like to say something about the siting of Inter-Regional Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges. It is already in the Plan that about two or three will be established this or next year. What I would like to say is this. In establishing these Inter-Regional Secondary Schools the Government should consider first the provinces on the Regional borders for example, Kabba Province. This is the only province in this country that has common borders with all the Regions. The Inter-Regional Secondary Schools should be established in places like Lokoja, Idah and so on.

If one is established at Idah people from Nsukka in the Eastern Region as well as people in the North can attend it. If one is established on the other side, say Kabba or Lokoja, people from the West can attend it. It will not be good to site them very far away from the Regional borders. If any is so sited I am sure that it will serve mainly the people of the Region where it is sited.

For example, if one is sited at Warri, although it may be called an Inter-Regional Secondary School I do not think that the Northerners, for instance, will be interested so much to take entrance examinations to it. And if any is sited far in the North it will be equally difficult for people of other Regions to seek entrance to them. So, my advice is that they should be in places where they will be accessible to students from all the Regions who would like to take entrance examinations to them.

I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of Establishments 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.

£1,992,590 for Head 36—Ministry of Education—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT).

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu): There is a very serious protest document now circulating throughout the Federation. The said document has been copied to the Students' Unions of the Universities of Ibadan, Ife, Ahmadu Bello and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; also to all Trade Unions, the N.B.C. Board Members, the Zikist Movement, and so on.

The protest was in connection with a most damaging, most castigating, most destructive article against Nigeria and her people, captioned 'Safe Journey' and published in a New Zealand magazine.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will read an extract from the protest document.

The person who wrote it travelled for the first time from Lagos to Enugu and made castigating remarks on his experiences. From Akure in the Western Region he entered the deepest African jungle where God saved him from elephants. At the bank of the River Niger he came across naked men of Nigeria. On his way University students worried him for a lift.

At Enugu he was welcomed by vultures.

He went further to say that he observed women politicians, because of tax agitation, holding sticks and chasing politicians. And he also observed Hausa traders exploiting other traders and so on. These things are too many to be quoted here. If the article is read in full it will be seen that the intention is to undermine the

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reputation of Nigeria both in its commerce and in its social and other activities and so becloud us before the outside world. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! The noise made on my right is drowning the speech of the hon. Member and Official Reporters cannot hear him.

Mr Chiedozie : I am asking the hon. Minister of Information to make a statement on this very article published in a New Zealand magazine damaging Nigeria. The writer is even in Nigeria. If the article and everything said are proved to be truly written by this man I think that we will all demand that he should go. We want him no more. The man's name is Mr Mackay, Director of Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : This matter should have been referred to me by the N.B.C. Clerical and Allied Workers' Union in the first instance. In matters like this it is better to hear the other side and that is why we have the maxim *audi alteram partem* ; otherwise, we cannot claim to do justice.

However, I shall cause this matter to be investigated and necessary action taken.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at eleven minutes to twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA*Saturday, 20th April, 1963**The House met at 9 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance : I beg to make the following Business Statement for next week :—

On Monday the 22nd the Committee of Supply will sit for the Fourth Allotted Day.

On Tuesday the 23rd the Supplementary Appropriation (1961-62) Bill and the Supplementary Appropriation (1962-63) Bill will be presented. Private Members' Business will occupy the time until 6 p.m. At a night sitting the Second Readings of the two Supplementary Appropriation Bills will be moved and the Adjourned Debate on the Second Reading of the Lagos Health Service Bill will be resumed if it is finally decided that it should be debated. (*Interruptions*). Two boys are conspiring on Lagos issues on both Sides of the House !

Wednesday is the Fifth Allotted Day for the Committee of Supply.

Thursday is the Sixth Allotted Day for the Committee of Supply.

At a night sitting, the Debate on the Second Readings of the Supplementary Appropriation Bills will be resumed and a resolution will be moved to confirm the Customs Tariff Duties on Exemptions Order 1963.

Friday and Saturday together constitute the Seventh Allotted Day for the Committee of Supply.

NOTICE OF MOTION

APPROPRIATION BILL (ALLOCATION OF TIME)

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That notwithstanding Order (4th April), Head 58 of the Estimates shall be taken in the Committee of Supply on the 4th day and Head 46 on the 6th day.

For the information of hon. Members, my Colleague and Friend, the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys, will be leaving the country

at a time when his Head of the Estimates is supposed to be debated and with the agreement of another Colleague of ours, we have agreed to bring forward his Head of the Estimates to enable him to be present here to answer to any point that hon. Members would like to make. I am sure hon. Members will agree that this is a wise decision because it is unnecessary to debate the Head of the Estimates of a particular Minister in his absence.

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

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I rise to indicate the acceptance of the Motion and we hope that other Ministers will follow suit, namely, that whenever they want to be away on important duties, either religious or state, they should let this House know. Even if the Head is brought to-day, we are quite willing to debate it.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That notwithstanding Order (4th April), Head 58 of the Estimates shall be taken in the Committee of Supply on the 4th day and Head 46 on the 6th day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL

THIRD ALLOTTED DAY (CONTINUED) :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 37.—ANTIQUITIES

Question proposed, That £81,100 for Head 37—Antiquities—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : I rise to support this Head. I must congratulate the Minister of Education on what he has been able to do so far as antiquities are concerned. I am very happy that he has declared certain buildings in Calabar as antiquities. These include the building occupied by the first Consul when Calabar was the Headquarters of Nigeria. I am also happy that he has been able to declare the building of one of the Calabar kings and the building of the late pioneer of produce trade in Opobo, and that is the late Jaja of Opobo. He has also built a magnificent museum in Oron. All these are to the credit of the Minister and his Ministry.

I have to say however, that nobody can be without blame.

I want to say under this Head, that the Director of Antiquities, who is an expatriate is doing very much to develop antiquities in this country. I happened to know when the museum in Jos was started because I took a very keen interest in the work. I even went there to see it. He is a very useful man to the country. But I think we have now got enough Nigerian Anthropologists. We should as far as possible, and with the fund now available to the Minister, not be the cause of many resignations as is happening at present. A lot of people in the Ministry resign because of the appalling conditions under which they are working.

I have a case in mind. I know of a well qualified Nigerian Anthropologist who was posted to Oron. He was a very hard working man and he was posted there when it was realised that it was difficult to assemble things which ought to have been preserved in Calabar Province. At times, he used to consult me. For instance, we have the manilla which was our currency. It was used mostly by the Ibos and Ibibios. There was a time that it was banned, but some are still remaining. They are of different kinds. You have the six-penny piece, the three-penny piece, and the shilling and florin pieces.

I know how far this young man assembled and classified these manillas, but because his counterparts in other departments who have similar or lower qualifications were progressing more than him, he resigned. I have other cases and I think the Minister of Education should be very sorry for this type of thing. It is his duty to protect the Nigerians that we have produced for this work; not only those who studied under Government scholarships but also those who studied on their own. They should be encouraged. My point is that we have at present qualified Nigerians who are anthropologists. We must apply the Nigerianisation policy as far as antiquities are concerned. It is time that Mr Fagg, the Director of Antiquities should take advantage of the lump-sum compensation and hand over to a Nigerian.

I would not like to dwell very much on this Head, but I must point out any lapses in the hope that the Minister of Education who is in charge, and the Government, will give this matter a very serious consideration. Further, this question of antiquities must

be pursued with all vigour. It is not only things that were moulded in ancient past, but things that are made now. It must embrace the graves of our ancient kings and queens like Jaja and king Eyamba who brought missionaries into Calabar, and also signed treaties of trade in Calabar. Wherever such chiefs can be found to have lived their graves must be declared antiquities.

Afterwards, we go to places overseas. I was lucky to be in Switzerland where I saw the statues of John Knox and that of Calvin. It is therefore now that the Minister of Education should make funds available so that the statues of our ancient kings and queens should be erected and preserved for posterity.

I must conclude by once more asking the Minister of Education and all sections of his Ministry to act quickly. I must also mention the beautiful buildings in Lagos and the free Primary Education Scheme, and how progressive it is. I only wish that one day Education will be made a Federal subject. I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : Although originally, it was my intention to move a Motion, but looking through the Head once more, I am convinced that the Minister of Education has done enough to warrant tribute even from an unsparing critic. It is when any nation can point with pride at her past artistic and other possessions that that nation has any reason to be proud. This is why this Head is much more important than it seems on the surface.

Anyone who has visited the British Museum in London cannot help wondering how much of our antiquities are still left in countries outside Nigeria, particularly in London and also in America. The process is still going on because Nigeria is not alone in this unfortunate situation. We know this from what we find in the British Museum. So Nigeria must be proud that not much of her antiquities, compared with the amount of antiquities in our possession, are still in the country. It is for this reason that I decided to sing the praise of the Minister in charge of antiquities. He should regard this as a tribute from us. That is what I have said.

The present budget shows a definite improvement on the old one. It has catered for so many contingencies. I will, however, make

[MR ORONSAYE]

one or two observations. Head 1 Sub-head 3 provides £6,760 for serving archeologists. I have noticed with considerable interest that this Head has been paid huge sums in the past but I have not heard of any excavations made by these people at all. There was what might be described as a few scratches in Benin a few years ago, but I understand that this was being done at the instance of the University College Ibadan. I would like to know what excavations have been done by these archeologists because if they take the trouble to go to places that have made history, places like Benin for instance, and places like Ife and other places that have been centres of civilization for many many years before the British came to Nigeria, then it will help a great deal to unravel the hidden civilization which existed in the past. In the absence of these excavations all money spent on archeologists is money thrown down the drain. So I would like the Minister of Education to make a statement when he is replying to our points as to what excavations have so far been done by the archeologists.

Another point is that there are provisions for photographic Assistants, Facsimile Moulders, Binding Repairers and Projections. This is very, very good indeed. But I do not know what these people have been doing in the past. If they have been working, then there has been no publicity about their work.

Now I observe that a considerable amount of up to £1,000 has been provided for publications. If this amount had been provided in the past, as I have seen, then what sort of publications have been made in the past about the activities of archeologists and the activities of the moulders who are supposed to produce replicas of antiquities for the benefit of everybody? There has been no publicity about them at all. That is why it is necessary to say that the publications have been misused. I am sorry to use that word. In the absence of any publicity, the publications have been misused. If the £1,000 has been used for internal consumption then it is money thrown down the drain. Their activities are so important that even to produce a periodical journal about them would not be a waste.

In the 1962-63 Estimates I noticed that a sum of £1,000 was also provided for the same publicity. We pay for publicity and yet we do not get publicity. This is very miraculous.

I very strongly advise the Minister of Education to tell us what sort of publicity has been going on. The purchase of antiquities must also be given publicity. I have noticed that as much as £6,000 has been provided for that. In my opinion, even if we are asked to provide £20,000 for the purchase of antiquities, I will not hesitate to support such a move. But if such a move is to have the desired effect all efforts should be made to lock away all the originals of antiquities. The new ones purchased should also be locked away and replicas of these made so that binders and moulders are kept busy.

The Railway coaches which are going to be modified to carry display cases must be carefully handled. It is a pity that the Railway passes only through a few towns in Nigeria and the other parts are covered by road system. Despite the fact that the UNESCO has provided some arrangements of covering some parts of the road system yet I would have thought that the Government would provide first of all, arrangements for adapting motor lorries to this purpose for covering the road system of the country in order to give them museum service. It is only in this way that the people in all parts of the country will know that what they have in their houses are valuable things. There are some houses you go to in this country and see a fine wonderful antiquity but they are kept in juju shrines or in some dark corners of the houses because these people do not know the value of these things.

The point made by the hon. Member who spoke last was erroneously made when he referred to manillas as currency. Manillas were never currency in this country they were just money and not currency. He should look up the meaning of the word currency. These manillas and other suitable antiquities are found in abundance in many houses. It is quite necessary that efforts should be made in using the road system to show to people what the antiquities are and how rich they are in them before we can be sure of any suitable response. If there is a suitable response, then of course the country will be very, very rich in antiquities, and museums will be sited in a place that will invite people from all parts of the world.

We cannot afford the luxury of losing our antiquities simply because people are ignorant of their value. In any case it has been put

there that Railway coaches will be adopted. I will only speak by way of advice because the Government has made up its mind to adopt these coaches. No amount of pleading can change it. I will advise that they should be modified in such a way that the actual originals of antiquities are kept very safely far out of reach of the people who might pinch them and moulders should make replicas of them to be exhibited in show cases.

The declaration of nine antiquities as monuments is very welcome. I should say that this is a small beginning because it is just like saliva from the mouth dropping into an ocean. You can compare the quantity of liquid that comes from the mouth with the quantity of liquid that is in the ocean. That is exactly the position.

In Benin alone more than a thousand antiquities can be declared. It is only necessary for everybody to work very, very hard. I have been told of the existence of places in the North and elsewhere where there is something which looks like a talking pipe, in which one can hear messages from another direction—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman who is talking about antiquities has a very fine car which could be loaned to the Minister to put into the antiquities. (*Laughter*).

Mr Oronsaye : Well, antiquity does not cover modern articles. My car is very modern and, perhaps, in about two thousand years' time the children of that period may like to see the type of car we use to-day.

Minister of State (Hon. M. Amechi) : I just want to ask the hon. Minister of Education through the Chairman whether it is possible under his regulations to acquire older human beings as antiquities. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : It is just impossible.

Mr Oronsaye : It is very interesting at this time, not at any other time, to have such useful interruptions, but by antiquities we mean the art or culture or civilisation that existed some years ago, and the purpose of preserving them is to show the children of the present age what existed in the past. As I was saying if there is a proper survey it will be found that this country has very rich deposits of antiquities.

Finally, I would like to say that the British Museum still has quite a good number of Nigerian antiquities, and it is absolutely necessary that these antiquities should be repatriated, and, in addition (and this is a very serious suggestion) it will be useful if some Egyptian mummies in the British Museum can be brought to Nigeria. Students of history in the universities will be very interested to have bodies of people who lived two or three thousand years ago and which are still fresh. This shows that in the art of embalming the Egyptians reached the highest point, but due to the ravages of some conquerors who swept across Egypt this art was lost. Of course it was also due to the seclusion of the priests who were doing it that this art was lost to the world. The only way it can be shown to students is by showing them the actual mummies. So in addition to repatriating some of the antiquities to Nigeria, it will be useful if some of these mummies can be bought from the British Museum.

I beg to support.

Chief M. W. Ubani (Aba Central) : The Ministry of Education, under the able hon. Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary, together with the staff and educationists of the Ministry, has done a lot and, I have to join other hon. Members in singing the praise of the Ministry.

The spade work done before the present stage of our antiquities service is one that calls for proper review. We have to praise those who really laboured to bring our antiquities service to its present stage. It is about twelve years since the work of the antiquities service began in the country. It was meant to attract the people's attention and by 1962 the Jos Museum which is the first national museum in Nigeria was completed.

The history of the antiquities service in Nigeria is important and interesting. The Jos Museum which was built entirely by the staff of the antiquities service was meant solely to house the archaeological specimens which were collected around the south-eastern part of Zaria in those days together with some works of Benin art. It is gratifying to note that to-day the Federal Government has come fully into the picture so that now we have not only the Jos Museum but also others at Oron, Ife and Benin. Above all, a central museum has been esta-

[CHIEF UBANI]

lished in Lagos. It is indeed a pleasure to note that the Federal Government has taken a great interest in the establishment of the antiquities service, and it is my belief that the aim is to help our future generation who, no doubt, would like to go further into the past of their forbears and carry out extensive researches.

Museum everywhere also serve as a centre for increasing knowledge and it is hoped that future Nigerian archaeologists will take advantage of their country's museums. The establishment of the Antiquities Commission also adds greater interest and life to the work of the antiquities service. It does not only deal with the collection of relics but also arouses a greater awareness in historic buildings and shrines which could be declared monuments by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

The recent declaration of nine antiquities as monuments is indeed a thing of glory, and I am sure many people in this country will be willing to bring to the notice of the Government any relics, buildings or shrines which they think are deserving of preservation as monuments. In this connection I should like to seize this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Antiquities Commission, through the hon. Minister of Education, the existence of an ancient building in my town, Aba-Ngwa, the Ayinba city of the East, which should be considered for declaration as a monument.

This is an old consulate building which is over sixty years old. It was through this building that army officers gained entry into the city and from there they were allowed to settle in my town at Aba. It is indeed deserving of being declared a national monument.

The work of the antiquities service should be extended to the schools so as to inculcate in young people respect and support for our relics. During holidays schools must make it their bounden duty to take their pupils to these places of interest and history. The service of mobile museums should also be extended far and wide throughout the country.

The staff of the Antiquities Department deserve encouragement. At present there appears to be some sort of disinterestedness in those who should be capable of working in this Department because of disparity in

the scale of salaries given to them. I feel that if the salary scale is made attractive, we should get younger men who are interested to serve in this Department. After all, we live in a world of materialism. We cannot just say that people should serve their nation and their country with empty stomachs. That will not do.

We must have great responsibility to respect our traditions and culture. I call upon the Minister to see to it that some of the important relics of this country which were removed by the earlier agents of the British Government in this country should be repatriated to this country and, if necessary, money must be voted for repurchasing them because they make history and help our minds to forge ahead in the establishment of our relics.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : On the question of repurchasing the antiquities, I would very much like to suggest that if we have such Nigerian antiquities as are now in the British Museum and if, as two or three Members who have spoken before me have mentioned, these are required in Nigeria, they should be purchased back, at reasonable prices, for our museums.

I do not want to go into the question of how, in the first place, they were acquired and taken to Britain, but if at all we should have them returned to Nigeria we must have Nigerians to assess the value and know for how much those antiquities should be repurchased.

Another thing is that wide publicity should be given so that the ordinary man-in-the-street may know that there is need for the preservation of antiquities in the country, and if anyone is in possession of any antiquity, such a person should be paid some money. The tendency should be to appeal to people to help in offering such antiquities as may be of use to the country's museums.

I would also like to say that those who are charged with responsibility for buying antiquities in Nigeria must be reasonable enough to offer good prices for such antiquities purchased.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : I would like to deal, first of all, with the points made by the hon. Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*).

An hon. Member : He has just spoken.

The Minister of Education : It is not out of place to start from the last speaker. I will start from the last speaker and go on to the first.

I have taken into consideration the suggestions he has made about the repurchase of our antiquities from the British Museum or elsewhere. We have always done that. We have repurchased one of the best collections taken from Ife called *The Man* and we have always tried to repurchase from overseas some of our collections that we see in their museums.

As regards the question of fixing prices, it might not be easy for the purchaser to say what the price of the article he wants to purchase should be but when the price which is acceptable to both parties is offered, then it would be easy to have the collection purchased.

We are preserving our antiquities. We have workers who, after excavations are made, undertake the job of treating the collections excavated and then try to preserve them.

I would like to heed the suggestion made by the hon. Shettima Ali Monguno and appeal to people who have in their possessions at present some useful collections, that these antiquities should be surrendered to us—those that are useful.

I have to say something about the point that the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) dealt with and on which he dwelt for a long time, that is, about the Rolling Museum. The railway coaches are not only meant for displaying collections when touring some parts of Nigeria remote from where we have our antiquities. This is the result of a UNESCO Conference held in Paris where UNESCO wanted to know a central place in West Africa or in Central Africa where courses in Museum and Museum collection preservation could be conducted. It was decided that Nigeria, because of her size and because many useful collections can be made in Nigeria, should be the place, and Jos was selected.

We have to draw students who wish to do courses in Museum and Antiquities to Jos. To supplement the train travel, they have agreed to have some coaches and also to have some cars that will do the journeys by road. It is not only meant for students from Nigeria but also to many people who come from other parts of Africa.

As hon. Members may have known those collections are well taken care of so that they may not be damaged. If hon. Members are chanced to visit some of our Museums, they will see that a great deal of money has been spent in building very safe receptacles for these antiquities. As is well known by antiquarians, it is very difficult for one to say how many collections have been made.

The hon. Member also mentioned scrap excavations. I am not sure that he has taken the trouble to go to Ife where these excavations are going on. If it is done by Ibadan University, it is done by Ibadan University in concert with the Antiquity officials. We are doing all we can to have all these things preserved.

As to the question of people removing some of our useful collections, the Police has done and is doing a great deal of good job and those who have tried to pilfer these collections have always been apprehended and punished. Any suggestions made by Members in connection with this subject will be looked into.

£81,100 for Head 37—Antiquities—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 38.—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Question proposed, that £76,160 for Head 38—National Archives—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu) : I wish to seize this opportunity to thank the hon. Minister for the good work being done at Enugu with regard to the expansion of archives. It is not only that the building is very beautiful, it also shows that a big work is envisaged in this direction.

I want to point out that this Department is very useful to our future existence, particularly in assembling old records dealing with Treaties, records, and obligations concerning Nigeria and the old colonial powers who had been able to visit this country, and every effort should be made to cope with the Divisional Offices where a lot of records concerning our vital historical records have been eaten up by ants. There are certain Divisional Offices where very important records are kept. For example in my Division at Awka, I discovered during my investigations that there are Treaty obligations between us and the Government especially from 1904, the date of

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

the coming of the white man into the Division. These things are so vital but they have not been assembled by the National Archives and they are expected to be assembled and put into historical records which will be of interest to our future generations.

Another point is that in scholarship awards at the moment it appears that students who wish to study antiquities are being neglected, and I am appealing to the Minister of Education to see to it that brilliant students, particularly those who have the aptitude for this type of work are given scholarships to study overseas so that they will be of use when they return.

With these few remarks, I have to thank the Minister of Education for the work done so far, and I beg to support.

Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba North) : I quite agree with the last speaker in his plea that special scholarships be awarded for this special branch of study. The Minister of Education has got quite a wide field to embrace. We need special scholarships for people to do researches into the preservation of our antiquities and we want special buildings to be specially set aside as national monuments. When hon. Members go abroad and see these important buildings and the museums and zoos and all the buildings of antiquities, Members feel highly impressed and gain more education.

In the national museum a lot of things could be brought in to put the nation in a very great position especially when we have international visitations to this country. Furthermore, students who return from abroad will have a lot to learn here.

While still on this point, I would like to suggest that the first railway engine that was brought into Nigeria be given a permanent place and brought down to Lagos. Small articles of antiquities like that put together will present a very wonderful study to students.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

£76,160 for Head 38—National Archives—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS
AND SERVICE MATTERS

Question proposed, That £527,480 for Head 39—Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : I take this opportunity to praise the Minister of Establishments for the wonderful work he has been doing to the country. It is evident that without an efficient civil service the reputation of Nigeria which has been growing day by day could not have been possible. The civil service of Nigeria to the outside world is a wonder of perfection, but perhaps I might be allowed to make some suggestions and comments.

First, it appears that most of our intellectuals are not encouraged to remain within the Federal Service. I have known a number of scholarship winners who have gone overseas and returned and who have not been absorbed by the Federal Government. Instead, they are allowed to find their way in the private firms and other mercantile houses. I think it is misplaced economy to train our scholars only to allow them to go away from the Federal service.

Moreover, this process of Nigerianisation must be carried out as far as possible and where possible, Nigerians must be fullblooded Nigerians.

An hon. Member : What does the hon. Gentleman mean by that ?

Mr Muojeke : By that I mean that in some countries like Great Britain and the United States of America, nationals of other countries are not allowed to occupy important offices in their Ministries and Corporations. In the case of Nigeria, therefore, they must be Nigerian nationals because it is in the hands of these Nigerian nationals that lies our salvation as far as civil service is concerned.

We have heard the case of a top-ranking civil servant who is being disgraced. We know that he is not a Nigerian by nationality and if he had been a Nigerian perhaps the case would have been different. He would not have succumbed to the temptations into which he was thrown. As it were, he has a divided loyalty ; sometimes he would like to be loyal to his country of origin instead of being loyal to Nigeria.

Again, we see that students who pass out of the Federal Emergency Science School are not given maximum encouragement as they deserve. We know that these students do physics, chemistry, zoology and other science

subjects which are important to the progress of this country. I learnt that a circular letter has been issued regarding the employment of these students as they are regarded as "birds of passage". According to the circular, these students should not be absorbed into the service because no sooner are they engaged than they leave for the United Kingdom and the United States for further studies. But I think it is a way to dampen their aspirations. As far as possible, they should be absorbed even if it means that they are remaining in the civil service for a matter of months. They should not be penalised in the sense that they should not be employed because they want to pursue higher studies, or because they are regarded as birds of passage.

We know what obtains in other countries. People who do science subjects are very important in other parts of the world. They are responsible for exploring the moon, and so on. I do not see why this should not be so in Nigeria. We must encourage these people as much as possible by giving them scholarships and trying to show that the Government is in favour of what they are doing.

Finally, I do wish to say a few words on the question of selecting possible Nigerian candidates in the civil service as far as possible. The criterion should not be based on tribal affiliations of the applicants or the candidates. Where efficiency and competency clash with tribalism, I think that efficiency and competency should, as far as possible, have over-riding consideration.

As I have said, the Ministry is doing a wonderful service, and with the passage of time, determination and goodwill, Nigeria will in future lead the rest of the world in giving efficient and incorruptible civil service.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : I rise to congratulate the Minister on the great Nigerianisation policy in his Ministry which he is trying to implement at the moment.

I want to warn, too, that there must be a check with regard to bribery and corruption whenever promotions and training schemes are to be considered by Heads of Departments. It appears that as far as promotion is concerned,

at the moment, if a junior servant in the civil service has nobody at the top who belongs to his own tribe, it means that he will be working for nothing. There is a lot of nepotism and tribalism in some quarters, and I hope that the Minister will try and see that he puts a stop to these things.

I think it is proper that the Government should try and see that the illicit progress made by Nigerians should be stopped. At times a civil servant may do some work which brings him an income of about £200, but within a very short time he begins to put up a very permanent, solid building on his own. A person can only put up a building when he has a very good financial standing. But that is not the case nowadays. The Government should try and check things like this, because in a corrupt country there can be no progress. The people must be prepared to serve the nation, and they should not do something only if they are given money for it. This case is something that worries me very much whenever I think of it. So, I think it is a very great duty that the Minister has to do to see that he tries to look into the activities of some people.

When I say this, it does not mean that I am blaming everybody. All the people are not the same. There are some very good Nigerians in that Department, but there are very many others who are not willing to do the work for which the Government is adequately paying them unless they get money somewhere again for that same service. I hope the Minister will look into this and see to it that our civil service is run in the proper method.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North) : I rise to support this Head 39—the Ministry of Establishments.

With Nigeria's present demand in all aspects to take her position among sister civilized countries of the world, the training of her civil service personnel for all sorts of careers is necessary. This challenge, now, is the problem that this Ministry is confronted with. Therefore, the Ministry of Establishments must do everything possible to see that very many scholarships to pursue various courses be awarded without any hesitation. I wish to stress further that indigenous Nigerians must be encouraged to pursue courses and get

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proper training which are required of them at the appropriate time. The progress of this country is now so rapid that the call for the training of our men all over this country has become very important if we are to develop a rapidly progressive country. I would not waste a moment to say that the Ministry of Establishments has contributed a lot to train our people, and for this I have to express my gratitudes.

In my further observation, however, I wish to point out without any hesitation that the Ministry of Establishments must learn how to do justice in certain respects. This Ministry has to do justice in the way it awards scholarships and in its employment method. Due fairness should be given to our youngmen and boys along with our young ladies and girls as against the present method of strictly favouring only the young ladies and girls. To be more explicit, it is obvious that only ladies and girls have better opportunity of getting employment in this Ministry, their qualifications notwithstanding. Favours go to these young ladies from certain angles. This must be looked into and equal opportunity must be given to everybody for securing jobs and scholarship awards in this Ministry.

Hon. Members have on several occasions complained bitterly on how common people cannot easily secure employment except with the support of big guns. I feel that there are some truths in this. It is not only bribes in the form of giving money which should be decried as corruption, but also bribes in the form of ladies who allure employers and people in authority with their beautiful faces. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister to beware of this corruption by trying to evade the attractions and temptations of our young ladies and by giving fair treatment to everybody irrespective of sex.

I want, also, to show to this Ministry and to draw the Federal Government's attention to the fact that my remarks carry weight, and that they are the feelings of the general public. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I wish to use English legal language in this respect, although I am neither a lawyer nor a barrister. I wish to state the following :—

(a) I put it to this honourable House, through Mr Chairman, that much sufferings are experienced by our youngmen in securing

employment in view of the fact that much preference is being given to our young, beautiful ladies in our Ministries.

(b) I put it to this honourable House that the big guns in our society adopt the policy of "charity begins at home" by feeding their Ministries with relatives, favourites and friends only.

I wish to say that the only thing that keeps the balance stable is the impartiality of our Prime Minister and some of his good Ministers who keep the flag flying in the interest of the commoners. This gives me another opportunity to congratulate our Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, on his good leadership, coupled with the desire to serve the country with all sincerity and impartiality since Nigeria attained her political independence.

I wish to say here to the Prime Minister and his group of good Ministers and civil servants, through you, Mr Chairman, that uneasy lies the head that wears the crown. Because the Prime Minister is Godly, impartial, deeply modest, sincerely honest and very loyal, I want him to rest assured that he has the implicit confidence of this Parliament and the full support of the hon. Members herein assembled. To be more explicit, I wish to say that we all support the Prime Minister and we are with him.

Mr P. U. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of order, we are discussing the Ministry of Establishments now. I do not know why we should continue to use all the words of praise for the Prime Minister at this particular time. We all know what the Prime Minister is and we have been saying it. I think the hon. Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyamma*) should confine his remarks to the Ministry of Establishments.

The Chairman : The Prime Minister is in charge of all the Ministries.

Alhaji Gauyamma : I wish to say that we, the accredited representatives of the people assure the Prime Minister and his Government of our support.

I would like the Minister of Establishments to see to the welfare of the people of this country and to conduct the affairs of this Ministry impartially.

Finally, I congratulate the Ministry on the good services it has rendered to the country and the achievement so far made.

I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East): I want to congratulate the Minister on the good efforts made to improve this Ministry. Much has been said about the Ministry, but I would like to make one or two suggestions.

The first suggestion I want to make is in connection with employment. From the results of the School Certificate Examination it could be seen that every year in this country, not less than 3,000 students pass this examination and are due for employment. When one comes to Lagos or the Federal Territory one is faced with a very large number of people looking for employment when there is a very limited number of vacancies. The result is that only those who are related to the 'big guns' or those who have some money to offer as bribe find employment. I therefore want to suggest that one of the ways to reduce this type of influence or the use of money in securing employment is for the Government to try and evolve a scheme whereby entry into the civil service will be by examination. This is the system which the Western Government has adopted, and it has worked out very well. As a matter of fact, in the West now, there is a system whereby people who want to enter into the senior civil service have to take an examination before they are appointed. Well, I know this is not very good, because when a person has been to a university and is fully qualified, he should be given the post for which he is qualified. But in the case of the junior civil service where there are too many people for too few vacancies, I think that the only safest thing one can do in order to avoid bribery and corruption is to set an examination for the people who want to be employed, and select from among them the number of people for the number of vacancies existing.

I also want to say that the present system whereby people are appointed into the posts for which they are not qualified, simply because they belong to a certain group, or are related to some people, seems to me to be a little bit improper. I must say that I admit, and I think many people in this country will admit too that our Northern brothers had been a little bit behind in the past, and I belong to the group of

people who agree that these Northerners should be given a fair chance in the Federal civil service. But this should not be done at the expense of efficiency. For example, if we have a Northerner with a school certificate and we have a Southerner with the same certificate, and the Minister of Establishments is approached by these two boys for appointment into one vacant post, I will not grudge the Minister or the Northern boy if he is appointed. But where we have a Southerner with a school certificate and a Northerner with a Standard VI pass, I feel it will be very unfair to prefer the Northerner with a lower qualification to the Southerner with a higher qualification.

I want to go a bit further on this question of employment. I know it is impossible to believe some of these stories which I have heard and which I am telling the House, but that is what is happening. Discipline is not maintained in our offices because the senior officers cannot query their junior staff, for fear that the junior ones will report them to their (the junior ones') friends or relations who are 'big guns'. When these junior ones are queried, they report to the big guns and the next thing that follows is an S.O.S. message on the telephone from the big guns saying that such and such a query should be withdrawn immediately. I think this does not make for efficiency.

Furthermore, there is one thing that I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister for consideration, and that is the question of leave system in the Federal Government service. It is common knowledge that the senior officers go on 7 or 8 months' leave in a year. Personally, I do not feel very happy about this. These people accumulate their leave because they know that they can stay away on leave for this long period and continue to draw their salary. This is a waste of Government's money, and it does not make for efficiency, because as soon as one officer goes on leave another officer takes over from him on acting appointment. If we find that something very good is being done in a Region, the Federal Government should try and copy it. I feel it will be necessary for the Minister of Establishments to consider adopting the leave system of the Western Government.

In the West, an officer is expected to take his leave every year. If an officer is entitled to 30 days' leave, he will be allowed to take 10 days first and then come back to work; after

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some time he will be allowed to enjoy another 10 days, and he will continue like that until he has actually finished his leave. In this case, there will be no need for anybody to relieve the officer as he would not have gone away from office for a long time, and there will be continuity all the time. I think even if the Federal Minister of Establishments does not intend to, shall I say, transpose this type of system into the Federal Territory completely as it is, he could perhaps modify it to a certain extent, at least, forcing every civil servant to go on leave every year and leave this question of accumulation for eight, nine or even ten months.

I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : I rise to support Head 39. Sometime last week, we were treated to lively speeches by the Minister of Establishments when giving account of his stewardship in his Ministry. Reading through the speeches, I observed that enough attention was not given to junior civil servants. He only cared much for the upper segment. There is no provision for staff quarters for the junior staff. That is point number one.

Secondly, regarding the salary structure of the civil servants, that of the junior or lower segment is rather too low in comparison with that of the upper segment. (I hope that I have not injured the feelings of my Friends.) If we are to speak the real fact, what is responsible for these anomalies in Nigeria at the moment—why the junior civil servants are somewhat tempted to resort to a fraudulent way of living—is that as human beings they copy the senior civil servants. In copying them, they have got to live above their normal salaries. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Establishments to convince the Government that the junior civil servants must be encouraged.

I have to congratulate the Minister and the Government as a whole on the establishment of the National Council on Establishments. The Council holds meetings regularly in consultation with the Regional Governments. The Federal Government with the Regional Governments should put their heads together to see that we have a sort of uniformity in establishment matters in Nigeria.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : And salary structure. Put that one.

Oba Oladiran : And salary structure too. The duty of the National Council on Establishments is not just to sit down to consider the question of creating posts or works. They should see that the people to be employed in any posts created or any work envisaged by these Governments must be cared for.

With these remarks, I support.

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : Before I support this Head, I want to give some warning to our brothers from this side.

Several hon. Members : Which side ?

Mr Damla : Mr Chairman has been ruling that we should not bring the matter of regionalisation into this Parliament, yet the N.C.N.C. Members are still bringing it into this Parliament. The matter of working in the office is not a matter of degrees. It is a matter of experience and intelligence. Also, if it is a matter of merit, we all agree that the Western Region is the champion on education, but they are the people who shame the country by fighting in Parliament. Is that how these your degrees will be used ?

Several hon. Members : No. Ask them.

Mr Damla : I support the Head under the able Minister of Establishments, but I want to make this point clear, that the key posts in the Federal Civil Service should be Nigerianised as soon as possible, especially the post of Permanent Secretary, because they are the people who hold the secrets of our Government.

The second point is that there is no rapid progress whatsoever in Nigerianising the scientific and research Department. We hope the Government will take it up and recruit officers to the posts and see that a great number of Nigerians are sent for training as soon as possible in order that the work of this important Department is not halted. Also, let us recruit some expatriate officers on contract appointment.

Another point that I want to make is that our Government should make rapid efforts to take over the Technical Assistance Scheme offered by overseas countries. For this scheme, let us send indigenous Nigerians to different parts of the world for training to equip them for greater responsibilities.

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Finally, we have a number of pensioners—up to about 24,000 or more. We want our Government to see that these great men who served our country are paid monthly and regularly.

Lastly, I want to appeal to the Minister of Establishments to publish the number of people from each tribe in the country working in the various Regions. For example, the number of Northerners working in the East, West and the Federal Territory should be shown; the number of Easterners working in the North, West and the Federal Territory, and the number of Westerners working in the East, North and the Federal Territory. I think this will make the Members to stop asking questions on how many Easterners are working in the North, and so on, if we get these figures published.

I support the Head.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : Yesterday I said that our—(Interruptions).

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : Standing Order 27 (5) says : “Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking”.

Hon. Ifezue has caught the eye of the Chairman and he is entitled to speak. It appears hon. Members are disturbing him too much.

The Chairman : Order. The Chair is certainly very grateful to the hon. Member for his vigilance and co-operation. But I think more time will be saved if the Chair is left to do its job.

Mr Ifezue : Mr Chairman, I am grateful to my hon. Friend, Mr Ukah.

I said yesterday that the entrance requirements to our universities were very high. I also said the same thing about our civil service. If you read the various advertisements for posts in the Federal Public Service, you will find that emphasis is always laid on academic qualifications—degrees and so forth—at the expense of experience. It is not a very good thing. Experience should be the emphasis, then, of course, experience buttressed by academic qualification.

This Ministry should be used to unite all the tribal elements in Nigeria through the civil service as this will stimulate national

consciousness. Many Members have been talking about our brothers in the North. We must continue to say this thing. We want Northerners in the Federal Public Service, but as hon. Muojeke said, this should not be done at the expense of efficiency. I understand that most of these Northerners are being begged or cajoled to come to the Federal Public Service. Why should that be so? Why should they be begged to come to the Federal Public Service? They are Nigerians, when they apply, they will be taken.

I would like the Minister of Establishments and his counterparts in the Regions to come together and use our Public Service to bring all the tribal elements together. My point is that Northerners can apply for jobs in the East and they will be taken. I can assure hon. Members that the Eastern Nigeria Government does not discriminate in its recruitment policy at all. If you try—

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : The question of Northerners being employed in the Public Service of Eastern Nigeria is a matter for the Eastern Nigeria Government and should therefore be dropped.

The Chairman : I think it would certainly make more sense if Members would confine whatever arguments they have to the Federal Government and should not drag in the Regions.

Mr Ifezue : I was only trying to say that—

The Chairman : Order. I am not asking the hon. Member to recount what he has been saying. From now on, he should be more relevant to the Federal Government.

Mr Ifezue : There is another point as regards our Public Service. It appears to me that there is a tendency towards tribal colonisation of departments. If you go to certain departments, if for instance, an Ibo man is at the head, you will find the other posts being taken by Ibos. If you also go to a department where a Yoruba man or an Hausa man is at the head, you will find that the workers there are Yorubas or Hausas. This should not be so. It is a mark of nepotism and should not be allowed to continue. It is a very bad tendency. In fact, I would use this opportunity to ask all the leaders of this country to come together

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and make a policy by which a Northerner, an Easterner and a Westerner can serve anywhere in the Federation. That is the only way we can save this nation, that is the only way we can unify this nation.

At the moment, except in this Parliament, there is no other place where you can get Northerners, Westerners and Easterners coming together. They were doing so when we had one university at Ibadan. Now that there are various universities, the tendency is for students from the North to apply to Ahmadu Bello University and so on. I am saying that the Minister of Establishments should initiate a scheme by which the public service of all the governments of the Federation could be used to unify all the tribal elements. As a matter of fact, I would very much like the Minister of Establishments to bring to the Floor of this House for debate a well-planned recruitment policy of the Federal Public Service.

I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : May I first of all congratulate the Minister and his Ministry as usual for the impartiality and efficiency of the civil service. But I would like to appeal to the Minister to arrange, if we can afford it and particularly with regard to training opportunities, for Federal Civil Servants to go abroad even if it is just for a short period so that they can see for themselves—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : My point of order is that we should have a proper time to keep Members' speeches and also to guide the Chairman. The clocks here appear slow and we may stay here without adjourning.

The Chairman : Order. The question of keeping time is a matter for the Chair and it is up to the Chair which clock it observes.

Shettima Ali Monguno : As I was saying, this would enable our civil servants to see the attitude of the civil servants of other countries towards the ordinary man in the street. In saying this, I am not criticising the entire civil service. My statement only implies that there is, unfortunately, the tendency for a few civil servants to regard themselves as the masters and their attitude towards the ordinary layman is not very cordial. They must have sense of duty and of responsibility as well.

There has been also, very unfortunately, the implication that Northerners who are employed in the Federal civil service are here merely by virtue of their status as Northerners. This I would like to reject or object to in the strongest possible terms. We are here through nothing but merit and we are here, I would like to emphasise, through no favour. We are therefore, not working in the Federal Public Service at the expense of efficiency as implied by certain Members of this House. I would also like to appeal to the Minister of Establishments that such unfortunate, unfounded and mysterious allegation in this House—with regard to the Northerners' position in the Federal Public Service should not discourage him from continuing the good work he has been doing. We are here, all assembled in the national Parliament and there is no reason why we should not have our proper position.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) : First and foremost, I have to congratulate the Minister of Establishments for all he has been able to do in his Ministry, particularly for Nigerianising most of the posts in his Ministry. Here, also, we have to discuss matters relating to the Federal Public Service and these matters must be of overall interest to civil servants. I want to invite the attention of the Minister to certain snags in the Federal Public Service. The snags are: the way appointments are made, the way promotions are made, the way selections for special jobs are made, and leave matters. I will treat them one by one.

On the question of appointment, I would strongly advise the Minister—

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : On a point of order, I want to announce that we have increased our number by one.

The Chairman : We shall have to check the increase.

Mr Akinbowale : When appointments are to be made, there should be no tendency towards thinking that anybody belongs to a special tribe or that certain personalities are the relatives of the appointees. Rather, appointments should be mainly based on merit and qualifications. It is disappointing to observe that when an applicant who has all the required qualifications for any job presents himself for employment, that applicant will be

turned out because he has no connections or that he is not a relative of any of the 'big-guns' of that Ministry. It is more discouraging to find that in place of a well qualified applicant, a mediocre or somebody who does not even possess any qualification, is given that job. This is very discouraging and must be stopped.

As regards promotion, only those who have been through the mills in the civil service will appreciate all the difficulties of the civil servants. Promotion should be based mainly on merit, qualifications and experience in the service. It should not be based on relation—whether the applicant is qualified or not. There are instances of many people who were promoted to certain posts for which they were not otherwise qualified.

An hon. Member : How did the hon. Member know ?

Mr Akinbowale : I knew by experience. If you like, I will cite instances. We should be fair to ourselves. We are talking in the interest of the Federal Public Service and when we talk, we do not do so because we are concerned personally, but because our children, our relatives and our people in Nigeria are concerned. We must be fair to all concerned.

An hon. Member : Be specific.

Mr Akinbowale : There is no need for this at the moment.

Coming to the selection of people for certain special jobs in the Federal Public Service, I would ask that it be based mainly on the qualifications of individuals. When a man is required to do a special job, the authorities must have studied and must have been satisfied with the performances of the person selected, the person must hold the requisite qualification and have the necessary experience. Consideration should not be given to an individual because he is from the East, North or West. I strongly emphasise that it should be based on merit and this will save us from all the inefficiency we hear about in the Federal Public Service. I am sure, Members will agree with me when I say that if these snags are removed corruption will be reduced to the minimum in the Federal Public Service.

There are cases when applicants go to the Heads of certain Ministries to ask for employment. If that applicant happens to be a female,

corruption begins there. The Head of that Ministry would ask, "Are you Miss so and so?" He will further be tempted to say, "If you come here again, you will be considered." In this case, the head of that Ministry will take advantage of the applicant and go farther to prepare a good report about the applicant and pass it on to the overall chief. This is very bad and must be stopped in the Federal public service. In other words there should be fair treatment for each and every one.

About the question of leave, hon. Members will appreciate that leave is earned by every civil servant after a certain period has been covered. By this I mean that if one spends one year, one is entitled to leave according to one's grade. But invariably, there are occasions when a civil servant will not be permitted to go on leave because of pressure of work in his section of the Ministry. When such occasion arises it is not the fault of the civil servant concerned, but because of pressure of work in the Ministry where he works.

This brings in this question of accumulation of leave. When accumulation does occur or when it is necessary to accumulate leave, of course, the civil servant must be allowed to enjoy his leave in full. However, I would suggest another alternative for the consideration of the Minister. When a civil servant is away on leave for three to six months, the service will certainly suffer as a result of his absence. It would therefore, be good if a portion is granted to him and a portion which the civil servant will not enjoy, be paid for. That was done with satisfaction in the Railway Corporation sometime ago and the service did not suffer. I do not know whether it is still in practice now. If that is introduced, the service will not suffer because there are certain people who are always required in a section of their Ministry. If such people are allowed to enjoy part of their leave and the balance is paid for, I think there will be no congestion and everybody will be given due satisfaction.

I have not much to say, so with these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Establishments and Service Matters (Hon. J. C. Obande) : I have listened attentively to the observations from all sides of this House and I feel that nearly all Members who spoke, spoke on the same thing

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and almost talked about what Members have already mentioned. As this is the case, I am going to reply to Members in general.

I am very surprised to hear from Members about the employment of people from a certain Region. This has been the main speech of nearly all the hon. Members of this House, both from my right and from hon. Members opposite me. I can say that it is far from the truth that there is a sort of partiality or discrimination or favouritism, in the employment of the people of this country. There is nothing like that at all. In our Selection Board or in the Federal Public Service Commission, hon. Members know all the Regions are represented and they are doing their best to please Members of this House and they are still doing what everybody has said they have done rightly.

An hon. Member spoke about our boys from overseas and said that we do not care to employ them. I want to assure the hon. Member, I think the hon. Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*), that when we send these boys and girls overseas on scholarship, certainly we mean that they should serve the Government when they return to this country and when they come back, we have always done our best to employ them. There is no doubt at all that many of them have been employed. Some of them however would like to join the firms or corporations. It is not our intention to force them. You should remember that many of those boys from overseas went under our scholarship and they are bound to serve the Federal Government.

The hon. Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr Afanideh*), talked about Nigerianisation. I remember that in my Ministerial statement during the Second Reading of the 1963-64 Appropriation Bill when I gave an account of my stewardship in this Ministry, I told you that we are not lacking at all in the question of Nigerianisation and I said particularly that towards the end of this year all the key posts will be Nigerianised. You can see from that that already there are about 98 per cent holding such posts and in a few months they will all be Nigerianised. You can see that we are doing our best (*Hear, hear*).

I am very surprised to hear that some hon. Members here accuse our civil servants of corruption. There is nothing like that

at all. When we talk of Nigerianisation, we are really Nigerianising for the benefit of this country and, of course, there is no corruption at all, as far as our civil servants are concerned. They are doing the best they can for the country and for themselves. It is wrong of Members to accuse any officer of corruption. There is no corruption at all, as far as they are concerned.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): On a point of order, may we know how many Members of the civil service that have been convicted because of corruption from 1962 to 1963?

The Chairman: Order. As I have said several times on the Floor of this House, whatever we say in this House is read widely all over the world and there are statements that must be made in the interest of the country for record purposes.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): On a point of order, the Minister is making himself a laughing stock.

The Chairman: The Chair is not aware that the Minister is making a laughing stock of himself. I think what the Chair is doing is clearing dubious official statements on matters that could be widely misunderstood abroad.

The Minister of Establishments: If any Member thinks that he has found any officer corrupt, I think the appropriate thing he should do is to bring the man forward to the Police and we will look into it. I said I am not aware, and if the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) wants to ask a question he should bring the question to the Floor of this House and I will answer him. But as far as the Federal Public Service is concerned, I have no idea and I have no notice at all of anybody who has been jailed.

An hon. Member spoke about accumulation of leave and he cited the Western Region as an instance. I can assure him that we have, for many years now, taken steps to see that all our staff go on leave annually and they are doing so. The idea of referring us to the Western Region is belated. We have been doing so ourselves.

I take this chance to thank those hon. Members who have said very nice things about my Ministry and I want to say exactly that I

have taken notice of those observations they have placed before me and I will look into them (*Hear, hear*).

£527,480 for Head 39—*Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

The Chairman: May I remind hon. Members that we still have our Ministry of Finance, Board of Customs and Inland Revenue.

HEAD 40.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

£824,750 for Head 40—*Pensions and Gratuities—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 41.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed, That £2,204,600 for Head 41.—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East) : I am happy that the hon. Minister of Finance is here now.

The point I want to bring to his notice is the question of the National Savings Campaign and the progress of the scheme for Premium Bonds and Saving Certificates. It is obvious that both the Ministry of Finance and the people of this country would want Nigerians of all status to save as much as possible. So much money has so far been spent in publicising the National Savings campaign, and on top of that Ministers have been going out of Nigeria to seek for foreign loans. But I want to ask whether it has ever come to the mind of the hon. Minister of Finance that in some other parts of the world, when people want to save there is the possibility of using a little bit of compulsion on savings and, apart from increases in income tax and import duties, that it is possible to make people save compulsorily to aid the development of their nation. I think this Parliament and the nation will support the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Government if they come out with a scheme whereby all wage-earners in the country are made to save a little percentage of their earnings every month and let this money so saved be invested in agriculture and industry, and the people that saved this money are assured that their money is safe because the scheme is controlled by the Governments of the Federation.

To be more specific, we have just been told in the Budget Speech and in the Report of the

Ministry of Economic Development, that the external finance that is required for financing our Development Programme in agriculture, particularly has not been readily forthcoming, simply because foreign financiers want to invest in industry where they can expect quick return. They are not very keen to invest in agriculture because that means tying up their capital for a long time, and they do not know whether there will be expropriation or nationalisation. But if the Minister of Finance comes up with a scheme whereby five *per cent* of the earnings of every man and woman is taken out of his or her salary and either premium bond or saving certificate is given to him or her, and this applies to those working for the Government as well as those working for the firms, then the money that is used in campaigning and publicity is used in explaining to the people the need for making them save in this country, I think that nobody will oppose it; the public will support it. The money compulsorily saved in the East will be credited to the Agricultural and Industrial Bank in the Eastern Region and is used to finance agricultural development in that region; the money that is also compulsorily saved in the North will be credited to the Agricultural and Industrial Bank in the North for the purpose of agricultural development in that region as well.

I am sure the only thing that will deter the Federal Government from considering this scheme is the fear that it will be opposed by the public in Nigeria. But we can assure the hon. Minister of Finance that the people of this country have confidence in the future of their nation and that they have confidence also in the people that are ruling them now. They would not suspect that the money is going to be spent in a bad way. I do not want to say anything more because I want the hon. Minister of Finance's attention to focus on this particular issue. Compulsory savings in Nigeria, if introduced, will show that we have confidence in our people, and it will make the people from outside also have confidence in us. Nobody will oppose it; this Parliament will support it, and I am sure the public also will support it.

I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : I think this Ministry is a key Ministry, and I have to praise the Minister of Finance for the effective way he has been handling his Ministry. Year

[MR KOLADE]

in year out he has come to the Floor of this House to give us the Report of his Ministry, and we know he has been handling the Ministry very successfully. He has represented Nigeria on so many international meetings during which he proved that we Nigerians are capable to mingle with others and to bring forth our view on some of the matters which are being discussed by other international bodies. I think that is still a credit to us in Nigeria. I have to praise him in particular for the successful enterprise with reference to the Federal Bank which is very successful, and the recent expansion of that branch of Bank in Kano. I only need to advise the Minister to consider establishing more branches of that Bank in other parts of the country. We need one at Ibadan, Enugu and other places. Since the two we have got are running successfully, I am sure others will run successfully too. By so doing, our people would be in contact with the Bank and would get to know the importance of saving.

I think we need to emphasise the importance of compulsory saving. If we save, we shall have more money to run our country with. Our money will remain with us in our banks and it can be used in the development of Nigeria. We can start by asking all our Government workers to save some percentages of their salaries. If the Ministers of Finance in all the Regions will have a meeting and decide on what percentage of our salaries we should save compulsorily annually, of course with some high interest rate, I think we shall have more money, and that will prevent the Minister of Finance from going out to borrow money. If there is no money in the State, I do not know from where the Minister can get money. But if some of us could love saving and we keep some money in the bank, I think we shall reduce the need for external borrowing. We are in debt and we must refund the money borrowed at, perhaps, high interest rates. What we can do as good citizens to relieve that is to save money.

I need to praise the Nigerian workers in the Ministry of Finance. They are very efficient and their work has been running very well. I congratulate them. I think the members of the staff are quite efficient and good, and as the years roll by we shall be able to boast that we

have got an efficient Ministry which can match any other Ministry in the world.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende Central): I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the reduction he has effected on excise duties on some locally produced goods.

One point which I would like him to explain, however, is in connection with the reduction of duty on omnibuses from 25 per cent to 5 per cent, that is 20 per cent reduction. I think the essence of any reduction is to enable our local industrialists to sell their goods cheaper than the imported ones, but it beats my imagination why a reduction of 20 per cent should be made on omnibuses. My reason for wanting an explanation from the Minister is that I am yet to be told that Nigerians have started to manufacture buses in this country. This reduction is definitely to the advantage of foreign firms, and I maintain that the time is not yet opportune for such a step. I want the Minister of Finance to make a statement on this issue, to convince this honourable House that we Nigerians have started to manufacture buses in this country.

I wish to give an instance to show that this reduction is to the benefit of foreign firms who deal in this type of vehicles. The Armel's Transport Company deals in buses and it is they who sell buses to most of our indigenous transport companies.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Bende Central (*Mr Chuku*) is opposing the Minister's action because it affects his company. He is a Director of a firm known as "M and K".

The Chairman: Our Standing Order is against imputation of improper motive which, I think, is what the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) is trying to do. But I would like also to say that we have always ruled in this House that persons who have no opportunity of defending themselves on the Floor of this House should not be mentioned in extremely critical terms. I think, therefore, that to discuss Armels in particular, when there is no substantive Motion to that effect and when Armels is not represented here, will be going too far.

Mr Chuku : I was only trying to give an example of foreign firms that compete unhealthily with our local traders in this country. The Minister gives the impression that his action is in the best interest of our people who use the buses. This will not be correct until the Minister can make it possible for the people who run the transport business to reduce the fares in order to benefit our own people. Unless this is done, I maintain that the reduction of import duty by 20 per cent is not fair to our people.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting this Head, I should like, once again, to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the able way and manner in which he has handled the financial affairs of this country.

I want, however, to make some few remarks, the first of which is in connection with the circulation of new coins in the rural areas. All hon. Members from the rural areas will bear me out that the method of circulating new coins in these areas is absolutely unsatisfactory. I therefore appeal to the Minister to see to it that new coins are sufficiently distributed in rural areas to replace the old coins which have now been withdrawn.

In a place like Sokoto, we have only three banks operating, and these are the only sources through which the new coins are distributed throughout the length and breadth of Sokoto. As a result, new coins, particularly the smaller ones, can only be found in urban areas. I appeal to the Minister to provide more sources for the distribution and circulation of new coins in rural areas.

I would also like to suggest to the Minister to see the necessity for improving the conditions of trade between those of us who live around the borders and our neighbouring territories. Trade is now going on in exchange of currencies. Whether such a trade is legal or not I do not know, but the important point is that, whether it is legal or not, it cannot be prevented. We cannot prevent our people from trading with neighbouring countries. In this respect, I wish to advise the Minister to provide means whereby such trade, if it is not at present legalised, can be legalised in a way that our people will ultimately profit by it.

For instance, those of us who come from the borders have enormous trade with the Niger Republic. It is not uncommon to find

people exchanging our own currency for the Niger Republic's currency whenever they intend to go to that territory. Our people in the Republic also exchange the Republic's currency for our own in order to enhance their trade with Nigeria. The Minister should simplify the processes by which trade is conducted between Nigeria and her neighbouring countries. There is no currency exchange centre in a place like Sokoto, yet this exchange of currency is going on. We do not want to stop it; all we ask for is our Government's assistance to improve trading conditions.

I beg to support

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : I have only a few comments to make on this Head. I agree that the Minister of Finance has been doing his best but there is something that baffles me under Head 41—Ministry of Finance. We have in section 1 (2)—Minister of State, £2,250. There are Ministers of State in other Ministries, and I cannot see the reason why this particular Minister of State in this Ministry earns less than his colleagues in other Ministries.

I appeal to the Minister of Finance either to raise the salary of this Minister to what other Ministers of State receive, that is £2,700, or to reduce the salary of other Ministers to £2,250. There is no justification for this disparity. I see no reason why a particular Minister should be singled out for a particular treatment. At least, if we have no respect for the experience of this particular Minister in Parliamentary matters, we should have respect for his age.

Several hon. Members : That is true.

Mr Obi : The other point I want to touch is about allocations. I am aware that it is the Minister of Finance who makes allocations to other Ministries for their expenditure. I think I should make this appeal, either that the Ministers' entertainment allowances be scrapped or they should make better use of it. In my view, from the Prime Minister to the most junior Minister of State, this item of expenditure has not been used. If the Ministers cannot arrange cocktail parties, we will be prepared to accept "hentail" parties for hon. Members and other members of the public. Nobody knows the premises of either the Prime Minister or the other Ministers. They do not invite us to their houses. We hon. Members from the rural areas are closer to the

[MR OBI]

electorate and we spend more. If Ministers want to be enjoying this provision all alone, they should also make provision for all the hon. Members of this House—entertainment allowance for every hon. Member. We too have people to entertain as the Ministers do. If this provision will not be made, then the entertainment allowance of Ministers as well as that of the Prime Minister should be scrapped. Every Minister gets an entertainment allowance of £500 *per annum* and the Prime Minister gets £1,000. These allowances should be scrapped or provision made for all the hon. Members of this House. I repeat, if Ministers cannot arrange cocktail parties, let them arrange ‘hentai’ parties, we will accept it.

These are the short remarks that I have to make, and I hope the Minister of Finance will consider them very seriously.

Minister of State for Police Affairs (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): On a point of order, if the hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) wants to drink whisky, let him come to my house.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): I want to seize this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance—

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): On a point of order, my name has been on the Order Paper for quite a long time now and I have not been called. It seems to me that this is an omission on the part of the Chairman.

The Chairman: The hon. Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) has made his point, but there is no innovation at least at this moment. I do hope that the hon. Member will comport himself as he has been doing since the Committee Stage started.

Mr Okay: As I was saying, may I seize this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance for all that he has been able to do during the past year. The hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) raised a matter in respect of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. I support the views he expressed in respect of the salary of the Minister. This Minister should either be a Minister of State and earn the same salary as other Ministers of States of Non-Cabinet Rank, or he should be made Minister of State of Cabinet Rank and let

him earn the same salary as the other Ministers. There is nothing wrong with him. I would even advocate that considering his age and experience, he should even get a higher salary than the other Ministers of State.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of order, may I respectfully appeal to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) that it looks embarrassing if one Minister is singled out for such remarks. I propose to speak on it, but I will appeal that hon. Members should please not belabour the issue.

Minister of State (Hon. Hashimu Adaji): On a point of order, we do not pay according to age in this country. We pay people according to their—

The Chairman: Order. That is a point of information. But I think it has been the established practice that when matters of that type are raised the Minister in charge of the Ministry should be left to deal with the question and give the answer. This question of volunteering answers from all corners of the House is bound to lead to some confusion.

Mr Okay: I will only draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to this point because of some gossip which is now going round.

I also call on the Minister to tell Parliament whether it is within his competence to increase workers salaries: for example, workers in the Mercantile Houses, workers in the Houses of Parliament and civil servants. It is being said that the hon. Minister of Finance does not give workers money. I want the Minister, when replying to points raised, to explain to Parliament and to the nation whether or not it is within his competence to give increases in salaries.

I beg to support.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): It was only this morning that I discovered in the Estimates that we are, after this country's independence on October 1st, 1960, still paying inducement allowance in the Federation of Nigeria. May I draw the attention of this honourable House to the fact that from the 1st of April, 1963 to 31st March, 1964, this country has been called upon to spend £1.5 million on inducement allowances alone. May

I say that the purpose of these allowances was first motivated by the British rulers who came into this country in those ancient days when Nigeria was accused of being infested with mosquitoes, lizards, reptiles, crocodiles, and so on. In those days, before an expatriate officer was induced to accept a colonial appointment in this country, it was the duty of the then British Government in Nigeria to induce him with money. So far as this country is independent to-day, I do not see any reason why we should continue to retain this sort of allowance amounting to so many millions of pounds. As a matter of fact, in the estimates of the Ministry of Finance I notice that so much has been allocated as inducement allowance. May I ask my very good and hon. Friend the Minister of Finance—

Minister of Finance : Since when ?

Mr Brown : Since this morning. Who are the people entitled to these inducement allowances? Is it intended for the Minister of Finance for accepting to hold his office? Is it for his Parliamentary Secretary or the civil servants in his Ministry? I want to know exactly who are the people entitled to receive these inducement allowances. As a matter of fact, I think it is time, with the civilisation coming into this country now, that anybody who comes into this country to work in our civil service, be he an expatriate or a Nigerian, should give inducement to the Government for being given a job. I do not think we should indulge in the habit of spending so much to induce people to accept offices in the civil service of this country.

Sometime ago, when I contributed during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I levelled some allegations which were well-founded on the Minister of Finance, which later on aroused the interest of the entire nation and, as a result, a Motion of censure on the Minister of Finance has already been filed by certain hon. Members, which is coming up next week. May I say that my intention of having made these allegations was not to injure either the Minister of Finance or the Federal Government.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : I think my hon. Friend is associated with the Motion.

The Chairman : Order, order! I must say that I find it difficult to disagree with the objection but I would add that the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) should be cautious because if he goes into too many details he may be anticipating a Motion which is already filed.

Mr Brown : Far from it, Mr Chairman. May I say that the comment I have made so far has gone a long way outside this House, not only within it. If I am correct, I recollect that some time in 1953 a similar censure Motion was filed—

The Chairman : Order! What is now being debated is the estimates of the Ministry of Finance. The Minister's salary is part of the debate. If the hon. Member for Uyo South West purely and simply wants to say that he supports the vote of the Minister's salary he should say so and be very brief in doing so. He can also say whether he has confidence in the Minister or not. But to anticipate a Motion that has already been filed and counter-filed and so on I think will be going too far.

Mr Brown : I will leave that for the moment. I shall make my comments on it when the time comes.

May I say that within the next three years the Ministry of Finance is asking the Federal Government to spend about £5 million in trying to combat smuggling in this country. This sum will be used in buying helicopters, launches and ships. May I say, as I said on the Floor of this House last year, that for the interest of the people of this country we should use £2 million out of the £5 million which will be spent by the Federal Government to establish industries in my area.

The Chairman : Standing Order 36 makes very far reaching provisions against repetitions and I think the hon. Gentleman has already argued at length on this very topic when he was making his historic contribution to the debate on the Second Reading. I will certainly ask of him to spare us the pains of having to listen to him all over again on that matter.

Mr Brown : Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

11.33 a.m.

Mr P. B. Olatunde (Ilorin South) : I wish to support the estimates on this very important Head 41—Ministry of Finance. In doing so, I have a few observations to make.

[MR OLATUNDE]

First of all I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his activities in raising the revenue of the Federation of Nigeria by all necessary means. But I will be doing a great injustice to myself and to the people of Igbomina who voted me here if I fail to bring to the knowledge of the Minister of Finance that justice has not been done to my people as far as encouragement from the Ministry of Finance is concerned to all honest businessmen. I am saying this so that the Minister of Finance should be aware of the fact that my people of Igbomina are really honest businessmen. They even carry on their business here in Lagos.

These people are very honest in carrying on their business and I hope that the Government is there to encourage all the honest businessmen by giving them loans. Their business houses can be seen here and the people can offer sufficient securities. But none of them has ever been given loans to improve his business.

It seems to me that this Government is only out to help those very few big guns in this country whereas we hear of the government of the people for the people and by the people. We have it the other way round as the government of the few by the few and for the few! I will seize this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Finance to see to it that the Igbomina businessmen are encouraged by the Government by giving them loans in order that they may expand their business.

The Chairman : Order! It is not everything that has to do with money which comes under the Ministry of Finance. Loans come under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Olatunde : With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : In general I think I should say that although the time at our disposal is very short hon. Members from all sides of the House have been able to speak on my Head of Estimates. I also believe that those who have spoken have spoken the minds of other hon. Members, either in offering constructive criticisms or in making suggestions for the better administration of the finances of this country.

I consider that my responsibility is very great because, if hon. Members are not paid

their salaries and allowances, surely they cannot eat well and drive their cars to Lagos. So, I am very grateful. I always feel very satisfied and proud when I am criticised. After all who is always criticised? Is it the man who is doing something or the man that is not doing something?

Several hon. Members : The man who is doing something.

The Minister of Finance : Yes. Each time I am criticised or accused of something, as long as I know that my conscience is clear, I feel that I am doing my work well and that people are taking notice of what I am doing. I can only pray that as long as I am charged with this responsibility I should not let down the Prime Minister, my party, the parties in coalition and the generality of the people of this country as well as the hon. Members of the N.P.C., N.C.N.C. and the U.P.P. (Laughter). The only exception I have is in regard to some hon. Members of the U.P.P. who have not yet forgotten their cult in the Action Group.

Several hon. Members : Who are those?

The Minister of Finance : My very good friend of this morning's fame is one of them.

An hon. Member : What of the N.E.P.U.?

The Minister of Finance : The N.E.P.U. is N.C.N.C.

There are one or two very important points that have been raised and I will crave the indulgence of the House to speak on them briefly. Hon. Members have made suggestions as to making people save compulsorily. This is a very good suggestion but it is one that is incapable of being fairly run. It is possible to ask workers to save compulsorily and, if I may say so, Government can only do it in the case of Civil Servants. We cannot even ask companies to enforce saving. I think that in this suggestion we always lose sight of the teeming millions of people in this country who are not among the working classes. That is the general mistake that we make. We talk about increase of salaries; we talk about cost of living and savings as if only the workers will be affected if the measures are taken.

An hon. Member : They are only one per cent of the population of this country.

The Minister of Finance : Yes, I am told that they are only one *per cent*, and I have the greatest respect for them. As a matter of fact we are all workers.

If the Government wants to take measures of this kind we must be sure that we have the necessary machinery that will enable us to carry them to the farmers and to everybody. That is why I feel that what we are doing at the moment is good enough—to campaign, to tell the people from village to village, from city to city and from time to time, the need for us to save money. As a matter of fact, no one can save what he does not possess, and that is why the question of real elementary economy will come into it. You have to be able to lay aside something from what you earn, and that is what we are telling everybody to do, that is why we appeal to hon. Members to tour their constituencies. They should assist us to tell the farmers that it is not only saving money that is necessary, but that they should save their crops too.

We have paid hon. Members consolidated allowances to tour their constituencies, and that is enough to do so. But if they want a van to be sent to their areas, I shall see to it that one is sent to Members particularly to campaign against smuggling! (*Laughter*).

My hon. Friend, the Member for Bende Central (*Mr H. O. Chuku*) spoke about the Central Bank. I think that I have mentioned in my Budget Speech that we will soon be establishing one branch of the bank at Port Harcourt and a sub-branch at Enugu, and we will consider the possibility of building one in the Western Region—I think in Ibadan—within the process of time.

An hon. Member : Why is the one at Enugu a sub-branch?

The Minister of Finance : The one in Enugu will be a sub-branch because of Government finance.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : We want one at Calabar.

The Minister of Finance : Yes, I do not see why there should not be one at Calabar.

Now, the Member for Bende Central again spoke about the decrease in the import duty on minibuses and was wondering why that was done. When we increased duty on

vehicles last year, people complained that it was telling on the ordinary traveller, and so what we have done is to reduce duty on buses from 25 *per cent* to 5 *per cent* to enable the price of buses to be reduced. We have done so because we believe, after careful consideration, that the lives of people that have been lost in these mammy waggons, the lorries carrying produce, are so many that we must make people travel safer than they are doing at the moment.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : Is the hon. Minister aware that most of the passenger buses are built within Nigeria from chassis imported at exorbitant duties and that imported coaches are by far in the minimum?

The Minister of Finance : Those that are built in Nigeria are still not safe for travelling. If they are properly built, we will give them concessions. And now that—

An hon. Member : Even the buses are carrying loads too, in addition to passengers.

The Minister of Finance : That is a matter for the licensing authorities. It is not my duty. My duty is to see that real buses carry passengers and Members will agree with me that they have less accidents than the ordinary lorries on the roads.

One last question is the news that goes around, raised by the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr D. D. U. Okay*). It is not peculiar to Nigeria. Ministers of Finance all over the world—and I have met nearly all of them—have never been popular with the people because people feel that Government money is locked up in the safe in his Ministry and that the Minister can go there at any time and make use of it, and that he can do anything he likes. They do not know that he sees no money, he signs no cheques and he signs only general warrants for Ministries to disburse their money. The Treasury is there, independent and with the Accountant-General to see to it that finances are properly disbursed.

As regards the wage increases, this is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour. It has nothing to do with the Ministry under me. If I could increase wages, I would increase my own! Let it be known that I have nothing to do with wage increases either in the Government or in the Mercantile Houses. If I had such powers, then that would

[MINISTER FINANCE]

be a dictator's power. I have not got that power at all, and I want people to realise that I am just one of my colleagues. I cannot even impose any duty without the approval and consent of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. So, whatever is done, as I said, is done in accordance with the policy and system of our Government.

And it being 11.45 a.m., the Chairman proceeded to put the Question necessary to dispose of the business allotted for this Day.

£2,204,600 for Head 41.—Ministry of Finance—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 42.—BOARD OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

£787,360 for Head 42.—Board of Customs and Excise—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 43.—INLAND REVENUE

£243,240 for Head 43.—Inland Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (THE MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS).

POWER FAILURE

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): I must apologise to Members of this House and indeed to all the members of the public, for what now appears to amount to persistent power failures in Lagos. Twice during this current session of Parliament there has been this disturbing incident in this hon. House, and I can assure hon. Members that I have not folded my arms in idleness as if this were not an important problem. I have been perturbed on the various occasions and I have promptly taken action to find out the causes of these failures and to ensure that adequate remedial measures are taken.

I must explain fully to hon. Members my findings on these various occasions and apologise to them and the general public and express my

appreciation of their sympathetic attitude. Members have probably all read the explanation of the E.C.N. in the dailies, but I will not be treating this House with the greatest respect it deserves if I do not, on the Floor of this House, give a full and adequate explanation of these rather unfortunate happenings.

As Members are all probably aware, Lagos is at present supplied with electricity from Ijora by two installation systems, one being the 11,000 Volts 3-core cable and the other a 6,600 Volt 3-core cable.

First, at 9.20 on Monday, the 1st of April, 1963, the main 11,000 kv cable broke down on all three cores. This was a very rare fault and very difficult one to locate. The E.C.N. immediately called out a number of their engineers and put them on the job of locating the cause of the fault. Tests were carried out on the four mile length of cable through heavily built up areas of Lagos. These tests did not reveal the exact position or location of the fault. As a result of further tests along the cable in various directions, it was finally detected that the breakdown was within Ikoyi Island.

This was a very difficult task and the E.C.N. engineers, cable joiners and labourers worked all through the night. As a temporary measure, it was necessary to transfer as much load on to the 6,600 volt cable, and as this has only very limited capacity, it was not possible to connect all consumers. Arrangements were, however, made to re-distribute, to the extent that it was technically possible, the supply of electricity throughout the period of blackout so that every consumer received supply at one time or the other.

When I became aware of this power failure my immediate reaction was that this was either due to sabotage or incompetence on the part of the Corporation. My investigations, however, revealed that the breakdown was due to neither of these causes but rather the result of ordinary wear and tear on the cables which had been in use for many years. I am glad that the officials of the E.C.N., working day and night, effected necessary repairs and the supply of electricity was restored on that occasion.

I am very sorry that yesterday morning there was another power failure, and I have promptly taken action to investigate this issue also. My immediate reaction, when I first

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[MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]

became aware of this, was to set up a departmental inquiry with a view to investigating the causes of these failures, whether they were due mainly to technical faults or human act or an act of God, with a view to finding remedies for these seemingly persistent power failures.

My investigations however revealed that power failure yesterday morning was due to teething troubles arising from a 33.3 kv distribution system which was commissioned yesterday. Hon. Members will recall that in the E.C.N. planning and development programme there is a provision for the installation of a 33 kv distribution system to be superimposed on and fed into the existing 6.6 kv and 11 kv systems. This constitutes a major reconstruction programme to ensure a reliability of electricity supply in Lagos.

Work has just been completed on this system which was commissioned only the day before yesterday at 5 p.m. The installation stood satisfactorily for 15 hours when it tripped in the morning. Action was taken immediately to reconnect the two old distribution systems to ensure supply of electricity in Lagos, but the process of transferring to these systems and

switching on the two systems takes some time. With prompt action the transferring operation took 40 minutes to be completed as the switching had to be carried out from seven different locations in Lagos Island, and as such there was no supply of electricity until shortly after 9 a.m.

Contractors working on the installation of the 33 kv systems are now investigating the causes of the breakdown on the new system. The E.C.N. Electrical Engineers and their Consultants are also on the job making every effort to detect the causes of this fault.

I am sorry this breakdown may not be inevitable, but the indication is that such teething problems are associated with such installations.

I must once more apologise to this honourable House and assure hon. Members that the E.C.N. is doing everything possible to ensure reliability of electricity supply.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 22nd April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

African Refugees

O.286. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what is the total number of refugees of African descent resident in Nigeria and what assistance is the Government giving them.

The Minister of Establishments (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I should like to explain that any person who comes within the category of the term "native foreigner", satisfied the Immigration Authorities that he is such a person and is not a prohibited immigrant is allowed to enter and reside in Nigeria as long as he does not contravene the laws of our country and can maintain himself.

Such a person does not have to be granted political asylum to be able to stay in Nigeria, but is regarded not as a refugee but as a citizen of that particular country in question unless, of course, the person applies to Government for political asylum. As I am aware, no native foreigner has been granted political asylum.

Afikpo Divisional Prison

O.553. Mr N. Enwo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how soon he will consider building a concrete wall surrounding the Afikpo Divisional Prison in order to prevent further escapes of prisoners.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: No definite date can be given at present. It is, however, Government's intention in due course to build a perimeter wall around Afikpo Divisional Prison when funds become available.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Will the Minister consider along with the Prison at Afikpo the Prison at Itu?

O.554. Mr N. Enwo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many acres of land have been acquired by the Prison Authority to establish rubber plantation in Afikpo Division.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: I am not aware that land has been acquired by the Prison Department for rubber plantation in Afikpo Division.

O.555. Mr N. Enwo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what proposals he has for rebuilding the prison staff quarters in Afikpo Division.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: It is intended to rebuild the prison staff quarters at Afikpo during the Six-Year Economic Development period subject to the availability of funds.

Eid-el-Fitr

O.556. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he is aware that some voluntary agency schools and commercial firms did not observe the last Eid-el-Fitr holiday even though it was officially declared as public holiday and what plans he has to check this practice.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: No Sir. Appropriate action will be taken if the hon. Member let me know the schools and firms that did not observe the holiday.

Enugu Warders' Quarters

O.557. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he has any plans for building modern permanent quarters at Enugu for the prison warders.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: Yes, it is intended to replace the prison staff quarters at Enugu by modern permanent quarters during the Six-Year Economic Development period subject, of course, to availability of funds.

Prisons Staff's Service Conditions

O.558. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what efforts are being made to improve the conditions of service of prison warders and wardresses in view of the continuous exodus of these employees from prison service.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: The hon. Member has already given notice of a question on the salary structure of warders and wardresses. This has been referred to the Minister of Establishments who will provide an answer in due course.

The present question does not specify any conditions such as those relating to remuneration, leave, working hours, housing and so on, which, in the opinion of the hon. Member, need improvement. If he will let me know the particular conditions that he has in mind the matter will be looked into. I am not aware of any continuous exodus from the prisons service other than normal wastage through retirement.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Industries

O.86. Oba S. A. Oladiran asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider the possibility of entering into partnership with the Regional Governments to set up joint industries during the Six-Year Development Programme.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): It is not the policy of the Federal Government to set up industries that are fully-owned by Government, either by itself or in partnership with the Regional Governments. However, in order to foster their growth, the Federal Government has invested in a number of industrial projects considered to be of major economic significance.

In some cases the Regional Governments have also invested in these projects. In such cases, a partnership exists between the Federal Government, the Regional Governments and private *entrepreneurs*. This policy will continue during the Six-Year Development Programme.

At the moment, details are being worked out for Government participation in more projects of national importance.

Assistance for Nigerian Businessmen

O.160. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many indigenous Nigerian businessmen have received Government assistance between 1st October, 1960, and 31st March, 1962.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed: Assistance is given to Nigerian businessmen in the form of either loans, for expansion of private industries, or advisory services for the establishment and management of their business. The

headquarters and regional offices of my Ministry record hundreds of visitors every year and senior officers in the technical section carry out periodical routine inspection tours of industrial establishments throughout the country and offer advice. It is impossible, therefore, to express this form of assistance in terms of money or to state the number of businessmen who have benefited therefrom.

As regards assistance in the form of loans, the Federal Loans Board granted a total of £400,525 to twenty-five applicants and a total sum of £186,500 was made available to six loan applicants from the Revolving Loans Fund during the period in question.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): Will the hon. Minister tell this House how many of those loans have been so far given out to businessmen in the three Regions? Is it not only businessmen in Lagos that have been given these loans?

Alhaji Ahmed: That is a different question.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): Will the hon. Minister tell this House what is the reason for which the Loans Board was recently suspended?

Alhaji Ahmed: I have nothing to add to what the hon. Minister explained to this House during a recent debate in this House.

Industries for the North

O.278. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he proposes to establish any industries in the Northern Region during the next four years and, if so, whether he will locate one of these industries in Idoma Division in order to provide more employment opportunities in that area.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed: As the hon. Minister said in his answer to Question No. W.7 at page 25 of the Official Report of 29th March, each Regional Government has plans for the industrialization of the area under its jurisdiction and the results of the intensive resources surveys continually being undertaken will guide the Governments when deciding on the location of industries.

Technical Co-operation with Eastern Europe

O.329. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what arrangements he has made regarding technical

co-operation and aid agreements with the Soviet Union and other Eastern and Western countries that participated in the Nigerian International Trade Fair in order to offer the people of Nigeria the opportunity to benefit from these countries, achievements in the field of technology.

Mr Ekanem : On a point of order, it appears that certain Parliamentary Secretaries are not up and doing with their work. It takes them ten minutes to answer a question.

Mr Speaker : Some of these questions are rather intricate and they require careful consideration before replying.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Sir, with your permission and that of the House, may I ask that the answer to this Question be put on the record of to-day's proceedings ?

Several hon. Members : Why ? Why ?

Economic Mission Results

O.401. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo : asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, from the result of the two Economic Missions of 1961 and 1962 how many industries have been attracted into the country and of these how many has he sited at Aba in order to solve the problem of unemployment which is facing this rapidly growing town.

Alhaji Ahmed : The economic missions referred to were undertaken primarily to establish contact with the Governments of the many countries visited and to ensure that both Nigeria's ability to supply a range of commodities and her aspirations and requirements in the industrial field were internationally known and appreciated.

The need to establish industries, to help solve the unemployment problem and to hasten Nigeria's development, in Aba and many other parts of the country is a matter of prime concern at all times and the Minister feels sure that a number of industries which are in process of establishment or of which detailed proposals are under consideration at the moment, owe their existence in some part to the discussions and meetings held during the economic missions. The Minister is unable to point specifically to any one industry as having been created as a result of the missions.

Ogbomosho

O.294. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he is aware that Ogbomosho is the fourth largest town in Nigeria and whether he will make a statement as to what industries he has in mind for the town in order to provide employment for the people of this area and enhance the importance of the town.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : Yes, Sir, the Minister is aware that Ogbomosho is one of the largest towns in Nigeria. For the rest of the question I refer the hon. Member to his answer to Question No. W. 7 at page 25 of the Official Report of Friday, 29th March.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Will the Minister tell this House how Ogbomosho has come to be the fourth largest town in this country ?

Mr Speaker : That is not relevant.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : On a point of information, I would like to assure the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) that Ogbomosho is bigger than Owerri.

Chief Abii : On a point of explanation—

Mr Speaker : No explanation is required.

Distribution and Cost of Industrial Projects

O.295. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Federal Industrial projects are at present in Lagos and in each of the three Regions; what did it cost Government to establish each one of them, and what other projects he has in view for 1963-64.

O.296. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industries are now owned by the Federal Government in each Region; what do they produce and how much did they cost to put up in each case.

Alhaji Ahmed : With your permission I intend to take Question No. O.295 and Question No. O.296 together.

As stated in answer to Question No. 476 of 22nd April, the Federal Government does not own industries; it only creates congenial atmosphere for their establishment and growth in Nigeria. However, in certain important

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and/or strategic cases, the Federal Government as well as the Regional Governments, have invested directly in industries.

The shareholdings of the Federal Government in those industries are as follows :—

Dunlop Nigerian Industries Ltd. (W. Region) £50,000.

Nigerian Cement Co. Ltd. (E. Region) £450,120.

Nigerian Sugar Co. Ltd. (N. Region) £520,000.

Flour Mills of Nigeria Ltd. (Federal Territory) £60,000.

Food Exports

O.298. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, when he will take steps to control the indiscriminate export trade in Nigerian foodstuffs now going on in the country.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed : In 1961, Nigerian staple foodstuffs were exported to a value of £532,555 ; in 1962, the value was £247,043. In the light of these figures the Minister is unable to agree with the Honourable Member that Nigerian foodstuffs are being indiscriminately exported.

However, he wishes to inform the House that it is the Ministry's policy that export of these commodities will be restricted whenever there is danger that Nigerians in Nigeria, owing to shortage of supply, may be unable to enjoy their God given bounty at a reasonable price.

Trade Agreements

O.299. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many countries have signed trade agreements with Nigeria since independence and what are the terms of these agreements.

Alhaji Ahmed : The answer to this question is not yet ready, Sir.

Export Prices

O.300. Mallam Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he intends to call a meeting of all his Regional counterparts at an early date in order to find a solution to the low prices in the World market of such Nigerian products as cotton, groundnuts, cocoa, soyabeans, hides and skins, ginger, etc.

Alhaji Ahmed : Not ready.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, my question has been skipped and that is Question No. O.296. The earlier ones were skipped because I was late but this particular question was skipped while I was here.

Mr Speaker : I do not know whether the hon. Member was sleeping, but Question No. O.295 was answered along with O.296 together.

Alhaji Ahmed : Victoria Island is not being permanently reserved for future Trade Fairs, but I assure the hon. Member that whenever another trade fair is planned a suitable site will be arranged.

Revolving Loans Board

O.475. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will review the policy of the Federal Revolving Loans Board to enable County Councils to apply for and receive loans for capital development projects.

Alhaji Ahmed : When the Federal Loans Board and the Revolving Loans Fund were created it was Government's intention that they should supply loan capital for projects designed to further the economic development of Nigeria and in practice most of the loans granted to date have been used to assist in the expansion of indigenous industrial projects.

Neither of these lending agencies is geared to make loans for capital development projects which are subjects for inclusion in the regional or national development plans. The hon. Minister does not consider either agency a suitable vehicle for the financing of capital development projects.

Artificial Manure Factory

O.476. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he has any plans for establishing a factory in the North and one in the South to utilise cattle-bones and fish-bones for the production of artificial manure.

Alhaji Ahmed : As the Minister has advised this House on a number of occasions, it is not the function of the Ministry to establish industries but to create a suitable climate for,

and give every assistance to, regional governments and private investors to enable them to establish industries.

Industries already exist at Nguru, Kano and Ibadan for the production of bone meal from animal bones; the bulk of this bone meal is exported.

The establishment of a fertiliser industry in Nigeria is under consideration, a firm of consultants commissioned by the Federal Government are at this moment conducting a survey to this end and I am sure the possibility of utilising bones for fertiliser production will not be overlooked.

Fibre Industry

O.560. Mr T. I. Etukudo asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing fibre industry in Eket where the requisite raw material is available in large quantity.

Alhaji Ahmed : The Eastern Nigeria Government are actively investigating the possibility of establishing a sack factory in their region and I feel sure all locally available fibres will be considered for use in this project.

The Ministry has no immediate plans for the development of the Fibre industry in Eket but will gladly give help and advice to any potential *entrepreneurs*.

Imports from Russia

O.561. Mr T. I. Etukudo asked the Minister, whether in view of the trade agreement signed with Russia, Nigerian businessmen are free to import goods from that country without any restrictions.

Alhaji Ahmed : The trade agreement with Russia has only been initialled. Before it comes into force it has to be signed and ratified. Until these formalities are completed no change can be effected.

Industries for Enugu

O.573. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industries he proposes to establish in and around Enugu, in order to harness other uses of coal.

Alhaji Ahmed : I am sorry Sir, the answer to this question is not ready.

Markets for Export Produce

O.630. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state in what countries of Europe and Asia he is finding world market for Nigeria palm produce the prices of which are now steadily falling.

Alhaji Ahmed : Nigeria is finding markets for Nigerian palm produce as well as other commodities in all countries of the world where there is a likely demand. Among countries in Europe and Asia in which markets are being looked for are : Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, India and Pakistan.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : May I know what efforts the Minister is making to increase the prices of these important products?

Mr Speaker : This is a new question.

Heavy Industry for Owerri

O.704. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing heavy industry in Owerri Division which has been appealing to the Government for such an industry as a pressing necessity.

Alhaji Ahmed : Reports on their resources, surveys and feasibility studies so far conducted do not indicate any economic advantage such as availability of raw materials, to justify the setting-up of a heavy industry in Owerri Division.

I would add, for the information of the hon. Member, that the request for the location of industries in particular places should more appropriately be made to the competent regional government.

Chief D. N. Abii : Will the Parliamentary Secretary confess to this House that it is only the availability of raw materials that will make it possible for setting up an industry in a place?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : This question does not arise. Industries are set up, if,

- (a) there is labour available.
- (b) there is raw material available,
- (c) it is politically convenient to do so.

It is for Members then to go and report to the Eastern Region.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, what does the hon. Gentleman mean by "politically convenient" ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : It means that if I am the Minister of Commerce and Industry, industries will not be set up in the constituency of the Member for Degema.

Discriminatory Tariffs

O.707. Mr T. I. Etukudo asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will make a brief statement on the implications of the discriminatory tariff proposed to be imposed on certain products from African countries by the associated countries of the European Common Market.

Alhaji Ahmed : The answer to this question is not ready.

JUSTICE

Barristers

O.161. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, how many practising Barristers are there in Nigeria and how many Law students are yet in the United Kingdom and in the Federal Law School.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) : 1,130 legal practitioners are enrolled in the Supreme Court. The number of Nigerian Law students in the United Kingdom is 877. A new course opened at the Nigerian Law School on April 16th, and already about sixty students have registered for the three months' course.

The hon. Member's attention is directed to the answer to question O.193.

Privy Council

O.631. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether Government will consider introducing legislation abolishing appeals from the Federal Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Mr Okafor : This is under the consideration of the Government, and will be one of the points to be considered at our next review of the Nigerian Constitution.

Seditious Cases

O.632. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, how many seditious cases were charged to Courts in Lagos between the years 1950-59 and 1960-61.

Mr Okafor : As from 1st October, 1960, only one newspaper—the *Sunday Express*—and its Editor—Mr Dapo Fatogun—have been successfully prosecuted for sedition in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

It will be recalled by hon. Members, that the hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice appeared for the Crown in the Supreme court in that case.

As the Federal Ministry of Justice is not responsible for the prosecution of any such offence in the Regions, it cannot supply details of such prosecutions there.

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That the Proceedings of the Committee of Supply and on the Report from the Committee be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that the sitting shall be suspended at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. ; that at 12 midnight, unless the business allotted for the day has been concluded earlier, the Chairman shall at that hour proceed to interrupt the Proceedings thereon and to put the Questions necessary to dispose of such business.

I beg to move.

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

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : In my opinion, this is a very unjustified way of guillotining the proceedings of this House. Does it then mean that if at 12 midnight we have about three to four Heads of Estimates still undebated, without debate at all, the Chairman will proceed to wind up the whole debate ?

Several Hon. Members : Yes.

Mr Briggs : If the Leader of the House feels that there are too many Heads of Estimates on any particular Bill, he should reduce the Heads of Estimates so as to afford hon. Members time to debate the few that are allotted to any day in full, instead of guillotining them at 12 midnight. If we do not finish we ought to continue the following day.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : I think that what the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is saying now is not for the Minister of Finance. The Business Committee has already—

The Chairman : It is not yet the hon. Gentleman's turn to intervene.

Mr Briggs : It is up to this House whether to accept or reject the Minister's Motion on the Business of the Committee of Supply, and I wish to object very, very strongly to this kind of guillotining of the business of the House. If the hon. Leader of the House does not want us to go on with the debate let him frankly say so.

The Minister of Finance : I am quite certain that the House disapproves of the pointless arguments raised by my hon. Friend, the Member for Degema. I think the hon. Gentleman is a bit worried about his stevedoring contract that is giving way in his home town and, therefore, he is not prepared to reason.

I think hon. Members should make points on the Floor of this House that are reasonable. The fact of the case is that the decisions regarding the number of days that are allotted in the Committee of Supply are laid down in the Standing Orders of this House, and these are being complied with by the arrangements that have been made and embodied in the Business Statement which I made on the Floor of this House, and was accepted by the whole House. I do not know how one isolated Member should come here and try—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I wish that hon. Members would remember that at the beginning of this Session we had accepted night sittings without rancour, and I am just wondering what has come to the mind of my hon. Friend, the Member for Degema, to make him decide to oppose this Motion.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, I do not know if the "Useless People's Party" is bound to the Government willy-nilly. I think we should—(*Interruptions*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the proceedings of the Committee of Supply and on the Report from the Committee be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that the sitting shall be suspended at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. ; that at 12 midnight, unless the business allotted for the day has been concluded earlier, the Chairman shall at that hour proceed to interrupt the Proceedings thereon and to put the Questions necessary to dispose of such business.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL
(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 44—MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Question proposed, That £2,824,910 for
Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations—stand part of the
Schedule.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : Mr Chairman—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, in all fairness to the Member for Uyo South West, I think it is a very bad omen for him to open the debate for us on Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman : I am afraid it is only good parliamentary practice that we hear the voice of the Opposition first.

An hon. Member : The hon. Gentleman's name is not on the Order Paper to table any Motion. I think there are many of us whose names are down—

The Chairman : They will be called in due course.

Mr Brown : I do not know why hon. Members should be afraid of me. As a matter of fact, to-day is a very good day, at least a sign of it is that I am wearing a suit to-day ! (*Laughter*).

I will start by congratulating the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on his appointment to the Ministry.

Last year, we were really very cordial to the hon. Minister because he took up the appointment a few months before Parliament

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assembled for the Budget Session, but I do not think he is going to have it easy-going this year. Since he has been in that Ministry for a considerable time now he should be in a better position to satisfy the nation as far as the Foreign Ministry is concerned.

I would start first of all from what has taken place in the United States of America. The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, together with hon. Members from all sides of this House, will surely be shocked that in the Nigeria Office in the United States some of this country's personnel are not given the privilege of diplomatic immunity. There are some of them who were sent out abroad, especially to the United States, without satisfactory arrangements made for granting them diplomatic over.

I would like the Minister to tell this honourable House on what *criteria* he bases the granting of diplomatic immunity to civil servants seconded to the United States. I understand that any personnel sent out from this country to the States who is not closely related to the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs will not be granted that privilege.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East) : On a point of order, it is against the rule of debate here for any one to impute improper motives to a Member of this House.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : I am sorry that the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) should make such a statement. I have no relation, directly or indirectly, in any Embassy, in Washington, in the United Nations or anywhere in the United States connected with the Foreign Ministry.

Mr Brown : I have a specific case of somebody who was sent out to our Embassy in the United States and who comes from Calabar Province. This man, I am told because he comes from my Province was refused the grant of diplomatic immunity, and was left in that country for almost three years; and the only reason given by the Ministry for not granting that privilege was that he belongs to a minority area.

Mr W. J. Falaiye (Ondo North East) : On a Point of order, I believe that the hon.

Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is very corrupt and that is why he is accusing other people.

Mr Brown : I would very much like my hon. Friend to withdraw that statement. His statement is unparliamentary and I do not think a man like him from an interior part of this country should be allowed to make such a statement on the Floor of this House.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : It is contrary to the decency of the Parliament and it is very wrong for any hon. Member to call anybody in this House a corrupt person. The hon. Member should withdraw his statement.

Mr Brown : As I was saying, there was one particular case where someone was sent out of the United States and because he was refused diplomatic immunity he was sent back to this country. It was even published in one of our national newspapers and the Minister of Foreign Affairs up to the present moment refused to make a statement as to why that particular personnel was refused diplomatic immunity. I want him to make that statement to-day.

The Chairman : This is a detail which should have been settled between the hon. Member and the Minister concerned. May I ask hon. Members in debating foreign affairs to avoid pettiness that will bring about complications.

Mr Brown : Another point I want to touch is that this country has not been given enough external publicity. I understand that for some time now, and as Mr Chairman himself is aware, there has been a very serious rift between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Information. We had on several occasions called upon the Prime Minister to make a statement or to share out appropriate duties between these two Ministers so that we will know who is actually responsible for external publicity. We notice that to-day there is no Press Officer attached to the Office of our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom. The same thing exists in the United States there is no press officer. We do not know who is responsible for publicity of this country abroad, whether it is the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of Information. I want the Prime Minister to make a statement as to who is responsible for the publicity of this country

[MR BROWN]
abroad. If it is the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of Information, he should be bold enough to tell us the truth so that we may know what the two Ministers are supposed to do in the interest of the people of this country.

I understand in some countries we still retain expatriate officers as ambassadors of this country. I do not know whether we are still justified in doing this. In particular may I draw your attention to the situation in Fernando Po. I have been informed by a reliable source that up to this present time we are still taking dictation from the British Consulate resident in Fernando Po. As a matter of fact this has been the cause—

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, there is no British Consulate in Fernando Po at the moment. A Nigerian has taken over his office.

Mr Brown: I am sorry my hon. Friend has never been to Fernando Po. He is ignorant of what is going on there. May I say that we lack first hand information of what is happening to Nigerians now living on that island because there is no real Nigerian responsible for the affairs of Nigerians resident in that country. As a matter of fact we started sending our men to that island of Fernando Po when we were under British rule, and at that time it was left to the British Government to advise this country about the fate of Nigerians living in Fernando Po island. May I say that from the time we attained independence in 1960 to this present time we have been hearing that there is going to be a revision of the agreement between this country and the Government of Fernando Po. So the interests of our Nigerians living there are still being looked after by the British Consulate still resident in Fernando Po. Unfortunately a Nigerian would-be Consulate posted to that island recently has not been given a free hand to look after the Nigerians living there. It is what I have seen myself because I have been there, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs cannot deny the fact that that Nigerian has no voice as regards affairs of Nigerians in Fernando Po.

Some time last week I filed a Question for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to answer as to the Commission set up some time ago to investigate the circumstances that led to the assassination of late Sylvanus Olympio the President of

Togo. The Government of this country was also a member of this commission. However, the Minister evaded answering this Question on the Floor of this House. May I say that it would be unjustified for this country to take part in any commission of inquiry which will prove a complete failure. I am saying that the Minister should be bold enough to tell the nation that that commission set up during the last conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers in Lagos was complete failure. I am sure he will admit that. Otherwise I see no reason why he evaded answering this Question.

We have been accusing the Minister of Foreign Affairs of having bungled the last summit conference of African and Malagasy States held in Lagos. The Minister should have been very careful about how he handled the summit conference by refusing to issue indiscriminate statements. I am perfectly sure that that conference could have ended very successfully. But the Minister started to predict the results of the conference even before the conference was due to be held, as a result it was impossible even among the delegates to agree on the major issues involved. May I say that in future the Minister of Foreign Affairs should stop anticipating the results of any major conference convened by him in order not to involve this country in failure as far as international matters are concerned.

As I said a few days ago there seem to be lots and lots of inducement allowances in almost all the Ministries. So much has been voted here as inducement allowance for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I want to know, who are the people to be induced with this money?

We are spending £1.5 million for inducement allowance alone from this year to the next financial year. After this country's independence we had expected that this sort of allowance should have been folded up with the Union Jack and posted to Mr Macmillan. This is a very serious matter. There is no reason why we should continue retaining this allowance and voting money to the tune of £1.5 million as inducement allowance.

May I say that according to my dictionary and if I am correct, 'inducement' means bribery. I would like the Minister of Foreign Affairs to give his own interpretation from his own dictionary if I am wrong. To me,

financial inducement is corruption. I do not know, perhaps, the Minister of Foreign Affairs may tell us that this sort of inducement is an official inducement and, therefore, does not amount to a corrupt practice.

I am saying, as I said the other day, that inducement in this country was only reasonable and justifiable in those days when this country was said to be infested with reptiles, lizards, crocodiles and mosquitoes and when it was almost impossible to get expatriate officers to come into this country and work in the civil service of this country. To-day, I am sure the position is different. I may say that almost half the total senior posts in the public service of this country can be manned by Nigerians, and I do not see any reason why we should go on spending so much to induce people to enter into the civil service of this country.

If the Minister, the Permanent Secretary, or the Private Secretary is not prepared to serve this country until he is induced, he should be sacked. There is no reason for paying these people inducement allowance. After all, if inducement allowance to the tune of £1½ million continues to be paid to the most senior officers, the junior officers on seeing this will be demanding more bribes from the public in order to have their own inducement allowance—and then we will come to the Floor of this House to criticise them.

We must from now and right from the top stop people taking money from the people of this country and from the Government in the form of inducement allowance. These inducement allowances do not fall short of bribery.

I think the Minister of Foreign Affairs will take note of this and will ask the Minister of Finance to remove inducement allowance from all our future Estimates.

I beg to ask that the Head be reduced.

10.55 a.m.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : May I, first of all congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his Ministry for the very good work they have been doing. I want to point out, at the same time, that for quite a long time we have been appealing to the Minister to establish a purely advisory committee which should be known as the Parlia-

mentary Foreign Affairs Committee. In our opinion, this will not, in fact, discourage or disturb the Minister's duties but will enhance his office and strengthen his hands.

Very recently, over the Enahoro issue, the British Parliament, dangerously misjudging its stand, handled the issue through a Commonwealth Committee. Similarly, there is no reason why the Minister should object to the establishment of such a Committee with a view to advising him, if need be, on such burning issues as Enahoro, the Security Council of the United Nations, the admission of Communist China in to the United Nations. I wonder if the Minister has any strong objection to the formation or establishment of such a Committee. We will only be too grateful to know if he has good reasons against this proposal.

I would also like to make just a few suggestions with regard to our activities at the United Nations. First of all, I think it will help us very greatly if the Minister will recall, for consultations, our Permanent Representative at the United Nations so that just before the General Assembly meets, he would discuss with him items which are likely to come up before the General Assembly.

Further, I would like to suggest that our Ambassadors and High Commissioners, or at least some of them, should be drafted to the United Nations so that they can gain experience in the handling of international affairs and so that they can help by sitting and representing Nigeria on the various Committees of the United Nations. We have in the past sometimes found that there would not be enough men to sit and represent Nigeria on all the Committees of the United Nations.

Again, if I may dare say, I would also like the Ministry, when the time comes, to consider including on our delegation to the forthcoming Conference at Addis Ababa our Permanent Representative at the United Nations. I am sure his attendance or presence there will be of immense value to us.

May I also appeal to the Minister that in our handling of human beings we should bear in mind the value of human relations. We should be politer, we should be more courteous and, above all, we should be more respectful, if we should in turn be respected for what we are.

[ALI MONGUNO]

I would further like to appeal to this Ministry to continue the good work it has been doing, especially in denouncing, without reservation, both at home and abroad, racial discrimination—discrimination based purely on colour, religion or language.

This Ministry must also continue its efforts to encourage respect for human beings, the fundamental human rights of individuals and, at the same time, the realisation of the interdependence of all peoples within the African continent. Efforts must also be made when it is absolutely necessary towards condemning, without hesitation, all colonial powers engaged in the dangerous policy of repressing and suppressing the very unfortunate, harmless and innocent inhabitants of their territories simply because such people demand their right to self-determination.

Coming to our membership of the Commonwealth, I think we have a duty to point out to other members of the Commonwealth, especially to those who condemn publicly the policy of racial discrimination practised in certain territories that lip service will not take us far and that if at all they mean what they say and also stand by what they preach, they must at all costs, desist from the supply and sale of arms both to Portugal and South Africa. In my view we should appeal to Britain, through our membership of the Commonwealth, that we are very much concerned; we are very much opposed to, and very strongly condemn racial discrimination in South Africa, particularly when Britain as a member of the Commonwealth still indulges in the sale of arms to these countries. We must not, simply because of our economic ties with Britain hesitate to point out such things, and we would be doing this country a great deal of harm if we cannot exercise our conscience, because of these economic ties, and point out what we strongly know to be wrong. On the other hand, we are extremely grateful to any country for that matter for any aid which we require and which we obtain.

There is one more point which I would like to mention and that is in connection with directives or orders or instructions to our offices abroad. It is rumoured, very strongly too, that sometimes our offices and ambassadors receive instructions not directly from the Government or from the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs but through other channels. This is not very encouraging. For example, I learnt that a Nigerian Ambassador abroad received a directive from the Commonwealth Relations Office when we can straightaway send the directive out to our own representative. If this is true, I would certainly request the Minister of Foreign Affairs to put it right.

Finally, I would like, once more, to appreciate the efforts now being made by this Ministry to publicise Nigeria abroad. But, may I say at the same time, that it is causing the nation some concern that it has not been possible to agree as to who, amongst the two Ministers, should be responsible to publicise Nigeria abroad. That was why I raised the issue of external publicity on the Floor of this House a week or two ago and I know it is still pending. A decision has still not been finally taken as to who should be in charge of external publicity. This is the only country, as far as I know, which has not yet taken a decision, which has not yet established definitely as to whether the Ministry of Information or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be charged with the responsibility for external publicity. To my mind, whatever is abroad; whatever action we are to take abroad, or whatever are our pronouncements abroad, should come through the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This is only fair and proper. Of course, this does not mean that the Ministry of Information should not have a say, but somebody somehow must come to a definite decision as to who should be the overall controller of our external publicity.

I have already appealed to the Prime Minister to look into the situation and remedy it without delay.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

11.05 a.m.

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): I have to congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the entire staff in the Ministry.

I would like to speak first about our ambassadors overseas. Nigeria, as a new nation, cannot afford to keep a full staff in all our embassies.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachukwu): I would appeal to the hon. Gentleman speaking to move near the microphone so that we shall all hear him properly.

The Chairman : He has quite a loud voice and he should be quite audible if he tries to speak a little bit more clearly.

M. Yerima Balla : I would like to appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs that there should be a limitation of staff in our embassies so that we shall avoid excessive spending on staff. Small embassies should be composed of only one Head of Mission with two or three members of staff, while big embassies should be composed of one Head of Mission and about twenty members of staff. These big embassies should be in places like Great Britain, Washington, Moscow and Bonn. As it is, we have only Charge d'Affaires in most of the Eastern Europe countries. We have Charge d'Affaires in the Soviet Union and in India and Pakistan. We have no ambassador in a country like Japan with which we have been trading for so long a time. And we have no ambassador in the Peoples' Republic of China which Nigeria has recognised. We have no ambassador in Latin America and we have no ambassador in some of the Arab Countries. It is only in Cairo that we have an ambassador.

I would like to suggest to the Minister of Foreign Affairs what I would like to call geographical distribution of embassies. In Latin America, embassies should be opened in Brazil, Mexico and the West Indies. In Europe, there should be embassies in United Kingdom, Bonn, Paris, Holland, the Scandinavian countries and Sweden. In the East, we should have embassies in Moscow, Poland, Prague, the Balkan States, Turkey and Greece. We should have embassies in Japan, Indonesia and Malaya.

These are strategic countries of the world and our embassies must be fully manned by Nigerians who are experts in international affairs.

Coming to our non-alignment policy, I have to say that if we are to be non-aligned either to the East or to the West, we must not be linked as we are at the present with the West. We must always be in the middle.

Some two or three years ago when the Prime Minister was holding the portfolio of Foreign affairs, this honourable House was always given privilege of debating Nigeria's stand on burning world issues. I can remember now that such privileges were given to this honourable House on the 2nd of April, 1960 and on the 17th of

April, 1961. Since the present Minister became the Minister of Foreign Affairs, no subject on foreign affairs has ever been debated in this House.

I strongly appeal to the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs that he should, at the next sitting of this honourable House, bring to the Floor of the House the present stand of Nigeria on burning issues in the world for a two-day debate. There are so many burning issues in the world to-day, but we do not know where the Government is standing. We need to know the Government's stand on burning issues such as the Laotian crisis, the border disputes between China and India and between Pakistan and India; we should know Nigeria's stand on the border dispute between Kenya and Somalia, and on the Caribbean crisis between Cuba and the United States. It is very important that we should know Nigeria's stand on all these issues.

Nigeria is a member of the Disarmament Conference, but nothing has been reported to this great nation. What is the stand of Nigeria on disarmament? Does Nigeria stand on the side of the United States or on the side of the United Kingdom, or on the side of the Soviet Union? Is Nigeria's stand neutral? We do not know anything at all about all these. I desire that the Minister of Foreign Affairs should take note that we want to know more about this country's foreign policy. It is necessary that the people of Nigeria must know their country's stand knowing fully well that Nigeria's delegate was once the Chairman of the world-renowned Congo Reconciliation Committee.

In the last General Assembly of the United Nations Mr U. Thant made a declaration that all political detainees in Congo must be released. But Antoine Gizenga is still in gaol. Sometime in 1961 the Parliament of Congo passed a resolution asking for an immediate release of Gizenga. It is necessary that the people of this country should know the view of our Government on issues such as this.

Nigeria has made very remarkable achievements on the international field, but we the Members of Parliament still have to criticise the role of certain great powers in their relationships with this country. The British Government is getting too much privilege in this country as well as the United States Government, but why is the Soviet Union as well as all

[M. YERIMA BALLA]

the other Socialist countries denied everything in this country? We have always been paying lip service to the role of not allowing ideological warfare in Africa and of siding nations which recognise and accept our sovereignty. We should not just side Britain only on the understanding that that country was our past master.

I appealed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs last year that something must be done to the idea of completely leaving out Soviet Union, Persia, Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan and Indonesia in our passports. I explained to him that such an attitude did not indicate any non-alignment and non-interference in each others domestic affairs. This, of course, is not the fault of the Minister. This criticism has a lot to do with the whole Government, and even with me, because I am part of the Government.

I would like Nigeria to look into our ambassadorial staff position. Far too many people are now lumped together in one Embassy than is necessary, and this country is not financially strong yet to meet this situation. I agree that in places like Washington and London, or Moscow, we can have as many as ten on our ambassadorial staff, but I would urge that in places which are very small two or three men on the staff would be enough to serve our Ambassadors, and as a result much more money will be saved.

I beg to support.

11.16 a.m.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba North): I am starting from where the hon. Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) has just ended.

I feel that the selection of our Ambassadors as compared with those from other parts of the world should be fairly reciprocal. There is no point in our sending out 50 Ambassadors to other parts of the world while comparatively we receive only 30. It is necessary that we reciprocate the number of Ambassadors sent to Nigeria. In some cases, we may exceed the number a little, but we should take caution that this country is a very young nation, and we do not have much money yet.

Another point that I would like to touch upon is about the relationship existing between the Ministry of Information and the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs. I would like the Prime Minister to make a categorical statement about that alleged rift between the two Ministries.

The allegation has been on for quite a while now, and, if not quelled, it may have a resounding and ravaging evil consequences, one of which may lead to the consequence of being infectious—other Ministries might be infected.

I do not know why the Minister of Information should not be specially detailed to carry out the publicity about the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Information is quite competent, and, if it can work effectively in collaboration with other Ministries, I do not know why it cannot work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Information works in full co-operation with other Ministries. I feel that this sum of £14,830 allocated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards publicity alone should be transferred to the Ministry of Information, and it would certainly help to enhance more publicity and make the Ministry of Information more alert and efficient.

The last point that I would like to speak about is about our students abroad. Our students abroad, our delegates to foreign countries, our ambassadors, all our touring Nigerians, our newly appointed lawyers and magistrates in Kenya, Tanganyika and all over the world—I feel that all are expected to represent Nigeria internationally. People should read Nigeria in them. Great caution is therefore, necessary in selecting these people, particularly the lawyers and magistrates sent to other parts of the world, and apart from academic qualifications, their moral background ought to be specially considered.

Nigerians are moving very fast. Our multifarious good qualities overshadow our very few weak points. Parliamentary immunity is not a sufficient licence to wash our dirty linen in public. We should know where we are strong and where we are weak, and in order that we may be well represented in the outside world, special care should be taken to select those people who have a very high standard of moral background.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly, the Minister himself, is a true image of Nigeria to the outside world, and in his debate, in his international contact, we would like the

Minister to please present the country in the best way. The idea of bullying and all these types of things, I think, ought to be reduced to the minimum. Everybody should take a leaf from the attitude and behaviour of the Prime Minister. The Minister of Foreign Affairs was once accused on the Floor of this House of being arrogant, and immediately the Minister jumped up and said, "I am not arrogant, I am only proud". He resorted to that attitude immediately. I think the Minister should always remember the aphorism which says that pride goeth before destruction.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting this Head I would like, for the first time, to congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the achievement and success made in the Ministry during the last 12 months. Ministries are not like Budget speeches in which there are slogans, and they are not meteorological services where one can hear whether the weather is fair or fine or otherwise. At any rate, I must say that the last 12 months have been successful months for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So many achievements were made during the period, and I must say this because I have been one of the critics of the Ministry in the past.

I now come to our relationship with other African countries. In our relationships, African unity still comes uppermost in our minds. I know that the step taken by the African and Malagasy Organisation at its last Conference is a wise one, but I must say that the greatest danger against African unity is foreign influence. We work here and there in order to achieve African unity, but there are still foreign influences at work, planning to destroy African unity. The forthcoming Addis Ababa Conference should find a way by which it could build African unity. All the African States must go to the Conference with a common objective, because unless we have that as a basis, we are doomed. As we all condemned racial discrimination, dominations and things like that we must join hands together and have a common solution to a common problem in Africa.

For instance, we all condemned the French atomic tests in the Sahara, yet it was only Nigeria which broke diplomatic relations with France. Other African countries did not take

any step to show that they condemned France's atomic test. This is a sort of discouragement to Nigeria, and this has happened because we do not have a common solution to our common problem. I therefore appeal to the Minister to see that we have a common solution to our common problem in Africa.

There is another point that I would like to comment upon. We all condemned what happened in Togo, where people overthrew the constitutional government by means of force. When the government was overthrown and a provisional government set up, some countries refused to recognise the provisional government whilst many countries recognised it. This is a disappointment to those countries which refused to recognise the present government in Togo, and this is a matter which I would like to be fully discussed at the next Addis Ababa Conference so that we can always have a common solution to our common problem.

The recent event in Senegal is another pointer to what I am saying. When Portugal bombarded a village in Senegal recently, Nigeria did not say anything. I feel that all African countries should condemn Portugal for its attitude towards Senegal in this respect, because this is one of the things which we all condemn in Africa. If we should have a common solution to our common problem, I think that all African States should sever relationship with Portugal. If one country only takes such a step, it will not have the desired effect, and the country which takes such a step will feel disappointed. This is also the reason why I feel that in the course of our African unity we must have a common solution to our problem.

We do not recognise any white minority rule in Africa. This is a common problem and a reality throughout Africa, yet I must admit that Nigeria recognises the Central African Federation. There is a High Commission of that Federation here in Nigeria. To those who recognise this common problem I think this is a disappointment to them. I think the best thing we should have done was not to allow a High Commission of the Central African Federation here in Nigeria.

We must face realities in the Addis Ababa Conference. If we really want African unity,

[M. IBRAHIM GUSAU]

we must have common solution to our common problems. So much for African Unity.

Also in the United Nations we have many problems in common with other non-aligned countries. Here, too, we must have common solutions to our common problems. Nigeria is a non-aligned country. How we happened to appreciate the status of being non-aligned is a matter which we should seriously think of in this House. It is not just because we want to avoid bully in the East or West, but I think the reason why we should stick to being non-aligned, particularly in Africa, is because African countries were once dependent territories to colonial masters. That was the basis and I think that the experience which African countries had of being dependent states is the reason why we feel that we should remain a non-aligned state. That may be the reason, and unless we base all our reasons for being non-aligned on this ground, we are doomed to failure.

African countries are often described as excited nations. Yes, we must be excited because we were once under foreign domination. That is why the slightest indication of domination from any foreign country makes those countries which were once dependent behave so excitedly. That is the reason why I say that we should base our non-alignment on this ground.

In the United Nations, as I said, we have so many things in common with other African and Asian countries, and I appeal to the Minister once again to see that we base our common solutions to common problems in the United Nations on common grounds.

I beg to support.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East): In supporting this Head, I am happy to note that our Government is standing up to her financial responsibilities towards the upkeep of the United Nations Organisation. I recollect with pleasure the role played in this world Organisation by our erudite and intelligent Prime Minister, Dr the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and also by our dynamic Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, the Hon. Jaja Wachuku—

Several hon. Members : Jaja !

Mr Ukah : He acted as Chairman of the Congo Reconciliation Committee. I also note with pleasure what our erudite Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Dr the hon. T. O. Elias did when he drew up the constitution of the Republic of Congo (Leopoldville). I have not forgotten even the recent achievement of our careful diplomat, Hon. M. T. Mbu who chairmaned the Disarmament Conference at Geneva. So I must say that Nigeria is shining in the various activities of the United Nations Organisation.

So far, the United Nations Organisation has done a great deal towards the maintenance of peace in this troubled world of to-day—in the Far East, in the Congo and in Cuba. It has proved its value indeed as a diplomatic meeting place for settling international disputes. Our expenditure on this Head, therefore, is highly justified. (*Hear, hear*).

I should add also that our Government should urge the U.N.O. to intervene in the Togo situation. We have actually taken a stand on the Togo issue—that we condemn assassination as a means of gaining political power. Since the U.N.O. is out to maintain peace and justice throughout the world, I think it will be in the best interest of the Togolese people if that world Organisation will help to restore peace in that troubled country.

Also we appreciate that our Government takes a firm stand against all forms of racial discrimination. The activities of the Kennedy Administration in America are highly appreciated. We have seen how that Government has taken a firm decision to stamp out segregation. That will be a warning to all other Governments in the world—South Africa and others—that seem to stick very strongly to discrimination. Our Government should leave no stone unturned to see that no human being is discriminated against.

Coming to Pan-Africanism, I have to say that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has shown some maturity by the activities of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation. (*Hear, hear*). Nigeria has shown by example there how the unity of Africa can be achieved through friendliness and co-operation. But we must not hesitate to make use of opportunities at our disposal. By the fact of trends in Africa

and our human as well as other resources can be a force to reckon with in the affairs of Africa.

I understand that the Addis Ababa Conference is going to be the test ground for our Minister of Foreign Affairs. Already our Prime Minister has been sent a letter by the President of Ghana, Dr Kwame Nkrumah. That is, to be forewarned, as it is said that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. It is left therefore to our Foreign Minister not to take things for granted.

One other point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is our attitude towards Fernando Po. Fernando Po as far as one can see, is geographically a very close neighbour of Nigeria and most of our people have been going there from time immemorial, and indeed most of the inhabitants of the Island regard Nigerians not so much as foreigners but as natives. Our Government will make a very big mistake to regard things about Fernando Po as things relating to distant parts of Africa and try to go with the current instead of taking initiative. We should have a very strong and well-defined policy about Fernando Po.

Some time ago a Member said in this House that we would one day call our people back. That will be the greatest mistake we can ever make. This is the time when we should pave the way for the teeming millions of our people who want to go out and take part in affairs of other countries of Africa. So by friendliness and by helping them to solve their internal problems, we shall be winning the goodwill of the people of Fernando Po. He that helps you when you are in need is surely your friend indeed. I should like the Government to look into that point.

Our policy of non-alignment should not be used as fetters, it should not tie us down. We should always go forward and support whatever is good no matter whose ox is gored. I am sure that the world of to-day is a world of ideological conflict and we cannot survive by playing the role of a bat. We must each time take our stand and stick firmly to whatever is right, we must have respect for human-dignity and respect for the freedom of the individual. To get that done, we have also to work in concert with other countries of a similar view.

I note that there are Passport Offices for Lagos, Kaduna and Maiduguri. To facilitate travelling in Eastern Nigeria, I would urge the Federal Government to build a Passport Office at Port Harcourt.

Under sub-heads 6 and 7 (Other Charges) provisions are made for the cost of Nigerian Pilgrims Representation in the Hejot and Medical Mission for Nigerian pilgrims. This shows that our Government is keenly interested in the welfare of Nigerians wherever they may go. This is a good sign and I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs will take note that pilgrimage is also popular among Christians. In the next and subsequent years he should make provisions for Christian pilgrims who want to go to Jerusalem, Rome or wherever they may like.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, the hon. Member has advocated provision for Christians going to Jerusalem. I was just wondering about pagans going to the shrine.

Mr Ukah: I am happy pagans do not go on pilgrimage and so our Foreign Minister has no need to worry about them yet.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the nature of assistance given to Nigerians abroad. It seems to me that assistance given to Nigerians abroad is very, very poor indeed. If you compare it with the fantastic figures we have on other items of expenditure on our Embassies abroad, you will see that assistance to Nigerians is regarded as a very minor issue. This is very poor indeed. It is a shame that a Nigerian student died recently in the United Kingdom and was not even buried.

Several hon. Members: No, no.

Mr Ukah: When a person is buried after many months, it is a shame to his relatives and his country.

An hon. Member: It was a Western Region affair.

Mr Ukah: One hon. Member has just told me it was a Western Region affair. Well, if it was a Western Regional Government affair it is still a shame to the Federation of Nigeria because the Western Region is a part of Nigeria. Anybody seeing him lying there will not call him a man from the Western Region; Western Region is not even known in the outside world.

[MR UKAH]

I would urge that investigation be made about the activities of our Commissioner in the United Kingdom over the issue of this student's burial and if it is found that he failed in his duty, he should certainly be recalled to answer to it.

Under sub-head 107, provision is made for rent, rates, lighting and heating to the tune of £115,000. This is fantastically high when compared with similar provisions for Embassies of almost similar status like Washington, £15,000, New York, £26,000 and Bonn £18,000. How is it that in London we spend £115,000? Does it mean that Nigeria has no building in London for our High Commissioner? Does it mean that the British Government is not willing to give us land to build on? I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs will explain this issue. I feel that where our Government is not given the regard it deserves, we should answer with adequate reprisal.

Finally, in order not to take the time of other Members, I would very strongly suggest that a committee on Foreign Affairs be set up as soon as possible. If the Minister of Foreign Affairs finds this impossible for him to do at the moment he can start with a Parliamentary delegation to countries where Nigeria has diplomatic representation. I would also ask for co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

We like Foreign Affairs as a stepping ground towards enhancing the economic prosperity of Nigeria. That is why in my short Budget Speech, which lasted only three minutes, I stressed the need for choosing worthy Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps. This is because, if Nigeria has a good name abroad, people will come to buy our produce—palm oil, palm kernels, groundnuts and so on, and the prosperity of this country will be increased by leaps and bounds.

Mr L. J. Dosumu (Lagos Central): In making my contribution to this debate—

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): On a point of order, Standing Order 63 (10) says:

“When several such Amendments are proposed to the same Head of Expenditure they shall be called in the order in which they

appear on the Order Paper and each Amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called, and debate on each Amendment shall be confined to the sub-head or item which is sought to be reduced.”

I filed an Amendment and according to the Order Paper I should be the second to speak, before the Minister of Foreign Affairs replies.

The Chairman: After the hon. Member for Lagos (*Mr L. J. Dosunmu*) has spoken, you might probably speak.

11.52 a.m.

Mr Dosunmu: I would just like to say a few words about our Mission in Ghana. For some time, even before conditions became deteriorated, we have not kept a full-fledged High Commissioner in Ghana. Originally we started with Chief Kola Balogun who on his return to Nigeria resigned his office. Since then, nobody has been appointed to head the Mission in Ghana. On the contrary, during this period of time, Ghana sent an Acting Officer here—in the person of a Mr George. Later, when Ghana realised how important it is that good relationship should exist between Nigeria and Ghana, they sent a full-fledged Commissioner to this country. That Commissioner remained in his post for about twelve months. Nigeria did not reciprocate this either by appointing a Nigerian High Commissioner to Ghana or promoting the young man who is in charge. It has occurred to me for quite a long time that it is Nigeria that is to blame for this situation.

When one looks back at the history of Nigeria and Ghana, one finds that the two countries are so closely connected. Therefore, that kind of attitude will not promote friendliness. I do not want to say more, other than to urge the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to explain to this House what is responsible for this situation. It is not good that in a close neighbour country like Ghana we cannot have a proper and full-fledged High Commissioner. This has made Ghana to withdraw their own Head of Mission in Nigeria. This does not augur well for African unity.

Secondly, I know I am treading on a very dangerous ground here, it should be the policy of the Government that ambassadors and

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High Commissioners abroad should not be kept on their posts for an unduly long period of time. They should be changed from time to time. Since Nigeria became independent a good many of our ambassadors that were posted abroad have been in that office. We all know the likely consequences of somebody remaining in a post for an unreasonably long period of time. I think since 1960 all the Commissioners abroad have not been shifted from one place to another. I should like to emphasize that only in exceptional cases should people be kept in one office for four to five years. They should not spend more than three years in one place.

Since 1960, we have seen that ambassadors that were sent to this country have been transferred from time to time to other places. Ghana has done this and some European countries have done it. It is only in this country that people fidget to do the right thing. They do not want to annoy this man or that man. This is not right. What happens in the home service should not be exported to the Foreign service.

I would just like to add one word to what the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*) said about the Provisional Government of Togo. I think the point has been made that Nigeria along with other Member states in our group will not accord recognition to the present Government in Togo, until after the Commission that was appointed reports on its findings. There has yet been no such report. I want the Government to give us an indication as to when it will recognise the Togo Government. We have heard that Liberia said that after a properly conducted election has taken place in that country they will recognise the Government of Togo. We would, therefore, like to know whether Nigeria would adopt the same attitude—not minding the results of such a fairly conducted election—whether our friends or enemies win. We would like the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to give us the assurance that prejudices will not be carried to the extreme.

About the forthcoming Conference in Addis Ababa, may I take this opportunity to ask the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs again to tell us exactly what stand he will take in Addis Ababa. I do not think that is a matter of security, but

we need to be reassured that whatever stand he takes this country is with him. We read in newspapers that the President of the Republic of Ghana and his group will be joining the group to which Nigeria belongs—the so-called Monrovia Group—in Addis Ababa. By taking this step, President Nkrumah has taken the initiative of sending to the prominent Members of the other group advance notes of what will be his stand at the forthcoming Addis Ababa Conference.

An hon. Member : Does Dr Nkrumah believe in African unity ?

Mr Dosunmu : Whether he believes in it or not, there is evidence of his sincerity.

An hon. Member : Is the hon. Member his friend ?

Mr Dosunmu : I am a friend to anybody who believes in the solidarity of Africa.

As I was saying Dr Nkrumah's envoy has met our Prime Minister and given him an advance copy of what is going to be the stand of Ghana at the forthcoming Addis Ababa Conference and prejudices apart, nobody would disregard the stand-point of President Nkrumah on this question of African unity. It appears that African unity is an obsession to Dr Nkrumah. He gives evidence to this in his foreign and domestic policies. I do not necessarily support all that he does but he has convinced the whole world of his sincerity. We would like to know the Government's stand. I think the President of Liberia had in his own public statement rejected the stand of Ghana.

The hon. the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in going to Addis Ababa must be sure that they carry the people of this country with them—whether they be opposition Members or supporters of the Government. In doing so, he must let us into the bargain. This is what Dr Nkrumah of Ghana has done.

This country professes African unity. I want us, when we go to Addis Ababa, to give conscientious considerations to the views that the President of Ghana has advanced. We want the unity of Africa and the best way to

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start the unity of Africa is to have an African parliament, I, for one, stand for that. It is the way to begin to have solidarity in Africa. Africa is split into groups; you have a kingdom of 2,000,000 people; next door you have a President who controls 8,000 people; the next door you have another Head of State who is in charge of less than 200,000 people. All those should be merged together and we should have one big African parliament, under anybody that will be appointed to head it. Sir Abubakar may be the President of the African State. We all support it. Anybody that the African nations vote as the Head of the African State will gain our respect.

The point I am making is that in going to that Conference, we should not make up our minds that we are not going to co-operate with Ghana at all costs. That will be awful; that will be wrong. Suggestions should be examined with a clear conscience no matter from where they come. If there is sense in a suggestion, the interest of Africa should prevail. It is in that connection that I am urging the hon. Minister who is going to head the Delegation to banish whatever prejudice he has against Ghana or against its President, in the interest of African unity. He should examine thoroughly the question of an African parliament, the question of a common foreign policy for Africa, and the question of an African high command. I do suggest that these are starting points and if we rid ourselves of all prejudices, the question of African solidarity will cease to be a dream.

With these few points, I wish to end my contribution.

The Chairman : Mr Ifezue.

Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban): On a point of order, at the beginning of the Debate on the Committee of Supply, the Leader of the House, Hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh, made it abundantly clear that speakers should try to confine themselves to one Head. The hon. Member for Orlu North (*Mr E. O. Ifezue*) has spoken on so many Heads. So many of us have not spoken on any Head.

The Chairman : I think we ought to allow the hon. Member for Orlu North (*Mr E. O. Ifezue*) to make his contribution to this Head. Maybe he has something special to tell us.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): I thank you very much for protecting me from people who would not stand up or catch the Chairman's eye.

Whatever we say on foreign policy, I think must be dictated by two things—firstly, by national interest and secondly, by national objectives. If we decide to go to war with any country, then we must make sure that it is according to our national interest or our national objectives.

We have been asked to approve over £2,000,000 under this Head. This includes money for the establishment of nine Embassies, two High Commissions and three Consulates, but it beats my imagination to find that in spite of the unanimous wish of this House, no Embassy has been established in Israel. There are so many Israeli interests in the country, particularly in the Western and Eastern Regions. We have so many Nigerian students in Israel. Apart from that, I regard Israel as a new dynamic nation from which new African nations can learn a lot. We have established an Embassy in Cairo and we all are aware of the fact that at the moment something is well known, that is the Israeli-Arab dispute. I am saying that it does not conform with our policy of non-alignment if we establish an Embassy in Cairo and none in Israel. It gives the impression that we are with one side of the dispute.

Again, somebody mentioned the care this Government has taken over our pilgrims. It is true that so many Christians go to Jerusalem to see the holy places. It is even one reason why we should establish an Embassy in Israel. So, I think that the Minister will give us an assurance that he will proceed with the establishment of an Embassy in Israel forthwith—immediately.

The other point is that a lot has been said about—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor): On a point of order, so many people are talking for and on behalf of Christians going to Israel. I am a Christian. I do not want to go to Israel neither do I want to go to Rome. I like to go to Moscow.

Mr Ifezue : A lot has been said about the person of our Foreign Minister, Mr Jaja Wachuku. I think the members of the public

have created the Jaja image and it would not be worthwhile if the press and radio destroy that image which they have created. I think we are just beginning to lay new techniques in running the government. We must allow our foreign policy to accumulate enough historical antecedents. The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jaja Wachuku, may not be a smooth performer but he has other good characteristics. I think it will be in the interest of this nation to give him a chance to do his work. Of course, it does not mean that where he goes wrong we will not criticise but I think too much criticism has been done either on the Floor of this House or elsewhere.

Dynamism is the key-note of all international relationship and I am prepared to relate that to the Togo issue. The Minister was very dynamic and what I understood him to do in the Togo issue was to establish some criteria for action for all the Member States of the African and Malagasy Union. It is in keeping with our national objectives and our national interests to take the initiative in producing the raw materials of foreign policy in Africa, and I think that was exactly what the Minister had done in the Togo issue.

Now, the other point is the question of publicity, which had in fact always been belaboured. He must keep on saying something about it. Nobody can doubt the fact that we have very poor publicity abroad. For instance, when I was in Britain recently and I happened to watch a film on Nigeria: it was on the old events that have taken place in Nigeria. There should be films showing our development programme, something new and something current. We want our Foreign Minister to project us to show the world that we are doing something new.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Orlu North (*Mr Ifezue*) is talking about the Ministry of Information.

Ifezue: I want to remind my hon. Friend for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) that there is provision for external publicity here.

Another thing is that whatever we say, whatever is our attitude towards our neighbours, it is reasonable to expect that there must be cordial relationship between Nigeria and Ghana, and I would want the Minister of

Foreign Affairs to do everything in his power to see that he restores the good relationship between Nigeria and Ghana.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): While supporting this Head on which the total sum of £2,824,910 will be appropriated, I should like to make a few remarks.

Recently the Disarmament meeting held in Geneva flopped, and this was due to misunderstanding between the two power blocs concerned. Nuclear tests here and there, for various dangerous weapons and many other ammunitions are nothing but a great threat to the security of the world. The sooner an agreement is reached towards disarmament, the happier the whole world will be. Alignment and non-alignment had been a matter of great concern towards Nigeria. Our policy is that of non-alignment and we strongly believe in it because by doing that we could stop the war-mongers from coercing us into a third world war. We do not want to be involved in other people's affairs, and we believe in friendliness towards all citizens of the world.

I tender no apology for these few observations which I shall make about this Ministry. Our relations with other parts of the world should be of very great importance to us all. But it is my fervent belief that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has out-lived his usefulness and he should be removed immediately. I have no personal animosity against anybody.

Mr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order, the Minister of Foreign Affairs just took office only six months ago. How can he—(*Interruption*).

Mr Ede: I have no personal animosity against anyone. But this nation should not allow any Minister who intends to convert his Ministry into a family place. Recently, a sister of our Minister of Foreign Affairs was posted to the U.N.O. through the back-door.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): The hon. Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) is imputing motives. I know that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nobody from Aba Division is in that Ministry. That act of imputing motives should not be allowed.

Mr Ede : I challenge the Minister of Foreign Affairs to state the cost of all the heads of the various divisions. This Minister in my opinion, has been doing a lot to impair the unity of this nation by filling all vacancies in his Ministry with people from a particular tribe in the country. Our Foreign Minister—

Mr L. J. Dosumu (Lagos Central) : The hon. Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) should remove his glasses so that we can see his face.

Mr Ede : The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) should also remove his coat so that we can see what he wears under ! (*Laughter*).

Our Foreign Minister is expected to show other nations abroad our customs and traditions, but the contrary is the case.—(*Interruption by Mr L. J. Dosunmu*).

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I have not written any speech for anybody as alleged by the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*).

The Chairman : Order, order. I am sure Mr Dosunmu was not trying to be mischievous but rather joking.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : Many Action Group Members are accusing us of what they do. We do not like the attitude.

Mr Ede : On many occasions, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has represented the nation particularly by the way he dresses. In the whole country I do not know to which tribe we could attribute the *buba* that the Minister wears, and so he carries the same to the United Nations Organisation, while many others think that that is our own costume. I am looking forward to the time when our delegation to the U.N.O. would exclude the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has blundered very much.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order. It is very unreasonable for Members who are quite used to Parliamentary Procedure to object to replies being given by Ministers which are in themselves not the end of the debate on the Ministries.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : At this stage, I think it is necessary to intervene to deal with some points that have been raised here and which, if left to continue, will mislead the House. I want to deal with the last remarks of the last speaker. He talks that I post all members of my tribe to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The answer to this question is that I do not post anybody in my Ministry. It is the work of the Public Service Commission. There are no members of my tribe in that Ministry. But if the hon. Member means my linguistic groupings, there are some Members of my tribe, but I do not post them there, so the allegation is not true. I am not a member of the Public Service Commission either.

There was interruption when the hon. Member for Idoma North (*Mr Ede*) mentioned something about my sister. My niece is a Master of Arts. She went to the United Nations to report and she did her best. Everybody who was in the United Nations at that time said that she was a credit to Nigeria either by structure, physical attribute or intellectual contributions, and I can assure the hon. Members—

The Chairman : I notice that there has been an applause in the Gallery. Well, this is out of order.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I cannot understand what physical attribute it is. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Some Members complained about the dress. The point is that the young lady was so beautifully dressed that she represented Nigerian womanhood in the best possible way, and in her look, she is presentable anywhere in the world. (*Laughter*).

Several hon. Members rose on points of order—

The Chairman : I shall be the judge of breaches of order by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I want to assure hon. Members that there is nothing that I do arbitrarily in that Ministry. I have done everything with the sanction and approval of the authority that should approve, and I do not, I repeat, I do not use my Ministry either to feather my own nest or to influence things to my own advantage.

An hon. Member says that I am proud. Yes, that is one of the sources of my pride but I am not arrogant.

Again, some hon. Members have talked about my own dress. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a very busy one. Those hon. Members who are wealthier than I can afford to wear *agbada* made with forty yards of material, but I cannot. What I wear is a business dress and I use it because it is more convenient to do so.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : On a point of order, I would like to tell the Minister of Foreign Affairs that we all like him. I want him to be patient because I would like to say something on this particular Head, so if he could be more patient—

The Chairman : Order, order.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I want to tell this honourable House that I am wearing the type of dress that my father wore. (*Hear, hear*). I would like hon. Members, when they come here and talk about dress, to think of tradition that grows from its roots, not an imposed one.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East) : I think the Minister should consider wearing dresses made of material costing only two shillings and six pence. I think that would be more businesslike.

The Chairman : I think it is time we got down to business.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am very grateful to you, Mr Chairman. I think that what is happening now gives an indication of the nature of criticisms that are generally levied against the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It seems to me that these criticisms are not directed towards very serious matters. I can assure hon. Members that we are always willing to welcome constructive criticisms. Our country is new, the Ministry itself is new, and we are all trying to build up a tradition in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hon. Members should present facts, analyse them and then criticise. We are always willing to take such criticisms. After all, I have criticised, and am amenable to criticism. Next year, I will be twelve years old in this Central Legislature. I am, therefore, not thin-skinned about these criticisms. What I object to is that some

Members inside and outside this House use their own pettiness and bitterness to equate the Minister of Foreign Affairs. That is the only objection I have. I have no objection to any constructive criticism whatsoever.

The hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) alleged that a certain person who came from his constituency was refused diplomatic immunity simply because the person came from that constituency. I do not think that any Member of this House can accept such a thing seriously. If the hon. Member was referring to somebody—I think that person came from the Ministry of Information—who, I understand, at that particular time was posted to New York, I must make it clear that the man involved was not a member of the Foreign Service and, consequently, could not be entitled to the immunities enjoyed by the staff of the Foreign Service. The officer was not taking instructions from the Foreign Ministry, he took his instructions from another Ministry and was only attached to the Foreign Ministry, and unless he was entitled under the rules of diplomatic immunities, I cannot arbitrarily afford him the immunities which do not belong to him. I would, however, like to say that people of such category who will from now onwards be attached and incorporated into our system, will naturally enjoy the immunities that are enjoyed by any other member under our system. Hon. Members can, therefore, see that it is not true that a member of the hon. Gentleman's constituency was discriminated against because he came from that constituency.

I now come to the question of overseas publicity. I want to say that this is a matter over which some interested persons, and particularly the newspaper writers in this country, have been mischievous about. I could be more caustic in handling this situation because I think they have been extremely mischievous. If the people concerned do not like the face of Jaja Wachuku in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they should say so. I want to make it clear that I was not brought into the Ministry because of what the newspapers said. Some people have claimed that it was because they wanted me to become the Minister that I was so appointed. This, Mr Chairman, is not true. The person who appointed me as the Minister of Foreign Affairs knows why he has appointed me. I will not cease to be

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Minister of Foreign Affairs because the newspapers do not want me, but when the person who appointed me decides that I am no more useful and he wants me to quit, then I will quit. I do not regard the Ministry as an heirloom. If I am asked to leave to-day, I can assure hon. Members that I will leave within twenty-four hours. That is quite clear. I am not one of those who go about begging in order to hold an office and cling to it. If I leave the Ministry, I will continue to be a Member of this House, and those who knew me when I was a Floor Member will agree that I was an effective Member of this House. (*Shouts of Jaja !*)

There was another allegation, that my Ministry takes orders from the British Consulates and Residents. This is fantastic. There is no truth in the statement that our Embassies take instructions from the Ministry of Commonwealth Relations in London. But there is this arrangement—among members of the Commonwealth, if one country has not got a Mission somewhere and another member of the Commonwealth has a Mission, it is a matter of courtesy among the various Commonwealth members to make use of that Mission to serve its own interests. I think everyone will agree that if one has a friend, it is not a crime to utilise the services of one's friend. But when people say that as a general rule, other people dictate our policy to us, I think it is right that I point out that that is not true.

The hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) also alleged that an expatriate has been appointed as Nigerian Ambassador somewhere. This shows that the hon. Gentleman has not been reading his *Hansard*. A question was asked in this connection only last Thursday, and if the hon. Member would only refer to his *Hansard*, he will see the list of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consuls, and their names. There is no expatriate amongst them. I would very much like Members to be objective in their criticisms. It is not good to be destructive.

With regard to the request that a Committee on Foreign Affairs be set up, may I say that this House now is a Committee.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): The hon. Minister advocated that before he became Minister.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: I did not, look at the record. I can appreciate the request of hon. Members, but we are in Committee now. This is a Committee of the Whole House. What I will advise is that these brilliant ideas that hon. Members have, they should let me hear them now. This is a special Committee. They should bring them forward now because this is a full Committee. When I was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, I made a request for a two-day debate on Foreign Affairs. Then there was a genuine request for a debate. I can assure hon. Members that when the House is less busy, say, during the August Session (the Budget Session is always a busy time) I will request the Government to agree to a one-day or two-day full debate on Foreign Affairs. That is quite fair. But at this stage I think that any Committee of the House, the type requested, will only cause confusion because the result will be that everyday somebody will run to our Ministry to tell us what to do; they will want to know what we propose to do and perhaps direct us on what to do. That is exactly what hon. Members want, and at this stage I will resist it. It is not practicable.

M. Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West): On a point of order, it was the Prime Minister who agreed that there should be a two-day debate on Foreign Affairs last year; it was not the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: It was myself who requested the debate. I was appointed in July, and during the August Meeting I requested a special debate, so, to say that since I was appointed I had never requested for a debate on Foreign Affairs is not correct.

Some hon. Members made reference to what they called irresponsible statements. I am surprised. When the hon. Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) filed his Motion in this House, I had the opportunity to explain the statements I made and the result of the statements. If those statements were not made, it would have been impossible to have had a successful conference producing this result. The House passed that Motion unanimously after my explanation. For the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) to raise the same matter again, I think, is rather a contradiction because this honourable House has

taken decision on the matter. To change a decision within the same Session is contrary to our Standing Orders.

Mr Brown also made reference to inducement allowance. I think the sum there is only £300, which is paid to an expatriate who is in charge of machines. There are certain machines which are utilised for certain duties. As soon as we have a Nigerian who can look after these delicate machines, naturally Nigerianisation will take its course. But to complain that we have an inducement allowance of £300, as if the whole Estimate is full of inducement allowances, I think is a type of exaggeration which is misleading.

Chief Rosiji : £1½ million, he said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I do not think any Government in this country will agree to pay £1½ million to one Ministry for inducement.

I want to express my appreciation for the points raised by the hon. Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*). But there are other points which he raised which, at this stage, we cannot change our views on. For instance, he would like a direction on the question of China. We have taken a certain position, knowing the realities of it. Also hon. Members know that we are a member of the United Nations and that we have commitments. We are factual, we like to do what is practicable, what is realisable, and not act just on sentiments. In international relations our national interest prevails in all matters and we must examine everything very carefully. We do not just act on sentiments. It is popular to make a statement that everybody will applauds but when it comes to the realities of the situation, one finds oneself embarrassed. In our own case, we examine matters very carefully before acting so that when we act our course of action will be respected. That is why, although hon. Members may not appreciate it, sister states in Africa and the world have come to recognise and respect the policy of Nigeria : the African States at least—we have twenty states in the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation plus others who have now come to be convinced that the policy we have followed in that Organisation is the best.

The hon. Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla*) complained that our Embassies overseas should be geographically

allocated and that we have full Embassies in the West but that in the East we have only *Charge d'Affaires*. As the hon. Member mentioned, it is true that we have not got any Embassy at the moment in Latin America, but I can assure hon. Members that we have applied our minds to that. We take into consideration the money available and the personnel. It is not a good thing to get a house and put a piece of wood there—we must put a human-being and send people who will be able to work. In that case, we have progressive development.

M. Yerima Balla also complained that we have no Embassy in China. It is true that we have no Embassy in China, but we take into consideration our knowledge, our experience and areas where we have investments. Siting Embassies could be most effective and most profitable taking into consideration our enlightened interest. Nigeria does not feed on ideologies. All these ideologies that float around, we want to take time to study them and understand them before we begin to dabble with them. We are Africans, with distinct culture, distinct tradition and distinct purpose. We believe that we have our own purpose and we have a history that goes to the remotest antiquity and which we can be proud of. Therefore, when we begin to pack these ideologies, we must put them in the cold storage and bring them out to analyse and dissect before we begin to examine which one is useful to us so as to learn and not copy.

With regard to the question of the release of Mr Gizenga, I do not know why Nigerians spend more time and energy on things that belong to other people and spend less time in attending to their own problems. Mr Gizenga, as hon. Members know from what they read about Tshombe, was a secessionist. The Congolese people have been able to settle their matter : they brought him to Leopoldville, made him Deputy Premier, and later on he left Leopoldville and set up another government somewhere between Stanleville and Kivu. Then they brought him back and, according to the Congolese law, they decided to confine him in an area to cool off. It was the Congolese Parliament that decided this and it was the same Congolese Parliament that authorised the statement which has been made by the Prime Minister, that they are now getting ready to get him released and, before doing so,

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they want an International Commission to examine his health because some members of his own party were attempting to poison him. I do not know whether hon. Members have been following the trend of this event. How can anyone go to dictate to another government to go and release somebody. If somebody comes from outside to tell us to go and release somebody, will we agree to that? And that is consistent with our policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

He complained of the British privileges. It is true. People go from the known to the unknown. I have said it before that whether we like it or not, due to our history, we have intimate relations with the British here. Even our Parliament is patterned after theirs. Therefore, we will use what we know to begin to get what we do not know. They were here and they had certain privileges. In the case of the new comers, it will be suicidal if this country could open its front gate and allow new comers to flood us here and after one year we find that we have been destroyed. There is sufficient evidence to show that if this Government commits that indiscretion this country will not last for two years before it is destroyed.

An hon. Member : It will not even last for the next 24 hours.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I thank the hon. Gentleman for that. Some people, of course the conspirators in this country, who know how to plan to destroy their own home front, know what I am talking about.

The Member for Egba North (*Mr Odebunmi*) was quite right when he said that we should be judicious in establishing our embassies. I can tell him that we do not establish an embassy in a place because that country has established an embassy here. We look at those who intend to establish an embassy here and if we are satisfied we say, "It is all right, you can establish as many embassies as you can". But we are not bound; we do not enter into contract that as soon as one country has established an embassy in Nigeria we should also establish one in that country. We do not do that. We have to consider home circumstances. But hon. Members should realise that it costs money to establish an embassy. It is a very expensive necessity. It is necessary but very expensive in

so many things. In my language we say, "Okuku na 'gba obara otu eke ya ha".

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, may we have the full spelling of the saying which the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs has just quoted?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I cannot give the hon. Member for Degema the full spelling, but I can give him the interpretation. The interpretation is this. The quantity of blood that a fowl can produce must be proportional to the size of its gizzard. (*Laughter*). I am just trying to make hon. Members understand that I am not only conversant with the English language but also with my own language.

He made another point when he said that our students; our delegations; our people whom we send abroad, must regard themselves as our ambassadors. It is not only the Prime Minister or the Ministers that are our ambassadors. Every Nigerian who goes outside this country is this country's ambassador.

It is a shame that any Nigerian can open his mouth to say that when some Nigerians go outside this country they are being regarded as Ghanaians. Anybody who is so described is either impotent, incapable or has no personality of his own. I have never been mistaken anywhere in the world, as a student or anything, as a Ghanaian. If anybody is not capable within his own environment to show anywhere that he is a Nigerian then such a person is of no use to this country.

In that respect, I say that those people who go to organise students against their own Government must hold themselves responsible for all these things. This should be so because students are supposed to be a class of people who are in a stage where they are now learning, trying to imbibe the best of things, and at the same time trying to analyse these things and trying to sympathise and to fashion something that will be beneficial to their own country. They are not supposed to use their period of leisure to conspire against the legitimate interests of their own country. That is exactly what my hon. Friend on that Side, the Member for Degema and those he represents are doing.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, I would like my hon. Friend to explain further how as a student I conspired against the Government.

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The Chairman : I quite agree with the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) that this baton is rather too heavy for him !

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I will relieve him of the burden because if I were to give him the full weight of it his bones would be crushed.

Now, I want to say in this House that very often the newspaper writers of this country misrepresent things. What they think is what they equate to somebody else. I have been dealing with various African Foreign Ministers and Ministers from different parts of the world. These people have not written or complained that I have been bullying them or that I have been ordering them about. But these people of the press always say this thing. Where they get their information, I do not know. I have worked harmoniously with them.

Mr Briggs : Does the Minister want them to come to him and tell him ?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Certainly. In the type of work I am doing one has to be polite but frank when necessary. Otherwise this country cannot be effectively represented. I must not be rude to a colleague. But when it is a question of personality versus personality; idea versus idea, there is no friendship. We must fight the battle of ideas we present. If one has no ideas one will be pocketed.

The Chairman : The Foreign Minister knows fully well that he is too big for a small pocket. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am sure it will be the very people who will write about it if we are to go to a conference and they find that Nigeria has been disgraced because the Foreign Minister is mealy-mouthed or is a spineless worm and is not able to hold his own ground. They will write before I arrive at Ikeja to say that the plane should not land.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : But why did you sleep at the United Nations ?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : If I slept at all I was not alone. There were at least five or ten people who were sleeping. I know some of them. They included Mr Stevenson of the U.S.A., the Foreign Minister

of Cuba, and so many other people. So, that does not bother me at all.

They complained about Nigerian's non-alignment policy. If hon. Members had been following the course of history recently when the incident between India and China occurred they might have noticed that for the security of that country there was some understanding between that country and other countries. And I will not be surprised if there is also some understanding between that country and another country in the Eastern bloc. So that non-alignment does not mean that one should allow one's *operculum* to remain open. One must keep one's phlegm all the time and safeguard one's territorial and national integrity.

When we say non-alignment we do not mean that we should just fold our hands and not protect ourselves. Nigeria is not a bat, but the legitimate interest of Nigeria must be adequately protected in a manner which the Government understands it. That is the thing. We are not bound to follow any particular ideology. But if we decide that a particular ideology at a particular time will be suitable to our needs it is for the Government to decide to imbibe it. We cannot be pressured to accept anything because somebody else likes it.

I was asked here that the Government should show its hands about the Addis Ababa Conference. I think this is a most dangerous and thoughtless piece of advice because how can you go to a conference and start to publicise what you are going to do ? The conference is not ours alone ; even if it is our own, and we convened it, we do not have to disclose everything important.

The procedure is, if I may tell hon. Members, that the Foreign Ministers meet and prepare their agenda for the Heads of States. It is the Heads of States and not the Foreign Ministers' conference. We prepare the agenda, and when the big fellows meet, they look at the thing, and if they think they should add or subtract, they do so and finalise the thing and then proceed to their conference.

How can I come here and tell hon. Members what all the Heads of States of Africa are coming to do when they have not met ? It is preposterous ! Its report—

Chief Odulana rose on a point of information—

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am not yielding on a point of information.

In this particular case, we do not commit them. We usually recommend to them but they give us full authority and if they know what we have done is right, because it is done carefully, naturally they approve; but we do not commit them unnecessarily. If we commit them at all, we must have a mandate to do so.

An hon. Member : Has the hon. Minister not said enough?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I have not said enough.

Again, Sir, there was reference to the question of Fernando Po. If you refer to the question which was answered the other day, we have a consul there. I think his name is Afamefuna and he is a Nigerian and not an expatriate. It shows that somebody is behind time, and you cannot criticise effectively if you are behind time.

There was also reference to Ghana-Nigeria relations. International relations is a two way traffic. Nigeria has been extremely patient in so many things. I remember elsewhere, I had a press conference and mentioned certain things and I said I do not want to be acrimonious in what ever I do. I have been very careful in that statement and I do not want to discuss this matter in this House unnecessarily. We are trying to harmonise interests. But as long as the Government is and I am still controlling this Foreign Ministry here, it will be stupid and foolish of me to agree that any mission here should utilise its privileges to destroy this country. This is the question, and Members know why I am saying so. We cannot allow certain people in Nigeria to use the Ghana High Commission for the destruction of this country. People know what is happening. All the hon. Members over there know what is going on.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): Is the Minister telling us that Ghana is being used as a base to spring an attack on Nigeria?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : If the hon. Gentleman likes, to put it that way, Ghana is a base for recruiting young Nigerians and sending them elsewhere to train to destroy this country.

The Chairman : I think that is going into Ghana's policy.

Several Opposition Members : Shame, Shame, Shame!

The Chairman : Order! After all, Ghana's Policy is foreign policy.

Chief Rosiji : Does the Minister know that talking about Ghana is giving it undue importance?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I have been very restrained in my language. I could be very vigorous in my disposition, but I do not want to go into it.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): As far as I know, what the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) wanted to know was why we do not appoint a High Commission in Ghana.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I am surprised that the two of them are lawyers. He does not know that there is one there. There is a High Commission in Ghana, but if he talks about the appointment of a High Commissioner, that is a different matter.

Chief Rosiji : Are these people Ghanaians?

The Chairman : One of them look like one.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : Members on this side of the House were shouting "shame". I agree with them that their behaviour and what they have been doing with Ghana is a shame on them.

Chief Rosiji : Are they traitors?

The Chairman : It is one o'clock and I must interrupt the business of the House now.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

House in Committee.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : This morning I was trying to explain certain points. I commented on the Member for Adamawa North West (*M. Yerima Balla's*) point that there are too many privileges conferred on the British Government in this country, and I tried to say that we do not want to lose our friends and then that we go from the known to the

unknown. The hon. Gentleman also mentioned the question of the Eastern European countries like the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia and others, that they have not as much privilege. I think this point should be clear to everybody: these are new countries to us, we are just beginning to establish relations with them. In fact, with the various agreements which we have concluded with them I think that whatever privileges and immunities we decide to extend to them must be based on the basis of the agreements and understanding which we have concluded with them. They themselves have not complained, and I do not see the reason why any Nigerian should bother himself when the person directly concerned has not complained.

There was reference to the fact that Nigeria did not say anything about the alleged Portuguese bombing of Senegal. That is an allegation. Senegal alleged that Portugal had dropped bombs on her territory and referred the matter to the United Nations. Well it will be improper for Nigeria to begin to make any declaration on a mere allegation because Portugal is denying that she did not do anything of the sort, and now it has been suggested to the Security Council that a special body should go and investigate and find out whether, in fact, there was bombing.

If it discovered that the allegation is correct, then Nigeria will be in a position to make her position clear. It is only a mere allegation at this stage. We do not say it is true and we do not say it is false, and it will be rather premature for Nigeria to put her feet in things like that and then there will be loss of face, if the allegation turns out to be inaccurate. In International relations one must be very careful in taking sides one way or the other, otherwise one may find oneself completely embarrassed. That explains the stand Nigeria has taken so far.

The Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) wanted us to build a passport office at Port Harcourt. The issue of passport cannot be decentralized but, certainly, we have arrangements whereby preliminary documentation could be done in the provinces and the actual issue of the passport carried out in Lagos. But in special cases like the pilgrim centres and so on I think the hon. Gentleman will recognise that these are special cases and if he would like something to be done for them

about pilgrimage to Rome, Jerusalem or to the Moon, then consideration could be given to that.

If there are people who want to go to the moon or Rome and organise themselves in sufficient force and convince us that the effort is a worthwhile venture, I think the Federal Government will always be willing to cooperate and assist its nationals in their various spiritual, moral or intellectual adventures.

It is suggested that the assistance Nigeria gives to our people abroad is very small. I do not agree with that suggestion. If the detailed expenses and all involved in assisting our people abroad are to be examined and compared with what is done elsewhere, perhaps in the more affluent countries than ours, we shall find that we are not doing badly at all; and our people should not complain, particularly when I take this to mean assistance to students. If that is the case I think we are not doing badly at all.

There was complaint about rents, rates, heating and lighting for which the sum of £115 is being appropriated. I will only say that when it is compared with our other missions the sum is too much, and the reason is that it is just because in London—that is the best centre we have—we have a number of houses apart from the Nigeria House. We have a house where we have the students' office and all other activities connected with students' welfare; there is the High Commissioner's residence, which is quite a big place, and then there is a new premises which we have just acquired. It is really two buildings that were used as hotels and which the Federal Government now wants to convert to a students' centre. For all these we have to pay rent and rates and the cost of heating and lighting. All these things cost money, but we do not have such organisation and institution anywhere else and that explains why this money is found under the High Commissioner's office in London and not in Washington, New York or elsewhere.

The Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) and the Member for Orlu North (*Mr E. O. Efezue*) want us to establish an embassy in Israel. Certainly we have not forgotten that. I can assure hon. Members that the question of establishing embassies is not

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determined because of any particular prejudice of any country in the world. We take so many factors into consideration which are in the interest of Nigeria and, considering what I have told the House earlier, the money available and the personnel concerned we then decide the particular areas in terms of priority. We are not influenced by the politics of any particular country before we establish an embassy; it is our own politics that governs us and our own needs and necessity that affect our policy. It is never dictated by any conflicts, likes or dislikes of countries amongst themselves. It is our likes or dislikes that will determine our action and nothing else.

Nigeria has nothing against Israel and is not a party to whatever conflict that may exist between Israel and any other country, otherwise Nigeria would not have recognised the existence of Israel as a state. If I may remind hon. Members of a case in connection with a loan that was granted once, the party to which our Prime Minister belongs declined the offer and a statement was made about it in which the Prime Minister made it absolutely clear that even if the Region ruled by his party did not want the loan the Federal Government wanted it and that was so. Therefore I am trying to tell this honourable House that the Federal Government is not partisan to other people's policies. (*Hear, hear*).

There is an important question which several hon. Members raised on the Floor of this House, and that is in connection with the Provisional Government of Togo. There is an assertion that there was a commission of enquiry and it failed to make a report, and hon. Members want to know what has happened. In the first place, I want to say here that matters pertaining to Togo are not the domestic affair of Nigeria. It is an international affair and the inter-African and Malagasy states affair. Therefore, whatever steps we take must be in conjunction with other states. There must be consultations with them. That is the practice which has been going on, and that has worked well.

In order to put the thing in its proper perspective, I would like Members to be accurate in their remarks. They seem to have forgotten the Resolutions of the Conference. There were four Resolutions of the last Conference of Foreign Ministers and these Resolutions were made public. I will read

the first Resolution (paragraphs 1, 2 and 3) which makes the position quite clear, so that if any Member has forgotten them, he should know exactly what the position is.

Now, Resolution 1 stated: "The Council of Ministers of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation meeting in Lagos—

Mr P. E. Ekanem: On a point of order, I expect that some of us should learn from the older Members of this House, such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but he has failed to obtain permission before making that quotation which he is making. The Minister is making a quotation; he is reading from a document and, according to the Standing Orders of this House, he must have the permission of the Chairman to quote.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): It is impertinent of the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) to raise a point of order against the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs. The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs is an older Member of this House.

An hon. Member: The Member for Enyong South acknowledged that.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: I am not quoting from a book. I am referring to a document which has been published and I think I should know what to do as I was a former Speaker of this House.

Mr Ekanem: For a short time, however. The Minister is not Speaker now.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: Now, if I may refresh the memory of Members, the Resolution of the Foreign Ministers' Conference stated—

The Council of Ministers of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation meeting in Lagos on the 24th to 25th January, 1963.

(1) *Codemns and deplors the murder of President Sylvanus Olympio of Togo and energetically condemns political assassination as a means of over-throwing a Government and rising to power or as a means of settling political conflicts;*

(2) *Requests the Provisional Government of the Republic of Togo in order to return to a normal situation—*

(a) to re-establish very quickly the rule of law with the co-operation of the representatives of all the active forces in the country, establishing a Constitution and electoral law ;

(b) to liberate without delay the political prisoners notably the Ministers of the Government which had been over-thrown ;

(c) to organise as rapidly as possible free and democratic general elections which would permit the election of a National Assembly and an Executive which would also enable the Republic of Togo to participate in the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments in Addis Ababa in May, 1963.

The particular portion that refers to what has been called a Commission of Inquiry is paragraph 3 of that Resolution—

(3) Proposes to the Provisional Government of Togo a mission, the members of which will be chosen from the neighbouring member states—Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger and Nigeria to help to clarify the circumstances which surround the murder of President Olympio or any external influences which might have incited such a crime and to assist them as necessary in re-establishing democratic institutions.

As it will be seen, it was no commission of inquiry. Therefore, when it was said it was a commission of inquiry that failed, that is not correct, according to this Resolution.

Then the Resolution finally said—

The report of this mission will be circulated to all member states.

As I said, it was not a commission of inquiry. It was a goodwill mission that was sent to Togo and the report of this mission was not to be sent to this particular House ; it was to be sent to the member states as represented by the respective Governments. Therefore, the question whether it was a success or a failure is a matter for the member states to determine, according to the Resolutions which were passed.

With regard to our attitude to the Provisional Government, I have purposely read out these paragraphs of the first Resolution. It is quite clear that the states had stipulated the conditions precedent to the recognition of the Provisional Government. The Provisional Government must comply with certain conditions because the representative of that Provisional Government of Togo that appeared in the Conference

said publicly and before the Conference that they are still members of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation and the Organisation stipulated conditions that must be fulfilled before the Addis Ababa Conference in May, in order that the position may return to normalcy.

It is quite clear by implication here that the recognition of that Government will depend on what the Provisional Government had done or the exercises they have performed between these two periods. Once they have fulfilled these conditions stipulated in the Resolution, their recognition will virtually be automatic.

I do not think that any member here would like us to do anything contrary to these decisions which had been arrived at by collective effort collective deliberations, and also unanimously by the member states of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation.

Then it was asked what our position is in respect of the Provisional Government. I will say that this is the answer. Once the Provisional Government complies with the provisions here, we will have no difficulty in according recognition to the Government that comes into power. Therefore, if they have a free and fair election, whichever party comes into power, naturally it means it is the choice of the people of Togo. It is not for the Government of Nigeria to go and tell the Togolese people who should rule them. This is our attitude to the whole situation. Our stand is that there are certain conditions that have been stipulated and these must be complied with before anything else.

I am not going into the question of certain allegations that have been made about Nigeria interfering with the internal affairs of Togo. It is well known that we do not interfere with other people's internal affairs and we do not aid or abet subversive activities even if it is a country that we do not like. We do not get ourselves involved in other people's internal affairs.

The only thing I can say with regard to the Togo situation up-to-date is that there things are not stable at all. Many forces are vying with themselves there and we have to leave things to work out themselves naturally.

An hon. Member : What about the United Nations. What about the Congo situation ?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : We do not refer them to the U.N.O. because the people do not want things to be referred to the U.N.O., and besides African States have not found the solution of the problem impossible. I think they are capable of solving their problems for themselves. It is only when we cannot solve our problems that we begin to look for an extraneous force.

With reference to the Congo, it was the Government of the Congo that applied to the United Nations for assistance and not Nigeria. Then we were not even independent. It was at the request of the President and the then Prime Minister. Now, Sir, there is only, I think, one important point which I will touch. That is the question of external publicity. I will not deal with it the way some people would want me to do.

As has been said, there is no quarrel between myself and the Minister of Information. The Foreign Ministry is an institution and the Ministry of Information is an institution. We are all doing our functions delineated in the instrument allocating responsibility to—

An hon. Member : On a point of order, I cannot really appreciate how this comes to be under the ambit of Foreign Affairs debate because—

Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down.

The Chairman : Order, order, order ! I think Members should look for more discreet ways of showing their absence from the House.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : I would say, Sir, that the quorum is not formed.

The Chairman : We are happy to know Chief Dame-Oboh is now studying his Standing Orders, but if he will read about two or three sub-paragraphs below, he will find that it is not yet four o'clock.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations : Sir, I have no quarrel with anybody, but I think I have a quarrel with the press. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order ! We tolerate heckling, but not shouting from the seats.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations : My only quarrel as a Minister, is with the press for misinforming the public and deliberate misrepresentation of the situation, and fanning embers of flames that do not exist.

If the press of this country had been co-operative with the Government of this country, and has been a faithful, loyal and patriotic press—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : We have heard so much mourning about what the press has been doing to the Foreign Minister's personality. I think under this discussion we are not discussing the foreign press as such. But he has entered his objection and to belabour the point, I think, is going a little too far under this Head of the Estimates.

The Chairman : Order ! I think the Chair is entrusted with responsibility for observing and ruling against irrelevance. If the hon. Member was trying to draw attention to any possible repetitions, I may refer him to Standing Order 36, which makes it incumbent on the Chairman to do so.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations : Thank you, Mr Chairman. There has been a sort of organised conspiracy against me particularly, by the press of this country, and consequently I must take this opportunity to tell them this.

As I said this morning, I have no objection to any fair criticism, no matter how costly it may be. But to conceal the fact from the public and keep on guillotining me everyday is, I think, most unfair.

The press know fully well that external publicity is within the competence of the Foreign Ministry, and all that I can do now in this Committee is to give them an insight into what is involved in external publicity, as far as is necessary and for the benefit of those who may not know.

External publicity is not the same thing as internal publicity. The material which may be useful for publicity in the United States in fact may not be suitable in the Soviet Union, because the environment is different, the outlook is different and the ideology is different. And, what you may publicise in Cairo may not

be good in London, and what you may also publicise in Pakistan may not be to the taste of people in India.

The only machinery that can collect the information and analyse it and be able to put it in proper form is the only Ministry that has the machinery to collect such information and analyse it, and that is the Foreign Ministry. No other Ministry can do it.

The press of this country, particularly the newspaper writers as I call them, want to go into the Foreign Service by the back door. They think they can get a job in the Ministry of Information and look for a job in the Foreign Affairs Ministry and automatically get it. They are interested in the overseas allowances. We have to be frank. In external publicity, we must have Nigerians who think of Nigeria first, Nigeria last, Nigeria all the time, and not people who are thinking of themselves.

An instance of this is when you had a publicity man in London, who made no marks at all, for the six years he was there. Another one was in New York for three years. He did not even know where the Establishment are—if they understand what is meant by the "Establishments" of a country—that is, the people who mould the character, modulate the matters and wield influence in the nation. This man stayed there for six years. To-day, he does not know where their important men are, those who wield influence, and how to get at them.

How can you publicise your country in a country you do not know, when you do not know who is who and how to get at them and transmit your information to them?

Therefore, to be able to create and sort out and discover such Nigerians that will be able to transmit information as we want it, at the right quarters and at the right time, it is necessary to get them and put them through the mirror of the Foreign Ministry, and thus, with the experience behind them, and the knowledge acquired, they will be in a position to represent Nigeria as is necessary. (*Hear, hear*).

I want the people of this nation to understand what external publicity involves—a thorough knowledge of your own country, culture, and tradition.

You cannot—in law you say, "*nemo dat quod non habet*"—You cannot give what you

have not got. Nobody gives what he does not have. But this is in a different context. You cannot publicise what you do not know.

External publicity is not writing newspaper articles. There must be some content, something worthwhile, to transmit, and if you have not got it, you just have not got it. And, if you have not got it, you cannot transmit it.

Therefore, as the press must have known, naturally for the past two or three years, before a substantive Minister was appointed, external publicity was handled by the Home Ministry. They had not the necessary apparatus to do that. But we have them.

There are certain aspects of our publicity which can be done by them. We use the machinery of the Home Ministry to do that.

There is no bitterness in what I am now saying. I want those who have been writing these newspaper articles, and the Members of this House to understand the things that are involved. There is no need, as I said this morning, holding a Ministry as an heirloom. If I leave the Ministry, I am not carrying it home to my father's compound. I will leave it and go home.

Therefore, whether Mr X is a publicity man or not does not mean anything to me. And the suggestion that my Ministry employed an agent for £40,000, is false. It is not true. We employed no such agency, and we are not involved in any such expense—£40,000 for one year.

You see, unwillingness to discover the truth, and tell the people of the nation the truth, is the cause of the trouble in this country.

The press have not approached me. Where they get their information, I do not know. That is why I say there is no quarrel between my Ministry and any other Ministry.

That is why I am saying there is no conflict between my Ministry and any other Ministry. We try to observe things religiously, and I leave it at that. If there is poor publicity it is because Nigerians themselves will not devote efforts in doing their own duty by their own country. If every Nigerian does his own bit and leaves the other person to do his own, Nigeria will be publicised. But when we leave doing our own and interfere with those of others, our own will be left undone, and Nigeria gets a bad name.

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It is the National Press that supplies the bad material with which foreigners give us adverse publicity. When they write all this nonsense about people, the foreign correspondents copy these things and post to their own people and then they come and blame it on the Ministers. If there is going to be fair publicity of Nigeria the press of this country must be cleansed and people who have no qualifications should not be appointed editors of these papers. People must have the professional training and academic qualification to be able to interpret things and represent the nation through the Press. It is called the Fourth Estate of the Realm. We are not going to give fair publicity to this country if we have mediocrity running the press of this country. So if they want the Ministers to be sacked then every one of the editors must be sacked because they are not fit to edit the papers of this country, and if Nigeria is independent we must have qualitative representation of the Fourth Estate of the Realm. At the moment there is no such quality.

I want to say that one should not think that because one has the opportunity to air one's feelings in the press others do not know the quality that is required. We want qualitative representation at all levels—in the Ministries, in the publicity area, in the civil service, in our business and everything. That is what we require and that is what will make Nigeria truly independent.

I have carefully kept clear of any personal conflict, but these are the basic principles or reasons why there is all this big fuss about external publicity. Those who should help to publicise Nigeria are dragging Nigeria down here in Lagos, not in London, Washington nor anywhere else. It is here in Lagos that Nigeria is destroyed, and when Nigeria is destroyed here in Lagos how do you expect us to show her as a leading country.

Mr P. O. Tukula (Igala North East): On a point of order, the hon. Minister is critically attacking the press who have no representation in this House.

The Deputy Chairman: With due deference to the hon. Member, I think he probably has misconstrued the Chair's ruling on that point.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations: Finally, there is only one point, and it is a simple example—it is a thing that happened during this Session. This House passed unanimously a Resolution congratulating the Government (not Jaja Wachuku as Minister of Foreign Affairs) on its initiative on this Togo Affair. This Resolution was passed on a Private Member's day. But did they even mention that Resolution? The Resolution of Members representing forty-five million people was not even published.

Hon. Members came here and urged the Government to continue with the stand they have taken. The whole Press conspired and blotted it out. They never published it. (*Several hon. Members: Shame, shame.*) Even the Broadcasting Service which hon. Members finance, and for which the whole country pays money; a Government institution; blotted it out because it was Jaja Wachuku.

In the name of goodness let them forget Jaja Wachuku as Minister of Foreign Affairs and think of Nigeria; think of the Government of this country. What is happening is conspiracy. You do not like the face of an individual therefore you must destroy your own country and government. I am giving this as a concrete example. That is how we get adverse publicity; that is how the press of this country helps to weaken the hands of the Government wherever we go. How can we do anything when our press goes militating, conspiring against the Government? If the Press of this country will change their attitude to this Government and to the country and become more patriotic, Nigeria will get the greatest external publicity it can have, commensurate with its status and strategic position, and its position both in Africa and in international affairs.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I am pleased that the debate on this Head will give me an opportunity to make some personal explanations, and I am most grateful to avail myself of this opportunity.

Some people say I am always in the habit of unduly criticising our Foreign Minister, Mr Jaja Wachuku, and that the Minister himself said last year at a Press Conference that one *Aiyekoto* and myself were trying to shorten his hands in both international and

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local affairs. With due deference to our Foreign Minister, I think there is nothing farther from the truth because I have never met *Aiyekoto* face to face and I have never at any time conspired with anybody to shorten the Minister's hand.

Of course, I have consistently charged the Minister with high-handedness, an uncompromising attitude, and clumsy ways of tackling matters. This is true but that does not in any way suggest that there is something personal between the Minister and myself. Members will agree with me, and the *Hansard* will bear me out that in all my criticisms I have never suggested that our Foreign Minister is corrupt ; I have never dreamt that our Foreign Minister is inefficient or in any way incapable of carrying out his duties. Nor have I in any way indicated directly or indirectly that our Foreign Minister should be removed. I think that is enough. The criticisms we are making about the Minister are similar to those which he himself made in the old House when he was the spokesman on foreign affairs. When he was kicked out of the N.C.N.C. he found that he had no alternative but to declare for the U.N.I.P. He criticised all the members of the Council of Ministers particularly the 3 officials in the Cabinet, namely: the Chief Secretary to the Federation, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary. When he criticised these people heaven did not fall and they accepted the criticism in a spirit of sportsmanship. This is exactly what we want the Minister to do now. And that is why the Minister has first to remain loyal to the Prime Minister and secondly to be co-operative with other Members of the Council of Ministers. And he must take hon. Members of this House here sufficiently into confidence. If the hon. Minister does all these he can rest assured that he will continue to enjoy the confidence and support of hon. Members of this House.

In supporting the expenditure on this Head I have a few points to raise on the Floor of this House and I have some few points to raise with the Prime Minister not on the Floor of this House because I must abide by his decision.

First, I should like to congratulate the Prime Minister for his wisdom and foresight in appointing a Postings Committee to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. This Committee, I understand, is

doing extremely well and the members of the Committee should be congratulated for their impartiality, honesty and devotion to duty. The Prime Minister is not here but I hope the Leader of the House will put my proposal forward to him, that is to say, as far as this committee is concerned there is still room for improvement.

It is my humble suggestion that the number of officials serving on this committee is too small and should at least be increased by one so that it will be fully representative of the Service. If this is accepted, I should like to suggest that the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance be added to this Committee. I am sure this gentleman will be very useful and will give his expert advice on financial matters. I hope the Prime Minister will give this very serious consideration and appoint this man to the post. I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs will accept the appointment of this committee wholeheartedly and will always abide by its decision. This does not mean in any way that these people will try to rule the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from outside. This is the practice in many parts of the world.

The Committee consists of three officials: the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Establishment and Service Matters and the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): On a point of order, we Members are a bit confused and I am imploring the hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*) to tell us all about this Committee. Under what Law was it set up? We do not understand the composition of this Committee.

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South): Is it a back-door committee?

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): There are too many snake charmers on the Opposition Side of the House.

The Chairman: Order, order. I do not know what the hon. Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr P. U. Okeke*) is after, but certainly being a parliamentarian is not calculated to detract from any natural gift. (*Laughter*).

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : For the information of hon. Members, this Committee is responsible for the appointment and promotion of staff in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I should like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister again to the most urgent and immediate need for the setting up of a Foreign Affairs committee of the Members of the House of Representatives. This, I am sure, the Prime Minister knows as it is the practice—

The Chairman : I think we have finished with the Cabinet for which the Prime Minister is personally and directly responsible. If the hon. Member is addressing any appeal to the Foreign Minister I think that may be more relevant.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : As far as I know every Prime Minister in every country is responsible for appointing members of the Foreign Relations Committee. And that is why I am referring to the Prime Minister. In any case, I will abide by your ruling. I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs will take note as I have said.

This Committee is extremely useful and will help Nigeria greatly in solving the problems connected with her Foreign Relations especially at a time when there are so many important and controversial issues facing the whole world. I should like to emphasise the fact that this Committee when appointed should be given wide powers and should be directly responsible to the Prime Minister. This is very, very important. That does not again mean that we are trying to rule the Foreign Ministry from outside according to the conception of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : I think the hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari*) is becoming irrelevant. He knows very well that this Head, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is not the Cabinet Office, and I think he should direct attention to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman : I do not think the hon. Member has departed from my ruling ?

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sakin Bai : I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs has taken note of all I have said.

I should like to congratulate the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations for opening embassies in many parts of the world. I understand that twenty-nine Missions were opened this year, and every right-thinking Nigerian should welcome the rapid increase in our Foreign Missions. The number has risen, I think, to about fifty within a short period of our independence. It is most regrettable, however, to note that a considerable number of these Missions are more in name than in reality. Why, for example, have we not posted anybody to our Embassy in Russia since it was opened a year ago ? This is very important.

An hon. Member : Does the hon. Gentleman like to go there ?

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : I do not like to go.

The case of Ghana may be a little bit peculiar, but whatever the special circumstance, I think the time has come when a substantive High Commissioner is appointed to Ghana. However, I understand that the man holding the post now is doing extremely well and I thank him for that. I am strongly appealing to the Federal Government to see that our ambassador to Russia is appointed and posted forthwith and if the Minister will allow me to suggest, the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr L. J. Dosunmu*) can go if he likes.

Still on this foreign mission, I notice a conspicuous omission, and that is about Communist China. What is the Foreign Minister doing about Communist China ? What are the Minister's plans for opening an Embassy in that country ? I am afraid that we have got to come down to business this time. With due deference, I regret to say that the Nigerian foreign policy seemed to be more progressive when it was in the hands of the Prime Minister than it is now under the present holder. (*Interruption*).

I shall tell hon. Members why. I can confidently recall that during the first year of our independence our policy was consistently that of unequivocal support for the admission of Communist China to the United Nations, and, in fact, that was our stand at the United Nations then. Furthermore, I still remember the Prime Minister's statement in London on his way to the United States when he clearly

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indicated that Communist China would be welcome to open a mission in Lagos. Now, I am asking the Minister what has happened since then? Has he taken any action since then to this effect? I want to hear a categorical statement from the Foreign Minister about the steps he has taken to see that Communist China opens a mission in Lagos.

It is even more devastating to note that in his first two years the Foreign Minister has introduced the concept of two Chinas. This is very shameful. He has introduced the concept of two Chinas as advocated by some aligned countries. Why should there be two Chinas? What is our foreign policy? It is only incredible to note that in these two years of the Minister's regime Nigeria has been consistently abstaining from voting at the United Nations over the admission of the Communist China.

An hon. Member : How many times?

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari : Twice. Other non-aligned countries have consistently been voting for the admission of Communist China into the United Nations.

I do not want to drag this matter too far, but I want to draw the attention of the Minister to our declared policy of non-alignment, and to say that unless we observe this policy very strictly we shall be deceiving ourselves, and the world will laugh at us.

I appreciate Nigeria's role in the Congo where we seem to have befriended the Congolese. But I am asking the Minister what similar concrete steps he has taken to win the friendship of countries like Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, U.A.R., and Saudi Arabia? These countries do not seem to be covered by the Minister's interpretation of African geography. It is common knowledge in all his lectures either in this House or outside that he always does not regard these areas as part of Africa as he regards countries like Bechuanaland and Basutoland. It is quite true, and I am sure the Minister cannot deny it. This is most unfortunate because we have so many things in common with these African countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should therefore treat all countries in Africa as equal in status, and respect their territorial sovereignty.

Hon. Members here are the accredited representatives of the people. Hon. Members are the champions of the people. Let me then

draw the attention of hon. Members to a very serious point. I understand that some people are conspiring to prevent Members of this Parliament from attending the next meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations. This is quite true. These people feel that professional people from outside Parliament should represent Nigeria at the United Nations. Is it the wish of hon. Members in this House that these people should represent us?

Several hon. Members : No.

The Chairman : Order. Certainly, I think it is out of order for a Member speaking to invite a chorus response. (*Interruption*). I certainly would not have pronouncements challenging the Chair without a substantive Motion from anybody in the House, and I would warn Members that I certainly will not hesitate applying the strict terms of the Standing Order should any Member think that he has got the privilege to challenge the Chair, even when the Chair is making a ruling.

I think it is most unbecoming and unexpected from older parliamentarians. May I end by saying that Standing Order No. 26 (9) states that Members speaking should address the Chair and certainly not invite a chorus response. Inviting a chorus response would lead to more rowdiness than we can ever control.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari : It is a pity, Mr Chairman, sometimes I thought I was addressing a political campaign meeting.

I think Members will agree with me that this idea is silly and stupid since many Member states apart from their permanent representatives at the United Nations do send Members of Parliament to represent them at the annual meeting. So, are we to understand that our N.P.C. hon. Members are not competent and efficient enough to represent us at the General Assembly of the U.N.? I am sure the answer will certainly be 'no'. I therefore want to know more about this from the Minister.

I am sure the Members who have represented us for the past two years have put up brilliant performances at the United Nations, and they will continue to perform their duties very efficiently. So, I am warning the Ministers through the Chairman that any attempt that is deliberately calculated to prevent Members from attending the U.N. Meeting will be vigorously resisted. I should, also, like to

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suggest here and now that the question of sending Members to represent us at the United Nations should be the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers.

I am going to say a word or two about the controversial issue of our external publicity. I am glad that there is no personal grudge between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Information. In fact, there should not be one. But both Ministers will almost admit that there is a sharp disagreement between their Ministries. This disagreement has caused Nigeria great damage abroad, and particularly in England. There is a very big underground force to-day, or shall I call it movement, working against the Federal Government of Nigeria in London, and this underground work has more effective means of propaganda than the Federal Government itself. Do hon. Members know that to-day London is the centre of propaganda against the Federal Government of Nigeria? Do Members know that the B.B.C. or the Television House in London is one of the media through which these underground forces disseminate their information, apart from the British Press? Members need to go to London to see things for themselves; they need to go to the Westminster to see how a British Member of Parliament is greeted with cheers and congratulated for describing Nigeria as a tyrannical state. We shall either act now, or if we do not act we shall one day wake up and find ourselves swept away by some people; and the brain behind that force, everybody knows, is the Action Group of Nigeria.

The Chairman : Mr Tobun.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : On a point of order, I have not made any statement for the past two weeks.

The Chairman : I think we are now beginning to take note that it is hardening into a practice for Members to protest most vehemently when some other Members are called. I think every other Member here is entitled to make a speech, so when a Member is called others should kindly exercise patience. If we go on long enough everybody will have his turn.

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe) : It is unfortunate that the hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogalu*) has not been able to speak for the past two

weeks, but I have not been able to speak for the past three weeks.

In this House, we always find that all Ministers are being considered in different aspects, which must not be the case. Now, here is a Minister whom we feel has not been doing his work properly, and here is another whom, we feel has been doing well. Of course, many Members may not feel so because if a man does good, people do not see him. But if he were a man who would rule us with iron hands we would all see it and describe it as inhuman. This question of Foreign Affairs, personally, is an important one. We have so many Ministries but the important ones, to my mind—I do not know the Members' minds—are Defence and Foreign Affairs.

An hon. Member : To whose mind?

Mr Tobun : To my mind. I do not know whether that applies to hon. Members' minds too.

Here in this House, Members have been talking from morning till night criticising the Ministers, and the Prime Minister has, in a very friendly manner, appealed to us not to talk in that way. I am saying this—

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : On a point of order, I did not conclude my speech. Somebody rose on a point of order and I gave him the chance.

The Chairman : I think the Chair is in full sympathy with the hon. Member, but I think he only had about two minutes to go before he sat down and he sat down uninvited; that is on his own. I think the hands of the Chair would have been far more strengthened if the hon. Member had sprung to his feet immediately after another Member was called. But I am afraid, I have got to ask the hon. Member to reserve his ammunition for another debate.

Mr Tobun : I was saying—

An hon. Member : What did the hon. Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) say he was saying?

Mr Tobun : I have been saying something, I think the hon. Member who interrupted me must have been sleeping then. I said that all the Ministers are regarded as Ministers, but they are different in the execution of their work. I think that somebody who has done well in his Ministry should be praised instead of generalising the whole thing. When we put all

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the Ministers together, we will not be able to differentiate who among them is doing well and who is not doing well.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji the hon. Usman Angulu Ahmed) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) is irrelevant.

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) is keeping on a strict border line between relevancy and irrelevancy.

Mr Tobun : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I was saying that if a man does well he should be praised so that he can do more.

There was a time in this House when we said that our Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa was not dynamic; that he was not this, that he was not that, and yet the Prime Minister was, and he still is friendly, and we all like him. But if we had put somebody there who is another god by nature as the Prime Minister, he would have crushed our heads. Would Members have liked that ?

Now, here is another man, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom we have been accusing, we said he was too hot—and in fact the man is cool like the Prime Minister. He is somebody who is dynamic, progressive and he is everything even abroad, and yet Members pick quarrel with him. What do Members want? I do not know what they want. I will now give a story—of course, it is a fable.—

The Chairman : Order, order. Gentlemen, this is a Parliament, our proceedings and speeches are recorded and they are being read all over the world. I think when we start going into details of fables it might be ridiculous. I hope the hon. Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) will bring out the very substance of his story and not the fable itself.

Mr Tobun : Thank you, Mr Chairman, it is not a story. In the kingdom of frogs, the frogs wanted a king; they appealed to Jupiter and it gave them a log of wood which was unable to move. These frogs did not like it and they went back to Jupiter to protest for giving them a kind of king that would not move. Then Jupiter gave them a kind of bird which came and

devoured everyone of them. From that time they learnt a lesson. I think we shall not wait to learn such a lesson.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has done very well, I say this because of my personal experience. I was in New York and I did not know that he was in the same hotel with me.—

An hon. Member : Did the hon. Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) speak English there ?

Mr Tobun : I did. I can speak English better than the hon. Member who has just interrupted me.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : I think the hon. Member should address the Chair.

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member is having a lot of difficulty through Members luring him into addressing them. Will the hon. Member please resist the temptation.

Mr Tobun : I am sorry, Mr Chairman, I was addressing the Chair. I was in New York as said—

An hon. Member : When ?

Mr Tobun : In 1961. I lodged in an hotel. I arrived there at about two o'clock in the night (American time). In the morning I woke up to find that my Ambassador was up there with the Nigerian Flag flying. In fact, hon. Members would have liked to see the very warm reception that I received from him.

Somebody said that when he was abroad people did not know whether he was from Ghana or so. Anywhere you go they know you as a Nigerian provided you do not go about in suits. Mr Briggs, the fisherman, is not here. If he were here now I would tell him that if he went abroad in suits he would have himself to blame if the people there did not recognise him. He should use his own native dress. I was in my native dress and somebody came to me and said, "You are a Nigerian definitely", and I said, "Yes".

There are so many coloured people going abroad and they do not know where anyone comes from except by his dress. But when I see Dr Esin going about in suits, I may call him a Ghanaian or Congolese. The Nigerian national dress is identified in all places. When I answered that I was a Nigerian they told me:

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that my Ambassador was up there. When I went up they started saying that I had just returned from Nigeria a few minutes ago.

Mr Chairman and hon. Members, I tell you that anybody here criticising the Ministry which is controlled by Hon. Jaja Wachuku is doing a very great disservice to Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). He is the man we want there. He is very difficult, arrogant, proud and self-conceited. Yes. But he is reasonable and intelligent. He has projected Nigeria in the way any of us cannot project it. And here some Members begin to speak against him!

I support this Head.

Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban) : I rise to support this Head. In doing so I would—

Mr D. K. Aihonsu (Egbado North) : This is a coalition opposition, as I have said before. This time a Member from the U.P.P. side has been allowed to speak, and nobody from the Action Group side. It seems we are no longer existing.

The Chairman : We do appreciate that after lunch it is not so easy to keep awake, but would Members be more reasonable in awakening themselves from slumber.

Mr Araka : I would like to start by making a brief reference to the impending visit of President Sekou Toure of the Guinea Republic who is returning the visit which our Prime Minister paid to Guinea last time. We know that President Sekou Toure is one of the foremost leaders in Africa. In my view, there cannot be a greater honour that could be paid to President Sekou Toure on his first visit to this country than to receive him in the body of this House. Now that the House is still in Session it would not be costing the country any great expense in summoning Parliament especially to meet him. Therefore, there is no harm in inviting him here and receiving him on the Floor of the House as we did during the visit of Mr Nehru.

I cannot think of any leader in Africa that has contributed more to the freedom or the independence and the unity of African people than President Sekou Toure. We all remember that he was the first leader of all the French colonial territories that decided to vote against complete union with France, and after that he also decided first, when France gave other

colonial territories the right of independence, to elect for independence and said that he would prefer independence under poverty to French rule even in riches with slavery. It was the lead which he gave to the other French colonial territories that inspired them and made them to elect complete independence from France.

I have very much in mind the question of African unity, and I would say that in the past our relationship with Ghana has not been very cordial. We have seen recent trends of good gestures on the part of President Nkrumah which augur very well for the future. I have in mind the recent correspondence between President Nkrumah and our Prime Minister which has just been published in the papers, and the points which President Nkrumah outlined in his message which should be used as a basis for unification of all African territories.

I would respectfully like to refer to these various grounds on which he based his conception of African unity. President Nkrumah suggested common foreign policy and diplomacy for all independent African territories. This is a very workable proposition—(*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : There are too many interruptions please.

Mr Araka : My view on foreign policy is that all independent African States should be able to speak with one voice, and they should have one common foreign policy. For example, there is a persistent explosion of atom bomb in the Sahara. Why should all African States not have one common policy towards this and be able to tell France openly that they cannot allow this state of affairs to exist? But when we have different types of foreign policies, we will never be able to command world respect in international affairs.

Then again he raised a second platform—common continental planning for economic and industrial development of Africa—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : My hon. Friend who has been able to tell us the words of President Nkrumah should understand that Nkrumah is not the Minister of Foreign Affairs here, but hon. Jaja Wachuku, unless Nkrumah would want this common foreign policy to be headed by hon. Jaja Wachuku if it is created for Africa. I know he would not accept it.

Mr Araka : I was just laying the basis for the sort of African unity which we should work for, and I was also saying that the suggestions made by Nkrumah were workable.

In the Speech from the Throne, reference was made by the Governor-General to the promotion of world peace and order. I will read the passage :

Believing that no better organ exists for the promotion of international peace and world order, my Government is of the firm resolve not to slacken its efforts in upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in playing its full part as a member of the organisation. It will seek to do this by continued collaboration with the other member States in honouring all its legitimate obligations under the Charter.

My view is that there cannot be any better forum for promoting world peace and order than through the United Nations Organisation. The Foreign Ministry should be encouraged to strengthen, at least to do as much as it could in the way of helping the United Nations in its efforts to promote world peace and order. In this respect, I would say that it devolves on us that when any nation in the world adopts any attitude which will lead to a break up of world peace and order, we should be bold enough to tell that nation that its attitude is dangerously leading towards a world war.

As regards this, I have in mind the Cuban issue—the crisis in Cuba. We should be bold enough to let America know that its present policy towards Cuba is dangerously leading towards a world war. We have seen all the various bases which are being built by America in Europe. We have seen the attitude of the Soviet Union towards the Cuban issue. When America intervened, Mr Khrushchev quickly withdrew all his interests in Cuba. We expected that America would do the same thing with regard to European countries. But what do we see? She is fast building up missile bases in Turkey and all over Europe. I would say that we must be bold enough to let America know that its policy is not leading towards peace and order.

As was declared by the Governor-General in his Speech from the Throne, that Government resolved to help in promoting peace and order, we must be prepared to do so and to tell any State that is helping to promote world peace and order.

I will now go to another problem and that is the question of disarmament. I would like to commend the Government policy on disarmament, especially the activities of our representative, Mr M. T. Mbu, at the Geneva Conference. (*Applause*). In our desire for the promotion of world peace and order, we must insist on an end to nuclear bases completely. There can never be any world peace and order if the two great powers are fast building up their nuclear weapons. Our representative at the Geneva Conference has always been expressing the views of all Nigerians on this issue. He has been able to show to the world leaders at the Disarmament Conference that Nigeria has her own ideas on how to put an end to the nuclear race. He has laid down on many occasions the various bases on which an effective agreement should be reached by the nuclear powers.

My submission is that we must express satisfaction with his activities there. We must insist on on-the-site inspection by the uncommitted nations. Certainly it will not be proper to leave the nuclear powers themselves to be stock-piling nuclear weapons without the uncommitted nations being able or having a right to inspect the type and quantity of weapons they have accumulated.

We must also condemn any more of nuclear testing, whether in the atmosphere, in the outer-space, under water or underground. The nuclear powers slowly show their resolve to end the nuclear race and their *bona-fides* by putting an end to all nuclear testing under any shape or form. When I referred earlier to a sort of common African policy for all African States I had in mind the explosion of atomic bombs in the Sahara by France.

Lastly, a statement was made on this issue and it was explained briefly that since bombs are being exploded or are being tested on Algerian soil (and Algeria is now independent) we cannot intervene. This is a pure misconception. If unfortunately, by aid and peace agreement Algeria allows France to be testing nuclear weapons on Algerian soil, we have the right as one of the neighbouring territories to protest, if the explosion of nuclear weapons in a neighbouring territory is likely to result in injury to our health, person and properties. France must be told that the way she perform an operation in one Independent African States may affect the neighbouring states. If France is allowed to continue like that without being

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told that there is a likelihood of causing injury to our health and damage to our properties, she might not know that she is committing international tort. We must be bold enough to make France understand this. If we do not do so, we will be failing in our responsibilities to other African states.

In my view this is an important issue which must be taken up by all the independent African states at the forthcoming Addis Ababa Conference. It should not be left to Algeria alone simply because they are independent. It must be taken up by all independent African states. It is not only the breaking off of diplomatic ties with France that will solve the problem. There are other ways of carrying out repressive measures against France. Her nationals are all in Africa and we know how to deal with them if she continues to commit international tort against our sovereign independent African states.

Secondly, the question of the admission of Communist China has been mentioned by some hon. Members and I would like to say that there can be no effective world peace and order if Communist China is still kept out of the United Nations Organisation. I have in mind the boundary dispute between India and China. How can there be sanctions against one country at the U.N.O. if China is not there and how can there be sanctions against China at the United Nations if China is outside that world organisation? We have already been told that Communist China is fast becoming a nuclear power. They have developed their own nuclear bombs. How can they be amenable to the decisions or the treaty that will be eventually signed as a result of the disarmament conference, if China is outside the United Nations Organisation?

In my view, we should not go back on our original plan to see that Communist China is admitted as a Member of the United Nations Organisation. It makes nonsense of the whole concept of the United Nations Organisation. For over six hundred million people to be kept out of that world body—the people with the largest population in the world—and yet we call that organisation a world organisation. It is unfair. It must be made clear to America that her continuing to exercise the right of veto, which unfortunately has been left to the Security Council cannot effectively lead to

world peace and order. If America continues vetoing the admission of China into the U.N.O. America should be told to stop this.

If I may be allowed to say something about African unity again, I had in mind the setting up of a sort of an African court of justice where Inter-African state matters could be taken without first taking such matters to the International Court of Justice at the Hague. There is at the moment a boundary dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia; Zanzibar and Kenya, Guinea and Liberia, Mauritania and Mali, Togo and Ghana and even Nigeria and Fernando Po, all these African States have boundary disputes and we do not know to what extent these conflicts will go. In order to promote real African Unity, therefore, we must think of setting up an African court of justice where disputes of such nature could be taken.

About a year ago, our Foreign Minister made a statement about our resolve to see all African states independent by 1970. I do not know whether we are still bent on this policy and to what extent we are out to see that this policy is carried out. I must say that by 1970 we cannot allow any whiteman's flag to be flying in any part of Africa.

At the moment I do not know what steps are being taken with regard to Fernando Po and the liberation of Angola. The other day an Angolan national made a statement that an agreement had almost been reached with Portugal over Angola's independence and it was quickly denied by Portugal. It must be properly resolved that this state of affairs after 1970 will be an unfriendly act to all independent African states. We are committed to that because our Foreign Minister has given that as the target date. The only way that we can achieve this is by getting all the independent African countries to come closer and resolve at the next Addis Ababa Conference that we cannot allow any whiteman's flag to fly in any part of Africa after 1970. If all independent African states will speak with one voice on this issue, there is no reason why the whole of the African countries would not be liberated before 1970.

I have also in mind the question of South Africa and I would like to know what is our attitude towards white domination of the black majority in South Africa. We cannot allow such a state of affairs to exist and my view is that

this is one of the most important problems that should be tackled by the Addis Ababa Conference. There is no justification at all for less than one million people to keep over eleven million people in subjection. There must be one man one vote, and if the white people in South Africa are not prepared to co-exist with the African people, they must then begin to pack and go.

An hon Member : Go where ?

Mr Araka : Go back to their country.

Before I wind up, I would like to commend the Foreign Minister on the Togo issue. In my view the Minister of Foreign Affairs did the best thing by summoning immediately, on hearing of the unfortunate incident, a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of other independent African and Malagasy States, and I would like to say that there was nothing wrong in the Minister's stating what would be the attitude of the Nigerian Delegation at the Conference. After all, President Nkrumah has already stated what will be his attitude at the forthcoming Addis Ababa Conference. He has already distributed papers right round the various Heads of States. It would not mean that Nkrumah is trying to dictate to other independent States what to do or that his views must be adopted. In the same light, it does not mean that our Minister of Foreign Affairs was trying to dictate to other independent African States what to do, or that they must adopt the Nigerian attitude. It is necessary for us to state our own views even before going to the Conference and while at the Conference if the other independent African States do not accept our views, it is for us to agree on whatever is the majority issue.

Before I wind up—

The Deputy Chairman : Order. The hon. Member said that about three minutes ago. He has got only one minute more.

Mr Araka : I would like to appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to be publishing more frequently white papers on international subjects. Let us know really our Government's attitude on major world issues and this should be done by publication of white papers. For example there are, the Sino-Indian dispute, the Togo issue, the Cuban issue and many other issues. We expect our Government to

say something on all these issues, and the only way we Members of this House can know the attitude of our Government is to receive a sort of white paper on these issues. I would expect the Minister of Foreign Affairs to see that this is done so that we may know what is happening in other parts of the world.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : I notice that there are many Heads to be considered. There are about three more Heads to be considered and—

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed (Kubau Soba) : On a point of order, I think it is not more than one hour since the Minister spoke to defend this Head. Many hon. Members want to speak on the same Head. I think it is too early for the Minister to speak a second time. We all want to speak on the Head.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : On a point of order, whenever we have contributions to make, these Ministers seize the chance. It is too early for this Minister to talk about these things. We still have so many pieces of advice to give him and we have not got the time. He is going to talk now for about an hour. He has spoken once or twice. He should give us the ground to speak about his Ministry.

The Deputy Chairman : Before calling on the Minister of Works and Surveys to give the explanation, I would like to appeal to hon. Members; this is a Committee and under Standing Orders a Member has right to speak more than once. But I would also like to draw Members' attention to the fact that foreign affairs are very delicate and naturally, have a much wider scope than many others. A number of statements are made here which, if not corrected by the Minister, may lead to a lot of misunderstanding about Nigeria and her policies overseas.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : On a point of information, we are not against Members speaking and if they wish they can take the whole afternoon and the whole of tonight discussing Foreign Affairs. It is in their own interest to remind them that to-day they still have to discuss the Ministries of Health and Works.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : On a point of information, a Member who wants to speak upon a Head is supposed to put up an Amendment and I did put an Amendment to reduce this Head by £1,000. The Minister has spoken two times. I do not think he should take the whole of the time.

The Deputy Chairman : I think many Members have taken this opportunity, if they had none before during the day, of getting their names down in the *Hansard*. I think we can proceed with business.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I think as the Minister of Works and Surveys has said, this House has got some other Heads to consider. Really, to assist it to deal with the other Heads, I will not waste much time, otherwise if we spend the whole of this afternoon Members will have very little time at night to deal with the other three or four Heads.

I want to say that I do agree with the hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhtari*) about the statement on the organisation that is going on in London. There is a very serious organisation, a subversive unit in London, which, if not controlled, will be very detrimental to the future of this country in London. The sooner our nationals know about this, the better, and those who publicise Nigeria should know it.

An hon. Member : Tell us more.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : I can only tell hon. Members as much as is necessary and no more.

With regard to the statement about President Sekou Toure's coming, I do sympathise with the suggestion of the hon. Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr E. O. Araka*) about inviting him to address this House. We examined the possibility and it was found that for some reasons, and one of which is that it is not good for a Head of State to come here and address an empty house, it will not be good for him to come here to see a Parliament with empty benches. Also the Governor-General is on tour. He has a very tight programme in Western Nigeria. In fact, we are going to bring him back for one or two days to welcome him and then to see him off. It is difficult for us to fit that in. You cannot have him here to address Parliament when the Governor-

General is away. There are also so many things that should be done. It will not be possible to do all that and make it worthy of a Head of State. It is not included in the programme. We regret that but it cannot be helped.

We agree that it would be a good thing to improve Ghana-Nigeria relations, but in a matter like this the usual phrase we have in Nigeria here is 'give and take'. That spirit of give and take must exist. But if it is a question of one person giving, another taking all the time, there comes a time that there is nothing else one can give and consequently one has to close one's door so that things may not run out.

The hon. Member for Onitsha Urban (*Mr Araka*) read out to us a kind of rehearse on certain things that have been published—views of President Nkrumah on the future unity of Africa. I personally view these things with a certain amount of reservation because it is one thing to talk of African unity and to believe in it and to act it. Nigeria wants to say a thing and stand by it; not say one thing and do another.

I think I read the document. There is a suggestion of a joint currency. We do not want to go far to tell hon. Members that we had a joint currency and it was not Nigeria that broke it up. We had joint airways, it was not Nigeria that broke it up. Now, someone is telling us about one Parliament. How are we going to set up one Parliament? Are we going to abolish Nigeria Parliament and dissolve that of Ethiopia or Liberia? Who is going to dissolve them? Where are we going to make the legislation to dissolve all of them to establish one Parliament?

Nigeria wants to deal with what is practicable and what is feasible. When it is obvious that things are impossible at this stage, there is no need going to split our hair over nothing. If we devote more attention to the Six-Year Development Programme and make it work then we will be in a position to contribute to our sister nations. But to talk of one Parliament for Africa even politically if it were possible now to have one voice in the United Nations it would be disastrous to us because if you form one state now with one Parliament and one vote in the United Nations and as

weak as we are economically and militarily and all that our influence in the United Nations will be nil. But even though we are weak, we have our 30, 31 and 32 votes. The big powers will come here to lobby us and we can always use the number of votes we have to tell them our view and they will respect it. But when we have one vote which is not qualitative as the Russian or the American what is the value? So, we must be realistic in our policies. This is just one of those considerations. Whenever we are taking a decision there are so many factors that we must examine and we cannot explain that in a market square.

There are many problems on the question of African unity. Hon. Members said that the Foreign Affairs Minister does not consider the North African States and South Arabian and all that. I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that we do take full cognisance of these factors. Whether we like it or not, broadly speaking, there are three major factors, that must be taken into consideration if there is going to be any unity in Africa. The fact must be understood (and we must attempt to find a solution) that there are parts of Africa where there are black African states, with history and tradition. Slavery and all sorts of things went in there. There is the splitting up these areas by foreign powers—areas with the same tribal units as, in Nigeria here. Take the North—Niger, Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Bornu, Chad. All these people are the same brothers and sisters. The time will come when we have to solve the problem of unification. This is throughout the whole of Africa. So, in black Africa we have that splinter movement which was created by foreign powers. We have to consider that. We have also to consider that there are white settlers from Europe in North Africa, Kenya and in South Africa. The question is, have they accepted to be Africans? Are they prepared to behave like Africans? Have they adapted the tradition and culture of Africans as their own? Are they prepared to co-operate with me and hon. Members as Africans? These are problems.

Now, if we have been following international relations, on the Northern fringe we have another set of Africans who came to Africa about the Seventh Century A.D. in the days of Mamalék Turks in Egypt and the areas there. These people feel that they are bound by blood ties with people in the Middle East. A new

Federation is being formed now. The question is how will hon. Members examine and equate that in terms of African unity? We the Heads of States and the Foreign Ministers have to settle down with these people and examine how we are going to put these problems together in order to find a solution? I have to spend sleepless nights in considering these things. These are real problems. There is no need telling us about African unity and when these problems stare us in the face we close our eyes. Like an ostrich hiding its head in the sand, later on it will bring it out whether it likes it or not. So, these are factors that we take into consideration. We want to find how best we can find a solution that will meet the need of everybody; not to ignore them by shouting 'unity'. These are problems that must be studied so that we may try to evolve a solution. What we are trying to do is to get all the African States together, let them reason together and try to find a solution. We solve those that we can solve now and leave those that cannot be solved and keep on examining them as time goes on. We are not indifferent to such problems.

I do not want to go into Ghana-Nigeria relations in this House. This is not the proper place for it. These are matters which will be handled in the normal diplomatic method and if the occasion occurs where it is necessary to take any course of action that requires the approval of Parliament we will not hesitate to do so. So, Mr Chairman, I beg your leave to ask the House not press me on that issue.

With regard to the Cuban issue, I want to say that it is not true that we did not do anything. We work through the United Nations. There were two nuclear powers: one was on the verge of erecting all the missiles with a range of 2,000 miles, very close, about 90 miles off the shores of the other, and the other discovered it and decided, if need be, to go to war on the issue because they felt it threatened them. Nigeria and other weaker powers in the United Nations summoned a meeting and called all the powers together. It was through the effort of these states that we channelled the differences through the Secretary-General and so there was a meeting ground between the Soviet Union and the United States. After the negotiations that went on came the question of withdrawal of Soviet missiles.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

As hon. Members heard there are many thousands of Russians there and they have succeeded in withdrawing some of them, although many of them are still there. So we played a role in saving the world from a catastrophe. The only thing is that Nigeria does not believe in shouting before doing. We do and later on our did makes its manifest. That is what we do.

Now Sir, with regard to disarmament, I want to point out to this House that we have been playing a role in the Disarmament Conference as one of the eight non-aligned nations. I led the first delegation and laid the foundation of our intervention in the Disarmament Conference.

One of the basic propositions which we put to the Conference is that there can be no disarmament, it does not matter how much they talk about it, if the two blocs have no confidence in themselves. One may propose all sorts of things and if there is no trust it will be impossible. Because if one proposes one thing and another suspects there is nothing one can do.

One of the basic propositions which we put to the Conference is that if the two Power blocks have no confidence in each other, we cannot have disarmament, however much we talk about it. We may propose all sorts of things to them, but as long as they continue to view each other with mistrust and suspicion, it will be impossible to achieve anything. We have, however, succeeded in getting the two powers to agree to abolish war propaganda. A document was drafted to that effect, and just when they were on the verge of signing it, which would have been a very good start, one of the powers decided to withdraw, and so nothing was signed.

Now, they are talking again about on-the-site inspection. One party says that on-the-site inspection will amount to espionage. Well, I do not know how we can get over that, even if we agree that there will be three, four or five black boxes that will be put there. And that, of course, will again take us to the question of mutuality—by the time these boxes are put up and made effective (that is assuming that we all agree on the numbers) how shall we determine the most effective places to site these boxes. Anyway, we must first agree on where

to site them, but by the time the place has been surveyed, the other side might come out and say that it is espionage. How, again, can we get over that?

Therefore, I still maintain that until confidence is restored between the two major groups, disarmament will be impossible. But it is a good thing that the eight non-aligned states have made it possible for them to start talking instead of shooting themselves. I want to tell this honourable House not to be anxious because, after all, we are not the only human beings in the world and if the world is to be blasted into pieces, we, and the other nations of the world, will all be there.

The disarmament question started as far back as 1920 at the League of Nations, and when the League of Nations broke up, the question of disarmament formed part of the foundation of the United Nations Organisation, and what is going on to-day is still a continuation of the same problem.

I think that if we can only concentrate in developing this country and having a solid basis of growth, we will be contributing to disarmament. I do not want hon. Members to split their hairs over this question. It is a very technical thing, and those who have the arms know what to do at the appropriate time. But Nigeria will do her best, in co-operation with the eight non-aligned countries, to exert as much pressure as possible to prevent them from jumping on the throat of each other. If we succeed in keeping them away from fighting, I think we will have done a great service to the world.

These, Mr Chairman, are the main points that have been raised. I do not want to touch the question of 1970 when, as an hon. Member suggested, all Africa should be free. When the matter was first proposed here, I was abused in this very House for putting up a resolution to that effect. I remember somebody then suggested 1962 as the year in which the whole of black Africa should be free. Another Member said 1963. The year 1962 has come and gone, 1963 is almost over and very soon we will have 1964 and this House will be dissolved, and yet the whole of black Africa will still not be free. A new Parliament will come to discuss the question of freedom for the whole of Africa, and, perhaps, it may

well be that 1970—the target date—may come and go and the whole of Africa may still not be free.

What we can promise is that we will put as much pressure as possible and use all the resources at our disposal, in co-operation with all the other African States, to see that the rest of Africa is liberated in consistence with our foreign policy.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): I think the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been sufficiently thrashed, and I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put and agreed to.

£2,824,910 for Head 44—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 45—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question proposed, That £4,489,480 for Head 45—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai): I have a few observations to make in contributing to the debate on this Head.

First of all, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the special Health Scheme for Lagos. It is a nice thing to launch any health scheme, but the point is that there is too much hurry as far as the Health Scheme for Lagos is concerned. There are so many things involved in this particular scheme. It requires careful consultation and examination before such a scheme could be launched.

For example, a Paper which has been circulated round to Members about this scheme gives the impression that the scheme is going to be more or less a free health scheme for the people of Lagos. From my own understanding of all the papers we have got so far—

Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban): On a point of order, the debate on the Lagos Health Scheme comes up tomorrow. I, therefore, do not think it is proper to begin to debate it now.

The Chairman: I think that the Bill is a pending legislation and, under Standing Order, I do not think we should debate it now.

Mr Obi: I am not debating the scheme. The point I am making is in the Estimates. I have mentioned that there are certain things which have to be considered and we have been given the impression that this scheme is going to be a sort of free medical scheme. But for all I know, the scheme is going to bring many people into very heavy commitments because the people of Lagos will be expected to pay for these services, whether they are working or not. It is compulsory that people have to pay for whatever treatment they receive under the scheme.

It is believed, from the papers circulated, that the Ministry had expert advice before the scheme was prepared, and from what we have read about what has been regarded as the expert advice, it was suggested that the scheme should only be launched after proper consultations have taken place among the various organisations involved in order to ensure its success. It is also said that on the medical officers especially depends the success of this scheme, but no consultation has been held with them upon whom so much depend. I believe it will be in the best interests of everybody—particularly both the Ministry and the people of Lagos—if the Minister reduces the speed with which he wants to proceed.

An hon. Member: On a point of order, the hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr Obi*) is anticipating a Bill which is yet to come up. This is contrary to Standing Order 33 (2).

The Chairman: Order, order. I think the relevant provision of the Standing Order referred to is Standing Order 33. I would therefore beg all hon. Members not to belabour the point of debating the substance of this Bill which is due to come up tomorrow, the 23rd.

Mr Obi: I will then keep my powder dry till that date.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North): While I rise to support the expenditure under this Head 45—Ministry of Health—I must admit that health is wealth. It is even more.

[ALHAJI GAUYAMMA]

The new scheme to build abattoirs at Maiduguri, Nguru, Kaduna, Kano and Sokoto is welcome. I trust many more will follow. I wish to congratulate the Northern Regional Government on planning such schemes—

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyamma*) would be quite in order and within his rights to write a personal and private letter of congratulations to the Northern Regional Government.

Alhaji Gauyamma : I think that we should encourage this sister Region, the Northern Region, in the rearing of these cows so that they will be able to provide the rest of the country with fresh meat for consumption and to maintain good health. This scheme will serve two purposes. Firstly, it will promote and protect the health of our people because the meat produced in the North is despatched immediately with all precautions against contamination. Secondly, the meat arrives in the South in good time and thereby standardises the meat market. It would also give increased services to the Nigerian Airways because they will help in the carrying of this meat to the South. If early killings by the slaughterers at the abattoirs are made and quick transport arranged—

The Chairman : Is the hon. Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyamma*) still debating the abattoirs for which he congratulated the Northern Government? If that is the case, will he please co-operate with the Chair.

Alhaji Gauyamma : I will now go to the improvement of health services in Lagos. What Lagos needs at the moment is prevention of diseases. Many of the streets and houses of Lagos are filthy. Every student of medicine or one of the health sciences knows that fresh air is very important to make the life of any person comfortable. I am sure I will not be taking the Federal Government by surprise if I say that most of the wards of Lagos are too congested. Many people sleep in a single room and the lives of many people are at a risk every night.

The Chairman : If the hon. Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyamma*) is referring to his notes, as I believe he is doing would he do so less frequently.

Alhaji Gauyamma : As I was saying, Lagos is congested. Too many people sleep in a room and their lives are in danger. What is

worse the sanitation is poor in most cases with the result that the entire place is apt to be disease ridden.

As prevention is better than cure, I feel that the Government must do something to ban or make it offensive for any man to ease himself in a sleeping plate. There is no wonder that the Yorubas, the Action Group people have made this their habit and for their own safety—

The Chairman : Order, order! I think we are debating the Ministry of Health, and any references to a class of people like talking about the Yorubas will certainly call for some reactions that may make the House rowdy.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : With respect I protest. The Yorubas are not Action Group people. I am a Yorubaman of no mean order.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : And the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is not alone.

The Chairman : I did rule that references to tribes should be kept out.

Alhaji Gauyamma : In conclusion, I wish the Ministry of Health to try and improve the sanitary condition of Lagos so that it can be a source of pride when we take our visitors round.

May I also congratulate the Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Health and the Lagos Town Council on their achievements so far in improving Lagos. I wish them progress in their future plans for Lagos.

I beg to support.

Chief R. A. Orok (Abak North East) : May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Health on the services he had rendered and is still rendering to the people living in the Federal Territory of Lagos. It is now high time that the Federal Government should introduce a national health scheme for the whole of the Federation. The Federal Government has now decided to have a health scheme for Lagos. The Federal Government should realise that the people living in the Regions also have as much rights to the Federal Government as the people living in Lagos. The people living in the rural areas are also contributing to the well-being of this country, and they should be looked after. The establishment of health centres will greatly improve the health of the people

living in the rural areas, especially the children who are the leaders of our country tomorrow. The Federal Government should spend more money and time on preventive medicine. I will even suggest that the Federal Government should concentrate more on the production of vaccines and that they should be distributed all over the country to help prevent the spread of some diseases.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : On a point of order, we on this side are at a loss, we cannot hear the hon. Member for Abak North East (*Chief Orok's*) speech.

The Chairman : If hon. Members would be more silent, I think there should be less difficulty in hearing.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I think there is a scandal now of Chiefs going about as Obas.

The Chairman : I am sure there are no worries about that. We know the difference between Obas and Chiefs.

Chief Orok : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am not bothered about what they may call oba. What we call *oba* is a type of tree.

I wish to say that the Government should train more doctors who should serve the whole country. They should not be trained exclusively for Lagos health services. The doctors should specialise in various fields such as ears, nose, eyes, brain, spinal cord, surgery and others.

In the United Kingdom where there are many qualified doctors, people usually go for periodical medical examination. One of the best ways to maintain good health is by going for a medical check-up at least twice a year. If this is done regularly, diseases can be discovered when they are at their earliest stages.

Another problem facing this country to-day is the menace of quack doctors administering dangerous drugs indiscriminately. This is a very serious problem which the Government should look into without delay. Drugs should be administered by qualified persons like doctors and chemists. For instance, some people give dangerous drugs to girls with view to procuring abortion. This type of thing kills our girls quite often and thereby reduces our population.

I would also remind the Minister of Health that the people of Lagos should not be the only people who should be dosed with medical facilities. As things are at the moment, it appears that facilities are being concentrated in Lagos, leaving the rural areas to suffer. It is because the people in the rural areas have no medical facilities, they never get the assistance of doctors, that quack doctors have the opportunity of carrying on their illicit practices.

One of the ways of doing away with quack doctors is by encouraging qualified doctors. The Government should not deny anybody who is qualified appointment. No Nigerian should be denied the right of employment once that person is qualified for the job he applied for.

I wish to thank the Missionaries who carry out medical services in this country. These Missionaries include the Lutheran, Methodist, Q.I.M., Roman Catholic, and the C.M.S. These Missionaries are doing very useful work in the Regions in the field of medical services. I also have to thank people like Dr Nzeribe the Marcus Memorial Hospital, Aba, and Community Hospital, Azumini, and many other medical officers who are in charge of various medical institutions in the Regions.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : In speaking at this moment on this Head of the Estimates, I would only like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the congestion in hospitals in Lagos.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : What about Benin ?

Chief Dame-Oboh : This is more noticeable in Lagos hospitals. If any hon. Member had ever been to any of the hospitals in Lagos, particularly the General Hospital, he would have seen how a great number of children and their parents suffer there. They have to wait for many hours before they can be attended to. Perhaps some hon. Members were misled. It was due to the campaign of so many people that this Health Scheme was being proposed.

The Chairman : Order, order ! It has been ruled earlier on that the Health Scheme should be left out of this debate because debate on it will be coming up tomorrow.

Chief Dame-Oboh : But one cannot help mentioning it.

The Chairman : Order ! The hon. Gentleman must help it.

Chief Dame-Oboh : I should, however, say that I am grateful to the Government for trying to solve the problem of patients who often die owing to imprompt attention.

Mr P. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : On a point of information, the hon. Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) requires a doctor to examine his eyes.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed (Kubau Soba) : On a point of order, I thought I would be the second person to speak on this Head of estimates.

Chief Dame-Oboh : I would say that what my hon. Friend the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) has just said is very unparliamentary.

The Chairman : Order, order. The Chair is the custodian of what is parliamentary and what is not. Will the hon. Gentleman please go straight to the point.

Chief Dame-Oboh : The hon. Minister should help those of us who come from the rural areas in regard to local medicine sellers.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : On a point of information, medicine selling in the rural areas is a Regional matter.

Chief Dame-Oboh : It might be a Regional matter. I would advise that both here and in the rural areas, the local medicine sellers do a greater harm than good to the public. The people they sell medicine to do not know how they are measured, they do not know how many times they are going to take it a day. So, instead of killing the diseases, they make the patients suffer more. They have only one medicine for guinea worms, head aches, back aches, stomach troubles and for several other things.

There is one other thing which I want to touch. In saying this, I am very serious. The Government doctors—most of them—are very dishonest. If you go to any of them in the hospitals, they tell you that the medicine you want is out of stock, but if you go to meet them in their private houses, they will get the medicine to cure you and then you pay twenty pounds ?

If a doctor employee of the Government does not want to work for the Government, he should resign and work privately.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : In supporting this, Mr Chairman, I should like once again to appeal to the Minister to see that health services are provided for the whole Federation. Here I mean, as it is well known, that the provision made for the Ministry of Health is more or less entirely for Lagos alone. I understand from reliable sources that actually, it is not the fault of the Minister of Health. It is the fault of our Constitution.

According to the Constitution, health services are on the Concurrent List. Regional Ministries have their own responsibilities as the Federal ones, but yet, as I understand from reliable sources, the Federal Government is always willing to help the Regional Governments on certain occasions. The Regional Governments generally do not want the Federal Government to interfere with their Ministries. This being the case, I still appeal to the Federal Government to see that certain health services should be rendered in the Regions. In the case of epidemic diseases, there is no reason why the Minister should not consult his colleagues in the Regions to see that epidemic diseases are brought under the control of the Federal Government. Epidemic diseases have no political barrier; they do no mind any Region. Such matters, I think take more than one Region to deal with.

Every hour, I always say that Cerebro Meningitis hits the Northern Region very hard and on a very large scale, and I know that the Regional Government always tries to control it in conjunction with the Niger Republic. If health service is a Regional matter, what of matters regarding other foreign countries ? The Regional Government does not try to control Small Pox or Cerebro Meningitis alone. It does so in co-operation with the Niger and the Chad Republics. So, although I realise that health service matters come under the Regional Governments, it is my candid view that epidemic diseases should come under the Federal Government.

I have cited an example in the Northern Region, but I dare say that we can find other diseases in the East and in the West which are common in these areas and can be taken over by the Federal Government.

I appeal to the Minister that in the light of the criticism always levelled against the Ministry for confining its activities to Lagos, there is room for amendment to our Constitution. There are reasons why the Federal Government should take over certain responsibilities.

I beg to support. (*Several Members stood up*).

The Chairman : I am sorry if my delay in calling a name has led to a confusion, but I think in the end, I did call the hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr F. C. Ogbalu*) to speak.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : Thank you Mr Chairman. I wish to make a number of observations. One of the points is about diseases which are foreign to this country and which are gaining ground. For example, Polio, and I should like the Minister of Health to make a statement on the efforts being made by his Ministry to protect this country from these diseases which are not indigenous. (*Laughter*).

The Chairman : May I appeal to the Member for Awka North, and subsequent speakers to be brief so that we can accommodate others.

Mr Ogbalu : I wish to be brief but I have got about ten different points to discuss, and I wish to deal with them in a *staccato* manner.

In the first place it is quite true that health services and hospital management are the sole responsibility of the Federal Government in Lagos, and that in the Regions the Regional Governments have to cater for their own people, but I think that there is enormous room for the Federal Government to help the Regional Governments in their health services by grants.

For instance, Education is not in the Exclusive List, it is in the Concurrent List and yet the Federal Government has been doing its best in helping the Regions. So with respect to health and sanitation, I think it is a good thing if the Government will help the Regional Governments knowing full well that the enormous population we have is concentrated in the Regions, and that the population of Lagos is so infinitesimal when compared with the population of the Regions.

Another very important point is that we need many doctors and I think it would be in the interest of the Federation if the Federal Government would induce doctors from abroad to come and help us in the same way as we have foreign educationists and many others who are doing their best in our schools in the way of peace corps, *et cetera*. We also have a number of Indians who are doing a lot educationally in the country and I feel that in the same way doctors who are trained abroad should be induced to come and help us, thereby safeguarding the lives of millions in this country from the onslaught of unqualified chemists and druggists who move about with needles, drugs, and syringes, administering injections here and there, and causing the death of thousands of people in this country.

I do not think that any amount of money spent in this country by the Federal Government by way of inducing foreign trained doctors to come into the country to help us will not bear sufficient fruits. After all, without health, it will be difficult for all the proposals which are being made to be carried out effectively, whether in the offices or outside, or in the farms or in any other place.

It is true that efforts are now being made for formal consultation between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments in matters of health, but I remember that a lot of inconvenience was caused last year when the Eastern Regional Government had to prohibit private practice by medical practitioners. At that time, on the floor of this House, the Minister of Health sanctioned the idea that doctors should continue with their private practice, and then I called for the establishment of a more positive and active national health service which could make the Ministers from the Regions and the Federal territory to come together and formulate a general policy, leaving the details to the Regional Governments to fill according to their own disposition.

I wish to say that the practice of the Federal Ministry of Health acting in one direction and the Regional Ministries of Health acting in another direction does not augur well for our medical services. It is quite true that the Federal Government tries to review the lists of registered druggists, chemists and doctors, but I think efforts should be made

[MR OGBALU]

whereby practitioners who are falling out of date or whose work is not really congenial to the health of the citizens should really be looked into, and there should be more discipline among the people who are practising both in the Federal territory of Lagos and in the Regions.

The next important point I wish to call attention to is the fact that we need specialists. We are starting to get sufficient doctors trained in our universities, and some of our sons are returning from abroad but we need more specialists in various fields. Notwithstanding that medical practice is a lucrative profession and that the Federal Government has not been giving sufficient scholarships and grants in this direction, I think it will be a good thing if scholarships are given to Nigerian doctors so that they can specialise in more advanced fields, and so that we do not need to look for treatment elsewhere.

I wish to point out that in the Federal territory of Lagos we have got the University Teaching Hospital, in the Western Region; we have got the University Teaching Hospital at Ibadan; in the North we have not got any and in the East we have not got any; but now an illustrious Nigerian is taking upon himself to establish a hospital in the Eastern Region, and I am calling upon the Federal Government to give sufficient grant to aid the Ojike Memorial Medical Centre which has received the support of every citizen of this country. It will not be out of order if the Federal Government does something about it for it will be making for the unity and solidarity of this great Federation.

I have to say that the fight against diseases cannot end without the eradication of mosquitoes. The Ministry of Health must see to it that an effective campaign is carried out against the disease-carrying mosquito. In this connection I am calling for more effective research work in medical services. It is not enough to carry out medical treatment here and there or to establish hospitals. They are good but it will be a good thing if medical research centres are established and if more money is voted for medical research work. We know that without research work it will be difficult for various diseases to be handled for remedies or more drugs to be discovered in order to tackle those diseases which are affecting the community.

In winding up, I have to say that it will be a good thing if the Federal Government, when taking into consideration the criticisms which have been brought up on the Floor of this House, should be alive to the occasion by, as I have said earlier, seeing to it that sufficient grants are given to the Regional Governments.

I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West) : On a point of order, I wish it to be noted that since we started on the Committee of Supply I have never been called upon to speak.

The Chairman : May I say that I think it has been rather an unfortunate coincidence that several hon. Members have been known to be called upon soon after they have got up on their feet to protest. Will hon. Members please disabuse their minds of that as being a technique for catching the Chair's eyes. That will never be countenanced again, and I will please ask hon. Members to leave the Chair to conduct the sitting with decorum.

M. Yusha'u Mohammed (Kubau Soba) : In supporting this Bill, I would like to mention a few things. It seems that the Federal Government and the Federal Minister of Health are only concerned with the care of the people of Lagos. If we are talking about health, it does not mean that only Lagos people are entitled to good health to the exclusion of people in the Regions and in particular those other distant people in the rural provinces.

I remember quite well that last year on the Floor of this House I asked the question whether it will be possible for the Minister of Health to provide a mobile medical service so that people living in the remoter areas who are unable to attend the resident dispensaries which are under regional care, could take advantage of the mobile service, and the answer was "no".

It is not cheating to set up such a service; even if it is cheating, it is in our constitution. I would rather suggest that the exercise of the Federal Minister of Health would have been in consultation with the Regional Ministers. Not that the Regional Ministers cannot help to cure the diseases now surrounding the people living in the remoter areas, but if we must show concern for people who are living in the towns and cities, who after all have the opportunities of going to hospitals which are in many cases a stone's throw from them, we have to show even more concern for the people who are living in the remoter areas in which there are no dispensaries.

Federal Parliament Debates

1807

[Appropriation (1963-64)

22 APRIL 1963

Bill : Committee]

1808

The Chairman : Order ! I find it quite difficult to understand the hon. Member's argument. Is he debating rural health facilities? If he is, then it is certainly out of order.

M. Mohammed : I am speaking on both the rural health facilities and the Bill. I think that if ever the Minister of Health is concerned with the Federal Territory, he should in the same way be concerned with the other people in the distant parts of the country.

The Federal Government should have made provision in the Constitution that future Ministers of Health cannot be appointed only to take care of Lagos people, because these Lagos people are as important as, and no more important than their counterparts in the provinces.

I see no reason why the Minister of Health should not go in consultation with the Regional Ministers of Health and produce an effective system whereby whatever facilities the people in Lagos enjoy, can and will be available for the people in the provinces to enjoy too.

In this respect, I am appealing to the Minister of Health to call a conference of the three other Regional Ministers of Health at no distant date, to discuss this issue, because it is fundamentally important.

An hon. Member : What issue ?

An hon. Member : And finally.

M. Mohammed : I am not prepared to finalise yet. If the Minister of Health does this he will seek the advice of these three Regional Ministers about what are the disturbing difficulties which the people in the regions encounter. In this way, a solution will come, whereby any facilities enjoyed in Lagos area will be enjoyed in all the Regions and other rural areas.

The Chairman : Order, order ! May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to Standing Order 36. I believe it is the second time he has repeated this argument, and I hope he will not make it a third time.

M. Mohammed : I am still appealing to the Minister of Health, because if he can remember, last year I asked on the Floor of this House whether he was aware of the fact that certain—

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : On a point of order, it is a minute more, Mr Chairman, and the hon. Member should stop.

The Chairman : Order. I think quite frankly we have freedom of speech, but there are certain things we just must not do or say. The clock is right in front of the Chair, and there is no indication that the Chair is oblivious of the time.

M. Mohammed : Thank you, Mr Chairman ; when I am asking whether the people in the rural areas are not to—

The Chairman : Order, order. It six o'clock. Sitting is suspended till nine o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9. p.m.

House in Committee

Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa (Benin West) : In supporting the allocation for this Head of Estimates, I beg to make a few observations. It is a common occurrence particularly in the Lagos General Hospital to find at least a queue of the people outside waiting to be admitted for treatment. One appreciates the difficulty which is, in fact, enhanced or increased by the strength of the population in this place. But all the same, I think that in other civilised places like London, where the populations are greater, are not confronted with at least an army of people waiting to be attended to in such places. One would really like to appeal to the Minister of Health if he could at least devise ways and means of reducing the congestion at times at the hospitals, especially where you find pregnant women waiting at the hospital gates from 7.30 in the morning till about 3 in the afternoon not having been attended to.

Naturally a situation such as this is bound to bring in some element of frustration to the patients themselves because of having waited for so long. They naturally must get hungry, the anxiety to get home in time to prepare meals for their husbands must be great and the doctors attending these unending queues of people must themselves naturally get tired and get out of sort which may bring in frustration. I am appealing to the Minister of Health if he could think of ways and means of alleviating or reducing the crowds that could be found always waiting at the hospital gates.

[MR AGHAHOWA]

Furthermore to illustrate this difficulty the attitude of nurses must certainly be referred to at this stage. At least one has the impression that the large majority of them are butchers rather than people who really care for the sick. It is true that to-day if a person goes to the hospital even a simple word of sympathy, kind words, broad smiles and ready accessibility cannot be found in our nurses. All these things combine to promote the patients' steady progress towards recovery. One would seriously appeal to nurses that if they are really good nurses they are not expected to act in such a way that one could recommend them for disciplinary action. But when they take it upon themselves to go into the hospitals to serve at least we expect them to take good care of the sick. One would expect them to show that degree of tenderness, that degree of sympathy which are the real attributes of a good nurse and the necessary pre-requisites for a steady progress in the health of the patients.

Another thing I would like the Minister of Health to make a statement on is that there is some degree of rumour circulating around that there are some elements of discrimination in the allocation of quarters to medical practitioners. If the rumour is true or not, I want the Minister to make a statement on this, at least to let us know what the case is, in order to wipe out the rumour.

I am not making any attempts to sound an unhappy note, but rumour has it that Nigerian doctors on their first appointment are really put on very low scales of salaries as against their expatriate counterparts. One can hardly agree to this at this time of our independence, but Members of this Committee now have the opportunity of getting this matter cleared up.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed : Since I was speaking before sitting was suspended at 6 o'clock, I think I have to continue with my speech. I do hope that Mr Chairman will do justice to me by allowing me to continue with my speech after the Member for Benin West has finished his speech.

The Chairman : I think the Chair is much in sympathy with the hon. Member. Sitting was suspended till 9 o'clock, and if he arrived here much later than 9 o'clock it is certainly nobody's fault.

Mr Aghahowa : I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister of Health, if this would appeal to him to consider it necessary, at least, for the safety of the public to introduce legislation against people who really are quacks in this country. One might be tempted to refer to them as injection peddlers. There are a thousand and one of them in this country and one cannot imagine the number of our citizens who die annually as a result of the unskilful treatment they receive in the hands of these quacks. I think it will help the progress of all concerned if the Minister will consider it expedient, in the interest of the nation, to introduce legislation against this type of thing in our national set up.

Further, I do not know if the Minister might not at the same time consider legislation to enhance the amount of punishment that should be attendant on any conviction following upon any illegal administration of injections.

I would like to make one or two points in relation to drugs. Quite often drugs are supplied in hospitals and in most cases doctors try to issue out the drugs with the greatest of care, but in a large proportion of cases many of the drugs find their way out of the stores and are not accounted for. It is true and it is a known fact to a large number of Members of this House that some people in possession of drugs in this way open up for themselves drug stores outside and into which these drugs which illegally leave the hospitals later find their way and are on sale to the public.

I am asking if the Minister will consider taking measures of checking and cross-checking the amount, quality and quantity of drugs that leave the stores from time to time.

Finally, I have to make another appeal to the Minister of Health. Any Member who had the time to go to the hospitals to see the conditions there will really be in sympathy with the doctors. They work very hard indeed. We expect that everyone of us must work hard, at least in helping to build up the nation, but there is a point at which the doctors cannot give of their best because the number of people they have to attend to in a day is so enormous that they tend to lose their temper which is inevitable in such circumstances.

I would appeal to the Minister of Health to see if he cannot find it possible to devise the best way of reducing the number of working hours of doctors or if he could not recruit more doctors at least to help ease the situation.

I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South): I rise to support this Head of Estimates. Doctors in the present stage of Nigeria's development, I mean doctors in Government general hospitals, should subject themselves to the rules and policies as laid down by the Ministries of Health. Anyone of them who cannot abide by the regulations should pack out from the Public Service.

I should at this stage commend the attitude of doctors in the establishment of the Eastern Nigeria Government. When the Government of Eastern Nigeria thought it fit to legislate against private practice by Government doctors, these doctors accepted the ruling in good faith. Therefore, I hope all the doctors in all general hospitals should—

An hon. Member : General hospital where ?

Oba S. A. Oladiran : Throughout the Federation I mean, all of them should borrow a leaf from these public-spirited men.

To me, there is no amount too big to be expended on health as a whole in this Federal Territory of Lagos because the population of Lagos is increasing day by day. The Federal Government should be in a position to meet such a challenge by making adequate provisions to cater for the health of people in Lagos.

The Federal Minister of Health should persuade the Federal Government to assist the Regions in their health schemes. This being so, people in the rural areas would think less of these quack doctors who go about hawking medicines and administering illegal injections to the people in the villages.

I appreciate the Minister's efforts in establishing a University Teaching Hospital in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The number of doctors at the present stage is inadequate in comparison with the population of Nigeria. Therefore, the institution should be able to provide more doctors in the very near future.

I beg to support.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu North): In supporting this Head, I want to thank the Minister of Health particularly for his services to the nation. Secondly, the most important point which I wish to stress is that I wish the Federal Government to take all possible steps to see that health service in the Federation is handled by the Federal Government. This is very important because most of our people who are without medical care cannot live long since health service is left with the Regions. The people in the rural areas are not catered for sufficiently.

Therefore, in this case, it would help the Regional Governments to take over dispensaries from the Native Authorities and Local Governments.

A lot of money has been spent only in Lagos on the health service and I do not think that all of us can benefit from the Federal Government in such a way. Having made these remarks, therefore, I beg to support.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): I have to support this Head without any reservation. The Minister of Health is somebody whom all of us know in the field of medicine. He has been a great scholar. Sometime last year we had the opportunity of knowing the wonderful thing the Minister of Health did for this country. As Administrator of Western Nigeria he did a very good job.

My observation is that a lot of improvement is expected in our hospitals. For instance if one goes to the hospital one sees a long queue of about a mile and this long queue may not be attended to throughout the whole day. Some patients go there in the morning and return in the night. Some of these patients even die for want of care and some others die without seeing the medical officers they intended to see.

The Chairman : Order ! May I please invite the attention of the House to Standing Order 36. I think we have got very little time at our disposal to-night and may I appeal to hon. Members that if they want to make any point which has already been made by somebody else, Members should kindly omit it.

Mr Elenwa : Another point is the question of insufficient dispensaries, health centres and maternity hospitals. What I have in mind is that if these maternity hospitals and dispensaries are extended, millions of our people who suffer will not suffer and their suffering will be reduced to the barest minimum.

The third point I want to make is about the condition of workers in the hospitals. For some time now, the nurses and the dispensers and even doctors themselves have been complaining a lot that their salaries are not attractive, they get no increments and there are some who remain on the same grade for about twenty years. I think this does not make for efficiency in the service.

Another point is that in our hospitals we have not got sufficient specialists to man the various branches in the hospitals. Without specialists, eye specialists, dentists and so on, nothing can be achieved. Efforts should be made so that we recruit more of these specialists instead of leaving our hospitals without qualified men.

One more very important point concerns private practice. Here since we came to this House from 1959, hon. Members have been talking and talking on the Floor of this House about private practice. For example, if one goes to a hospital and one is not attended to, a medical officer would not feel ashamed to say: "Look, this is the number of my house; you can come back at such and such a time".

I am saying that if private practice is abolished in our hospitals, every member of the community will be able to receive adequate treatment. I beg to support.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I rise to support this Head, and I want to be as brief as possible. I want to touch on one important point which no Member of this House nor the Minister of Health himself has been able to raise, and that is about the Mental Hospital. The point I want to make is, a person who is pronounced a lunatic is not put in gaol; he is put in a certain place to be cared for by those who are not insane. And that is why doctors, mental doctors, are well paid. There is even one in this country to-day who has been over-paid.

What I am saying is that mental nurses should not be paid the same salaries as nurses in General Hospitals. If they are so paid we must consider the possibility of giving them a higher salary because they deal with people who are not mentally balanced. They deserve every encouragement. I do not think any of us will approach any man who is pronounced insane without being trained.

Another point I would like to raise is that—

The Minister of Finance : What about doctors for bald-headed men?

Mr Ekanem : There is no doctor for that. If there is my hon. Friend, the Minister of Health, would have got one for me.

If I raise any point in this House I must have facts to prove them and I am now calling on the Minister of Health and the doctors sitting in the Official Box to disprove what I am going to say. Is there any telephone in the Mental Hospital in Lagos? The answer is "No." With the result that the nurses either in the night or during the day cannot get in contact with the doctor in order to attend to a patient whose condition might not be well controlled.

Finally, I know other Members would like to contribute to this debate, but what I am saying is that much has been said about congestion in hospitals here in Lagos. Much has been said about other things. Bearing these in mind, I want this House to realise that we are in dire need of doctors as the population of Lagos is increasing day by day. Therefore we cannot blame our doctors if there are so many patients, as they cannot do more than their best.

The other point I want to make is that I agree that doctors are themselves lazy. A case happened just very recently when somebody took ill at night, and was driven at 3 o'clock in the night by Members of this honourable House to see a doctor. It took this doctor two and a half hours to attend to the patient just on the point of death. I calculated it. He sat there. He was not attending to any patient as there was no other patient. He was just on his cup of coffee. He came to us and asked us what had happened, and then he went his way.

Federal Parliament Debates

1815

[Appropriation (1963-64)]

22 APRIL 1963

Bill : Committee]

1816

An action like this will eventually bring such a doctor into disrepute, and I am now asking the Minister of Health to do everything in his power to stamp out such practice. The Minister is a professional of a very high standard in this country. He is not a politician, and, therefore, not knowing how to calculate political mathematics, to go into cases of this nature—

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Envong South (*Mr Ekanem*) should go to a mental hospital.

Mr Ekanem: That is the most unparliamentary, cheeky statement to be made by any Minister, and cannot be answered here.

¶ If I give a fact I want the Minister to refute it if he can. Let us not blame doctors in Lagos very much. The population has increased. We should blame the Minister of Finance instead. We want him to make funds available. We should blame the Minister of Education. We want him to request for funds in order to train more doctors.

Finally, about the Teaching Hospital, I sounded a note of warning on the Floor of this House last year that the Lagos Teaching Hospital should not be converted into an experimental laboratory, and I am very happy that up till the present moment I have not got any information that doctors have experimented in the Lagos University Teaching Hospital on human beings as was and is still being done in the Teaching Hospital at Ibadan. This is a credit to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and to the Minister of Health. I would wish the Minister to give closer supervision in an endeavour to see that his doctors improve.

I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West): I have to support the expenditure of £4,489,480 for health services during the year. I also wish to congratulate the Minister of Health for his capability, efficiency and wisdom of administration.

I remember that Members of this honourable House last year criticised the deplorable services of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists of Lagos hospitals. Hon. Members in this House made an appeal to the Federal Minister of Health then to remedy the deplorable condition of the hospitals. The Minister who cherishes democracy had to implement a law to suit the request of Members. But to my surprise many Members are now turning away from the request they made last year.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): The hon. Member should not be allowed to read his speech. He is not reading the minutes of a county council.

The Chairman: Order. I am not aware that he is reading. He is, no doubt, making reference to his notes by following the examples of some of the Members.

Mr Odo: We the Members of this House are no longer students to be led by one or two Members who think they are wise.

The doctors, the nurses, and the pharmacists of Lagos know quite well that if the Lagos Health Service Bill is passed the drugs which they steal from hospitals will be useless to them. Consequently, they engage now in a serious campaign, and no hon. Member here will deny that Lagos doctors, nurses, and pharmacists have not approached him.

Several hon. Members: No!

Mr Odo: They have approached all hon. Members.

I am fully conceived to praise and congratulate the Minister of Health for all his activities.

Minister of State (Hon. M. Amechi): If the hon. Member for Idoma West (*Mr Odo*) is conceived, I think that is quite a good thing, because, incidentally, the Minister of Health happens to be a gynaecologist himself; so, I am sure my hon. Friend will not be in any difficulty at all.

The Chairman: Order. I think the hon. Gentleman was misunderstood.

Mr Odo: The doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, as I have already said, know quite well that if the Lagos Health Service Bill is passed the drugs which they steal from the hospitals will be useless to them. I have already said that

[MR ODO]

However, I have to appeal to the Minister of Health to reconsider the fees being paid in Lagos hospitals. The fees are too high.

An hon. Member : How much ?

Mr Odo : They range from 10s-0d to 1s-6d per day, and this is too high. So, I appeal to the Minister of Health to reconsider reducing the fees being paid for health services in Lagos.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : I wish to make one or two points in respect of the present Head. In the first place, I wish to say that many Members of this House will agree with the statement made that doctors need to be paid a better salary from the time they enter the service. What I have in mind in this connection is that other professionals, engineers or lawyers, taking up appointment under the Federal Government are better paid than the doctors are at the moment.

One other point I wish to call attention to is the present cost of the University College Hospital in Ibadan. A couple of years ago, I was one of three persons appointed by the Federal Government to look into the finances of the University College Hospital. Now, I find that many of the recommendations made to the predecessor of the present Minister, Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, which were contained in a Government Paper, have not been implemented. Secondly, I find that whereas for the year 1961-62 the cost shown was £1,080,000; the estimate for the current year is £1,107,500.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : But that is an improvement.

Mr Ogunsanya : I am happy that the Minister of Finance is saying that it is an improvement, but we are not asking for any improvement of this nature. We know the position of the University College Hospital in Ibadan, and looking into these finances I recall that certain recommendations were made to the Minister, and I think it is about time these be looked into, because the position within the last 2 years has not improved at all, especially with the coming into effect of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital. Some

of the staff which only went to the U.C.H. Ibadan must be diverted to Lagos. There is no doubt about that. Rather than the cost going—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of order, I am beginning to think that the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is trying to reveal to this hon. House something which we believe is secret, otherwise the report of the Committee should be available to this House. So, drawing our attention to the report appears to me irrelevant. If it was made public it should be here.

Mr Ogunsanya : I was not involved in any secret document. I think the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is still remembering his days in the Action Group when things were done in secret.

As I was saying, the Lagos University Teaching Hospital is now here and is already costing the Government quite naturally, a lot of money. The service originally done exclusively by University College Hospital could be diverted here. Rather than the funds provided rising by about £100,000 this year it should really have remained as it was or even go down a bit.

One other point I wish to make is that this is an opportunity for the Minister to make a statement about the Lagos University Medical School. It has been said that this is completely separated from the University of Lagos itself. If it is true, then we shall have another opportunity to say more. In Ibadan the position is not so. In most other universities I know of it is not so. If it is true that the Lagos University Medical School is completely cut off from the University itself, it is something which the Minister must look into quickly; perhaps that is responsible for the amount required now going as high as £265,760.

Side by side with that we have the vote for the Lagos University Teaching Hospital. I do not see why there should not be a better co-ordination between these two institutions—Lagos University Teaching Hospital as an institution quite apart from the Mainland Hospital as it was expected to be known.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Chairman : The Minister of Health.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, we have spoken only for about 1 hour 45 minutes on this Head. Right now we have spoken for 50 minutes and we spoke for about 1 hour in the afternoon, and now the Minister is going to reply. I filed an Amendment to speak on this Head and the Amendment is standing there in black and white on the Order Paper. I was here this afternoon and nobody called me, which is contrary to the Standing Order of this House.

The Chairman : Order, the House has taken note of Dr Okeke's presence.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Fortunately the criticisms on this Ministry this year have not been as serious as we have had in the previous years. Indeed many of the speeches on this Head are in complete accord with my own ideas, and I should, with your permission, Mr Chairman, group my replies according to the Heads on which Members have spoken.

The hon. Members for Abak North East (*Mr Orok*), Ishan West (*Mr Dame-Oboh*), Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*), Kubau Soba (*M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed*), all spoke about the necessity for the Federal Government to take more active interest in preventive medicine throughout the whole of Nigeria. This, I wish to assure the House, commends itself very strongly to me too, and I want to assure the House that we have been doing quite a lot. Admittedly, our Constitution is such that each Region is responsible for health in its own area of influence, but much can be done even without changing our Constitution. In December 1961 I convened a meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Federation here in Lagos and we formed a National Council on Health. The terms of reference of this Council are such that will enable us to co-ordinate all our efforts in the preventive medicine field.

This National Council is now functioning and is growing stronger. Another meeting was also held in August last year in Kaduna. At the meeting the plans which we started in December 1961 were elaborated and we formed a Technical Committee to study the areas in

which we could best co-ordinate our activities, and I am very glad to tell the House that at the moment all the Governments of the Federation are actively co-operating in the malaria eradication scheme which is shortly to start in Nigeria. Already there is a pre-eradication school started here in Lagos into which all the people who are going to work on the eradication scheme are sent for training.

An hon. Member : There are too many mosquitoes on the island of Lagos.

The Minister of Health : They have been sent for training to combat mosquitoes and other causes of malaria throughout the country

Apart from the co-ordination of our efforts in the eradication of malaria, we are, of course, actively studying all other epidemic diseases like cerebro spinal meningitis, river blindness as well as leprosy. So I wish to allay the anxieties of the Members who have urged us to do more in the areas outside Lagos that as far as the Constitution goes, the Federal Government is doing its best to ensure that we bring the advantages of modern medical science to the remotest areas of our country.

To come nearer home, in the area which directly affects the Federal Government, which is the provision of medical facilities for Lagos, I would say that we are only too well aware of our limitations here. We know that the services which we have now provided are inadequate and we are doing our best to expand these services. During the last Budget Session this House passed a vote of £750,000 to enable us to build health centres all over Lagos so that people who live in the different areas of Lagos would have these centres available to them and there would not be so much congestion in the General Hospital.

An hon. Member : Has the hon. Minister built these centres ?

The Minister of Health : We are going to build them, they are not built yet. I would like the House to look on this question of congestion in the hospitals objectively. At the moment we have an attendance in the Lagos General Hospital of 1,600 patients every morning and if Members cast their minds and calculate that even if we give five minutes to one patient,

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

we can only see twelve in an hour and if there are five doctors working in the out-patient Department they can only see sixty patients in an hour, and in a working day of 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. which is seven hours, they can only see 420 patients. If we have ten doctors working in these consulting rooms as we have now rebuilt the out-patient Department of the General Hospital at the cost of £300,000 and we have ten consulting rooms there, we can only see 840 patients even if we give them five minutes, and I assure Members that it takes more than five minutes to know what is wrong with a patient.

That is why it is necessary for us to look at these things scientifically and to ensure that these patients do get attention. It does not matter how many doctors we have if we have to have the consulting rooms in which we are to examine these patients. That is the basic philosophy behind the proposals which was approved at the last Budget Session in this House to build these health centres dotted all over Lagos, so that there would be more facilities for people here.

Now apart from these points to which Members have drawn my attention the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) did put up a point about which I think he is not very serious at all. I think he probably had difficulty in getting some friends of his working in the mental hospital on telephone; but if he does not know the telephone number of the Mental Hospital in Yaba, it is 44176.

The Chairman : Order, order. Please may I appeal to hon. Members again that we have still got the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prisons and the Ministry of Works and Surveys. So I appeal to hon. Members to kindly co-operate so that we make progress.

£4,489,480 for Head 45—Ministry of Health—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 47—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

£219,360 for Head 47—Ministry of Internal Affairs—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 48—PRISONS

£1,276,480 for Head 48—Prisons—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 58—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SURVEYS

Question proposed, That £6,493,340 for Head 58—Ministry of Works and Surveys—stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman : The Minister of Works and Surveys.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, it is the practice in this House that Ministers make statements about their portfolios after Members have made their speeches and the Ministers are given the opportunity to reply. May I know if there is a departure from that procedure?

The Chairman : There is no hard and fast rule about this but may I say that as Members have noticed, during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill Ministers take the opportunity to account for all they have done during the past year, giving outlines also of what they intend to do so that during Committee stages Members will be in a position to criticise them. Unfortunately, the Minister of Works and Surveys had not the opportunity of making his own speech at the Second Reading and I think it is to the advantage of Members that he takes this opportunity to render his account and outline his policies so that you know what to criticise.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. At the last Session I explained to hon. Members that the road programme of my Ministry is based on a forecast of traffic growth and economic potential in the next ten-year period. I also explained that it was a two-phased Road Development Programme estimated at a total cost of £195,453,000. I repeat, the estimated total cost of the Road Development Programme is £195,453,000.

The first phase of this Programme estimated to cost £100 million consists of four categories of road projects designed :

to provide easy access to ports; *e.g.*, the approach roads to Lagos, the Port Harcourt-Aba road and the Lagos-Ikorodu road ;

to serve industrial areas; *e.g.*, Gusau-Sokoto road, Sokoto-Jaredi-Yelwa road, Onitsha-Owerri road and Shagamu-Benin road;

to implement agreements reached with other African countries to foster African unity and solidarity; *e.g.* Otta-Idiroko road and Tegina-Daura road;

and to keep the other roads not in the present Plan open by rehabilitation and bridge strengthening; *e.g.* Ilorin-Ajasse road, Aba-Oron road, Ikorodu-Ibadan road and Bama-Goza road.

Hon. Members will recall that because of Government's decision to give greater priority in the Six-Year Development Plan to agricultural and industrial projects, only £45,000,000 of the estimated cost of £100,000,000 was approved for inclusion in the Plan to meet the projects of the first phase. My Ministry would have liked a larger share of the funds to meet our Road Programme but, like other Ministries, has to submit to the Plan Sector limitations which are laid down in the interests of overall balanced economic development. It is this limited financial provision which has made it impossible to meet the large number of requests for road developments in various parts of the country. Furthermore, in order to follow strictly the assumption of the Plan, the timing of execution of projects very often depends on the outcome of negotiations which the Ministry of Finance has to make to secure necessary finance. In spite of these limitations, work on projects in each of the four categories of the Programme has proceeded uninterrupted.

I am happy to report that at the end of the first year, considerable progress has been made. In some of the projects, for example, the approach roads to Lagos, the Otta-Idiroko road, financial arrangements have been completed and work will start in the next dry season. In the case of other projects such as the Beni Sheikh-Maiduguri road, the Bauchi-Gombe-Yola road, the Enugu-Abakaliki road, the Benin-Asaba road and the Ilorin-Ajasse road, survey and design have been completed and, subject to release of funds, work will start soon. The survey and design of some other projects such as the Port Harcourt-Aba road, the Onitsha-Owerri road and the Gusau-Sokoto road are in progress and should be completed during this

financial year. In the case of the Gusau-Sokoto road, it is estimated that the survey and design would be completed by the end of this month to enable work to begin as soon as funds are released.

I now turn to those projects whose construction work is in progress. These include the Sokoto-Jaredi road which is in the last stages of completion. The Shagamu-Benin road with only 50 miles of construction still outstanding will be completed in the new year, while the Funtua-Gusau road will be completed in eighteen months' time. In the case of the Tegina-Daura road, work is progressing satisfactorily, and it is hoped to complete this project according to schedule in May 1965.

I have also received a number of requests to widen bridges, but due to limited funds it has not been possible to meet all the requests. However, hon. Members will be pleased to know that work on the Niger Bridge is progressing according to programme and will be completed in two years' time. The contract for the Donga River Bridge is being prepared and when completed work will start. Work on the Malu Road bridge to connect Ajegunle and Apapa will start this year. With respect to the second Lagos Bridge, hon. Members are aware that my Colleague, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, recently signed on behalf of the Federal Government a number of Agreements, including that which will provide the necessary finance for the bridge. In addition, the detailed work regarding necessary compensation for those who will be displaced from sites required for the Approach Roads has been going on for some time under the control of the Ministry of Lagos Affairs. The way will be clear for the work to start when this exercise is completed.

To meet the growing demand for water created by the expansion of Lagos and its outlying areas, the development of Lagos Water Supply provided for in the Six-Year Development Plan is being carried out in two phases—the first phase which will be financed from U.K. Loan will, when completed, increase capacity from 16 million to 20 million gallons of water daily. As soon as the procedure for drawing down the loan is agreed, work on this first phase will start. The second phase of this project which is estimated to

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cost £1.1 million will increase capacity to 40 million gallons *per* day. Negotiations in respect of this aspect of the projects are under way with the U.S.A.I.D. officials who have been asked to undertake studies required to provide the necessary data needed to support application for A.I.D. loan.

At this stage, I would like to refer briefly to the question of registration of contractors and award of contracts so that I may dispel the misgiving that registration carries with it an undertaking on the part of the Federal Government to award contracts to persons so registered. This is a misconception. Registration merely certifies a recognition of the competence of persons or firms so registered to tender for and their ability to execute contracts in the appropriate category. There are at the moment over 1,500 persons and firms registered as contractors with the Federal Works Registration Board. It is impossible for the Federal Government to find work for every person or firm registered.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): Why register them?

The Minister of Works and Surveys: The hon. Member does not follow; he is only sleeping.

It may be pertinent at this juncture to remind contractors that apart from the Federal Government's Statutory Corporations and the Regional Governments have their own Development Programmes and also use contractors in the execution of these programmes. By tapping all these avenues, they will stand a better chance of achieving a steady turn-over.

In the award of contracts, it has been my policy to ensure increasing participation of indigenous contractors in the Development Programme. In spite of the fact that the low financial capacity and technical competence of a large number of indigenous contractors limited their share of the larger civil engineering contracts where substantial capital is required in the early stages of the contract, I have in the interest of indigenous contractors examined these problems carefully, while at the same time making sure that Government's interests are safeguarded. My investigation of these problems has revealed a number of areas in which indigenous contractors can be helped. In this respect facilities for plant

advance are now, in suitable cases, extended to contracts of values under £100,000. In addition, in cases where adequate precautions can be taken, Suppliers' bills may be paid directly by the Government. These measures are intended to provide indigenous contractors with additional financial help, and thus relieve them of financial embarrassment during the execution of the contract. The extent of the help involved in these measures is considered at the moment the farthest that the Government can go without serious financial risk. The problem is constantly under review and as and when it is possible to do so, further measures which will increase the ability of the indigenous contractor to execute larger contracts will be introduced.

These measures must however, be regarded as providing only short-term solutions to the problem of lack of financial capacity of the great number of indigenous contractors. The more lasting solution lies in the pooling together of their resources to provide larger financial backing for their business. I hope indigenous contractors will make a move in this direction.

With the dissolution of the West African Building Research Institute, my Ministry has now taken over direct responsibility for building research. To ensure that the work of the research organisation is geared to the needs of the country, studies are in progress to determine an adequate organisation for this purpose. In the meantime the staff of the dissolved Institute who are in Nigeria have been retained to carry out some of the necessary ground-work preparatory to the formation of an adequate organisation. During the last year, although still handicapped by the shortage of trained and experienced field surveyors, the Survey Division pressed forward with its three main functions—the provision of national framework controls upon which all regional and federal mapping is based, the extension of the topographic map coverage in the country at scales of 1/50,000 and smaller, and the mapping of Lagos Federal Territory. The latter has now been completed for the whole of the Mainland area. Topographic mapping is being carried out in the Minna and Makurdi areas, and a team of Federal surveyors is also engaged in demarcating the new Kainji dam so that resettlement of the local inhabitants can take place.

I would also like at this time to express appreciation to the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom for the assistance we are receiving from them in mapping parts of Nigeria. Good progress is being made in mapping a large sector of Central and Western Nigeria by the Canadians, and the United Kingdom is undertaking the mapping of large areas in the Eastern Region and the Adamawa and Sardauna Provinces areas of the North. The provision of these accurate and modern maps will help to accelerate the development within these areas as it is becoming realised more and more that maps are one of the basic tools for planning and development.

A reorganisation of the Headquarters of the Survey Division is also in hand which should result in greater output of maps, and it would be of interest to hon. Members to note that this has culminated in the appointment of a Nigerian to take complete charge of the Survey Division. The Survey Division is in the process of building up an efficient, well trained and compact mapping organisation that will play its full and essential part in the development of the country.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : There is no doubt that we all have heard what the Minister of Works said—(Interruptions)

The Chairman : May I appeal to hon. Members. We have got a little over an hour to debate this Head. There are already many Members who want to speak on it and as such, I would ask hon. Members to limit their time to ten minutes so that the opportunity to speak may go round.

Mr Odulana : I totally agree with the able Chairman, and I will adhere to your advice, and believe me, I will just take ten minutes only and no more. However, I will request hon. Members to please listen to this my little advice to the Minister of Works and Surveys.

We have all heard the comprehensive policy for his Ministry during the ensuing year, but I would like hon. Members to know about one or two items of his expenditure for the year. At page 254, hon. Members will see under expenditure—Ministry of Works and Surveys—“Agency fees, recurrent works £245,634;”

further down, “Plant Hire Charges : recurrent works for £57,566,” and lastly, “Crown Agents and Bank Commissions £10,160.”

I do not mind if this money is given to Bank Commissions or whatever is done with them, but I want to talk principally on Crown Agents and those who take the lump sum amount on Agency fees. Is it not worthwhile for Nigerians to represent themselves so that these agency fees might go to their pockets? Is it not high time for a Buying Commission to be set up with headquarters in Nigeria—where Nigerians can be at the head after training? Can we not find an office in England or wherever we buy goods with Nigerians managing such offices? This will enable these heavy commissions to come back to the pocket of Nigerians. It should be noted that even to-day, Nigeria is still paying under one million pounds to the Crown Agents. I do not know what this payment is for. It is not the Ministry of Works and Surveys alone that pays out these amounts, but all the Ministries, including the Prime Minister's office. If we look at the Ministry of Health, whose vote we have just passed, it will be seen that many of their buyings are done overseas and not in this country. What these buying agents abroad are taking from our revenue overseas is enough to give jobs to our unemployed people in this country. If we have Buying Commissions in this country and abroad, Nigerians will be there to do the buying, and there is no doubt that almost about a quarter of a million pounds—buying commissions paid overseas to foreigners—will be spent to employ a lot of Nigerians.

This is what I want to bring to the notice of all hon. Members and the Minister in particular. While we are talking about unemployment in this country, the Crown Agents will be boasting of so many million pounds Buying Commissions from Nigeria. At one time in 1959, the Deputy Head of the Crown Agents, Mr Rowe, said that they got over fifteen million pounds Buying Commissions from Nigeria. At that time the Federation of Nigeria, including the Regions, did not purchase more than eighty thousand pounds worth of goods.

Now, let us say that the Western Region, the Eastern and Northern Regions budgeted for £30,000,000 each. We shall find that the three Regions will spend £90,000,000. Now, let us take it that the Federal Territory budgeted for

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£58,000,000, we shall as well find that the total will be £148,000,000. And if the Crown Agents were to take five *per cent* as their Commissions from that £148,000,000, hon. Members know what that will amount to. If they buy for us a thirty million pounds worth of goods, they will take five *per cent* of that thirty million pounds. This is what I want hon. Members to know. Those of us who come from the minority areas do not know what it is, because our councils buy directly and not through the Crown Agents.

I will advise the Minister of Works and Surveys to employ one expatriate officer who is well experienced in this country, especially those from Statutory Corporations, or those serving as stores officers. Such an expatriate officer will help to train our Nigerians so that our boys and girls would be able to undertake this type of job. Do hon. Members know that the Nigerian Ports Authority Stores Department is the best to-day? Their Stores were managed by several Europeans before, but now the place has been fully Nigerianised leaving one expatriate officer who will soon be going in about a year or two. Such an expatriate officer could be employed to train our boys and girls as he had done in the Ports Authority. The Railway Corporation and the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria also train their staff. In employing an expatriate, I must sound a note of warning. When one is to be employed, the Minister must make sure that such a person is not a selfish expatriate who would not like to impart the required knowledge to our men, simply because when he does so and our men become competent in the work, the expatriates would lose the chances of getting more commissions.

It is most essential that we must have somebody with accounting experience. He must be a member of the Purchasing Association, a member of the Institute of Public Supply and attached to the Institute of Transport. He should have many years experience in a commercial undertaking, as distinct from a Government department, and large organisations whose methods of buying are concerned with economic stability. He must be in a position to train Nigerian staff in such methods affecting shipping, insurance and accounting, and also be in a position to find the best quality goods in the cheapest markets. Such a person must be interested in Nigerians so that he will unselfishly train them to take over

this work in the shortest possible time in order that it will be fully Nigerianised at the earliest date. This officer should have had a wide experience in the United Kingdom as well as in Nigeria and be fully acquainted with the procedure applicable to the Crown Agents, and be in a position to arrange the necessary training not only in Nigeria but with the Crown Agents in London.

Such a Buying Commission would bring about a considerable saving. As the representative of Nigeria in this respect, the officer would be in a position to persuade manufacturers to set up industries in the country, by virtue of the fact that he would be dealing with purchases on a national basis as distinct from the present regional and departmental basis. The effect of this will be the ultimate retention of our Nigerian currency and provide work for many Nigerians who are presently unemployed. It can be seen that the setting up of a Nigerian Buying Commission will not only provide the means of establishing our own buying organisation which will save many thousands of pounds, but will also be an instrument in establishing local industries which would otherwise not necessarily be started by a particular manufacturer. Nothing but good can come from establishing such a Buying Commission.

May I give an illustration. If the Eastern Regional Government spends £15,000 on envelopes of all sizes in a year, the West Regional Government £18,000, the Northern Regional Government £20,000, and the Federal Government £30,000, taking this together, that is almost £500,000—which is enough to establish an Envelop Industry in Nigeria. If all the purchases are codified together and we have a buying commission, it will be better than as at present where the West will buy here and the East will buy there. It will just be like a river that does not allow other creeks to get into it and it soon gets dried up.

Therefore my advise is that the Government should think of setting up such industry as a means of providing job and then the money will come back to our pocket. The Government should reject the idea of paying three-quarters of a million pounds every year to the Crown Agents. How many Nigerians are working in the Crown Agents? Not one. They do not want any person to know the method of purchasing. Do Members know how the Crown Agents get their money? They get five *per cent* from us;

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in some cases they take two and a half *per cent* or three and a half *per cent* and then go to the manufacturers and take ten *per cent*. They give the agencies to their people over there : Nigeria is not represented in this deal, and all the money is going from Nigeria. This is all the advice that I have for the Federal Government.

I have to thank the Minister of Works for the trunk 'A' roads he has undertaken to construct and maintain in this country. Believe me, my only criticism of his Estimates is that the Minister should stop paying all this lump sum money to the Crown Agents. It is time to stop it and get job for our people.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West) : I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. In doing so, I have to call the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to the fact that it is nothing less than regret to me that since 1960 that I started speaking about the dangers of roads and bridges in Igala Division as a whole, no single amenity of the Federal Government has been extended to that Division. No Parliamentary Secretary or Minister has since visited these roads. As I said, it is a regret to me in person and to the people who sent me here, and I will tell them that we are just here to help the Minister of Works to approve the expenditure to tar Ikeja-Ikorodu road ! We are also helping the Minister to approve expenditure to tar Nsukka road and at the same time to construct Keffi-Bornu road. All these roads are in Nigeria, but at least the Ministry should take into consideration the question of surveying the whole country. The Minister knows all the parts that are represented by the Members who were elected to this House.

If the money is small, the Minister should ask for more. Actually, I know the Ministry will say that other Ministries want to use the money out of the current fund available, but if it is £1,000 that is provided, let every division have a penny out of it. If the Federal Government can help Kano with £7,000, Zaria with £25,000, Enugu with £17,000 and Onitsha with the same amount and Abakaliki with the same amount, is it not cheeky to be in the rural areas where we only bear the burden of the towns ? This is our complaint.

When the road is tarred at least from Zintaku to Ikuta boundary, not only the people in Igala Division will enjoy it. This road will be enjoyed by the Northerner, the Easterner and the Westerner. If Members look at the geography maps, they will discover that this road is very important even to the Federal Government.

I referred the House, once upon a time, to the history of Nigeria. I wonder why we in the Igala Division shall not be looked after by the Federal Government. It is not surprising that if I go back to my people and tell them that Nigeria has achieved independence, they will not know what I mean by independence, even though some of them go to school and some of them are well educated. People should have things of their own. We must have equal enjoyment. I cannot possibly drive my car to other parts of my constituency during the rainy season. The only major road which was opened in the colonial days—Zintaku which links the Eastern Region with the North—has been neglected. Something should be done to it now that Nigeria is independent. Lokoja, I must say again, was once the headquarter of Nigeria. In the interest of the unity of this country, we must have equal enjoyment.

We want to gain it by respect but I am compelled to tell the Minister that when I left home, I came down here with the intention of asking the Minister of Works and Surveys to resign, but after listening to the account of his stewardship, I am convinced that enough has been done by his Ministry to justify his continuance in office. I, therefore, do not intend to carry out my original intention.

All I have to do now is to appeal to the Minister to realise that Ikeja and Ikorodu alone are not Nigeria. We have not come here to help only the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*). The road which I have mentioned should therefore, be given priority attention.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : In the event of the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys building a road in Lokoja, will the hon. Member for Igala North West (*Mr J. A. Yacim*) reconsider his intention of asking the Minister to resign.

Several hon. Members : He has withdrawn.

Mr Yacim : I have not said that the Minister should resign. I said that I came here with the intention of saying so but after he had given account of his stewardship, I abandoned that intention. All I am doing now is to appeal to him to see that the road is completed.

An hon. Member : In the hon. Member's constituency ?

Mr Yacim : Not in my constituency, it is part of Nigeria and everybody stands to benefit by it.

I humbly appeal to the Minister to take note of my suggestion. The Minister took note of it two years ago, he took note of it last year, and I am sure he is taking note of it now. His job is not only to write it in his note book or to read my speech in the *Hansard* tomorrow. I want him to take action on it as soon as possible.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East) : I want to impress on the Minister of Works and Surveys (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order. It is my intention to accommodate as many Members on my far right as possible but I think that will not be possible if Members will insist on their right to discuss at full length. But if Members will confine their remarks to about six or seven minutes, I think I shall be able to accommodate them.

Mr Ukah : I wish to impress upon the Minister of Works and Surveys the necessity for a vigorous road policy to embrace the whole country. The Minister has often heard it said on the Floor of this House that it is desirable that the Federal Government should take over many of the roads now being maintained by the Regional Governments so that the Regional Governments can eventually help the county councils. I think this is the first point that our Minister of Works and Surveys should take up. It is undoubtedly a burning desire in the minds of all of us.

The next point is about contract. I am happy to realise that the first duty of this Government is to feed all our people. We might afford hospitable treatment to others who come to live in our midst but definitely not at the expense of our people. Therefore, I ask

the Minister of Works and Surveys to look into the question of awards of Federal Government contracts and to see that our own people do not suffer in their own country.

Again, if we look into the activities of the Federal Tenders Board, we may not be very happy. It is, however, very often said that a word is enough for the wise man, so I will not take the Minister in to the intricacies of what I am now saying. But I hope he will use his mature experience to find out how best to get that Board going smoothly.

Another point is road transport. It is very deplorable to see that road transport is being used by certain people in such a way as to run down our railway transport. This is a very important point and I should like the Minister to look into it.

I now come to the Department of Surveys. Nigerians should be trained as soon as possible to take responsible posts in that Department. Computing and field staff should be drawn from all sections of the country and Government should examine the possibility of training Nigerians for air survey and photogrammetry.

With regard to cartography, may I say, that many of our maps to-day are out-of-date as most of them were drawn when the Cameroons formed part of Nigeria. Moreover, certain terminologies in our maps reflect colonial rule. These maps should disappear from our schools.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, may I draw your attention, to the fact that the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) is not properly dressed.

The Chairman : Quite frankly, I think we all do recognise the fact that there are many ways of being properly dressed but I think it is important that whichever manner one chooses, one should be properly dressed within that context. I think the hon. Member will take note of that.

Mr Ukah : Moreover, in recent years, there have been numerous changes in the provincial boundaries within this country. It is highly desirable that new maps should now be drawn to reflect our sovereign status to-day and to be in accordance with modern developments.

I also want to take this occasion to thank the Federal Government for signing the agreement with International Development Agency which

will finance the construction of the road passing from Umuezeala-Owerri in Okigwi Division to Ekwerazu, Ahiara, Nguru, Okwuator and Okpala in Owerri Division and thence to Igrita near Port-Harcourt. I thank the Federal Government for this and hope the Federal Minister of Works and Surveys will convey the good wishes of my people to his counterpart in the Eastern Nigeria Government and say that we shall be very happy to see the work started as soon as possible.

I am happy to note that every effort is being made to hasten the construction of this road which is indeed the shortest road from Enugu to Port Harcourt. The road from Onitsha to Owerri was included in the list which the Minister of Works has just mentioned but I have to say that that road has become a danger to both pedestrians and motorists and all efforts should be made to see that work on the road is soon completed lest much harm be done. I also thank the Government for approving the tarring of the Umuahia-Oguta Road.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West): It is a great pleasure for me to thank the Minister of Works and Surveys for the able way in which he is handling his Ministry. The Minister has been kind enough to commence work on the Imo—Okigwi bridge for which my people are really very grateful. I would like to inform the Minister that he must make sure that this bridge is solidly built and if need be he should borrow a leaf from the Eastern Regional Government as regards bridge construction. I think it is a fact known to all of us particularly those of us from the Eastern Region that all the narrow roads we have now in that area are roads owned by the Federal Government and as a result most of the accidents that happen in the Eastern Region happen on roads owned by the Federal Government. I think that the Federal Government should begin now to widen our roads.

I was looking forward to hearing the Minister, when he was mentioning roads to be developed, mention that the Federal Government has taken over the Enugu to Port Harcourt road. The commercial importance of this road cannot be over-emphasised and I think that the Minister should be kind enough

to consider it and take it over if it has not merely escaped his mind. I would also like to tell the Minister of Works that the amount of money spent by the Federal Government is more or less money earned from the Regional Governments and the only way the people we represent will actually benefit from these huge sums of money spent annually is by extending roads to some of these important areas.

We are now talking about the Six-Year Development Plan and if the Federal Government is going to tap some of the natural resources in the rural areas there must be good roads. I think the Federal Government should be well advised to come to the aid of the Regional Governments by taking over some of the roads in order to enable the Regional Governments to take over more rural roads from the county councils.

There is one point on which I would like the Minister to act as a co-ordinating figure in order to see that any deliberate waste of public money is avoided. I refer to what we call 'end of financial year' work. In many areas in the Eastern Region, and I think it is applicable to the Federal Government, at the end of each financial year we see a lot of money voted by Government being spent by Provincial Engineers. A large part of this money could have been better spent, but as soon as the year is coming to an end one finds that work that can be done for £100 is given out on contract for £500. Work that can be done for £500 is given out for £1,000, with the result that at the end of each financial year one sees many of these Provincial Engineers putting up three to five buildings as a result of the profit they make out of public funds because of the financial year coming to an end. The Governments of the Federation should stop this type of waste.

I think all of us are working towards the betterment of the whole Federation. It is a known fact that the Ikom to Mamfe road needs very urgent attention. When the Minister was mentioning the roads to be taken over—

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South): On a point of order, this honourable House is not a place for boxing. The two Parliamentary Secretaries over there can go and box each other outside.

The Chairman : I am not aware that there is any imminent struggle between Parliamentary Secretaries but rather perhaps I may have taken note of the fact that there is some discussion as to whether one was properly dressed or not.

Mr Ahamefula : As I was saying the attention of the Federal Minister of Works and Surveys should be called to the Mamfe Ikom road. It is a very important road.

Another point is that when the Minister of Communications spoke the other day he said that one of the reasons for not giving us post offices in our county areas was that he was not responsible for the putting up of these buildings. In short he was perhaps trying to say that the Ministry of Works and Surveys is responsible for not giving us these buildings. I would like to tell the Minister of Works that it is the wish of all the Members of this honourable House that he should see that the question of putting up post offices in our county areas should not be played with and if it is really in his portfolio he should see that these buildings are put up without delay.

I beg to support.

M. Muhammed Ningi (Bauchi North West) : I rise to support the Estimates for the Ministry of Works and Surveys. In doing so, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Works and Surveys for the work he has done since he took office. But this is not enough, he should put in more effort and see that most of the roads linking all the important towns in the country are tarred. Roads are very essential for the development of a country. Without good roads the economic development which we all want for this country cannot be achieved. There are some important roads that require widening and tarring but up till now they are not even considered to be tarred. One of the roads in question is the Trunk A road from Kaduna to Jos. To my surprise, last year the car of the hon. Premier of the Northern Region sank and it had to be dug out.

Secondly, because of the commercial importance of the roads from Bauchi to Gombe and Adamawa, I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys to take immediate steps to see that those roads are tarred. The road from Jos to Bauchi and Adamawa is not good at all,

and I repeat, it is not good at all. It is said to be fair but still it looks like one under construction because of bad tarring. I think that our Ministers do not travel by roads and that is why they do not bother to ask the Minister of Works to speed up the construction and maintenance of roads throughout the Federation.

The lorry owners are always worried because of bad roads that cause great damage to their vehicles. I would, therefore, appeal to the Minister to consider the demand of many people of this country and speed up road development in this country.

Last year we all returned happily to our homes after the Minister had said that money had been found for the reconstruction of 45 miles of road from Maiduguri to Bauchi. But up till now work has not yet started in that area despite the fact that the Minister told us that work would soon start on it. I am appealing to the Minister strongly to take note of this.

I beg to support.

10.52 p.m.

Mr D. K. Aihonsu (Egbado South) : On the 11th of this month I asked a question of the Prime Minister in connection with the number of road accidents we have in the North, East, West and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

An hon. Member : On a point of clarification, I had my name put down here under the Head of Estimates under discussion but the Chairman has jumped over my name.

Mr Aihonsu : The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister gave me the following figures. In the year 1960, in the North, there were 3,445 road accidents ; in the East, 2,586 ; in the West, 3,229, and in the Federal Territory of Lagos, 4,252. In the year 1961 in the North there were 3,113 road accidents ; in the East, 2,658 ; in the West, 5,419, and in the Federal Territory of Lagos 4,773. In 1962 in the North there were 3,423 road accidents ; in the East 3,130 ; in the West 5,144, and in the Federal Territory 4,860. From the figures I have quoted it will be seen that there is an increase in the number of road accidents in Nigeria to-day. What I think is responsible is our bad roads. So, I am appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys who seems to

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be the most experienced Minister to see that these roads are improved. For instance, the road from Apapa to Idiroko needs widening. I am also appealing to the Minister to make sure that an overhead bridge is provided at the Apapa level crossing. In addition, we want zebra crossings in Lagos.

Now I will speak for my constituency. If any hon. Member travels by road from Agege to Sango-Otta he will notice that there are ponds and corners continuously for about eight miles. So, I want to appeal to the Minister of Works to see that something is done to straighten and widen the road so that we may have less accidents on it.

As regards the road from Sango-Otta to Idiroko, I am happy that the hon. Minister has made a statement and has said something about this road. I am not surprised in any way because that is what he does every year. He is my good friend but I have to be frank now. There are very many dangerous bridges on this road. There is one at Iju and another to Ajilete. These bridges need to be improved.

The Chairman : I do wish hon. Members will make their points as briefly as possible. We have got just about one hour left and I would like at least twelve Members to have the opportunity to speak.

Mr Aihonsu : I quite agree with you, Mr Chairman. The Ajilete bridge is a wooden one and needs the immediate attention of the Government. We do not want a recurrence of the incident of last year whereby this bridge was washed away and seven persons lost their lives in an accident there. I think the Minister knows about it. In addition, this bridge at Ajilete with the deplorable condition of the Sandwater-Idiroko road has been responsible for the fall in revenue at Idiroko from £11,000 to £2,000 per month. The number of people entering and going out of Nigeria has also fallen from 500 to 300 daily. So, I am appealing to the Minister to make sure that something is done to improve this road. I beg to support.

10.58 p.m.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : In fairness to the Minister of Works and Surveys I must say that he is an intelligent fellow, and that cannot be disputed. He is also a good natured fellow. I am happy that he

has promised this House that he is going to co-operate with indigenous contractors. All is well that ends well. I know he is going to co-operate with them as he has promised. But I am going to call on the Minister to make a tour of the whole country to see the roads for himself. At the moment some of the trunk 'A' roads are worse than the trunk 'B' roads. We have pot-holes here and there on the roads.

I can assure this honourable House that there is no Member that comes from the East or from the North who does not pay about £60 or £70 after every session of the House for repairing his car which has been damaged as a result of our bad roads. In England, a car can last 30 years because they have good roads. But here hon. Members spend their money for repairing their cars every time. And that affects the economy of this country adversely. So, it is very important that instead of going overseas every now and again our Ministers should tour the country and see what is going on.

According to what the hon. Member for Okigwi South West (*Mr Ahamefula*) said, the Minister of Communications complained about post offices, I am sorry for the Minister because the Minister of Finance did not release the money. It is the duty of the Minister of Finance to release the money in time for the Minister of Communications to work with.

Because of other Members wanting to speak, I do not want to waste the time of the House, so I support the Bill.

The Chairman : May I appeal to hon. Members who have spoken to-day to refrain from speaking again.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) : Because very many Members want to speak on this Head, I do not intend to touch many points. I shall therefore only touch one point which, I hope, the Minister will take into consideration. It is about the award of contracts.

Various aspects of it have been touched, but there is only one point to which I will draw the attention of the Minister. It is the fact that many contractors are making profits out of the contracts awarded them. There is no doubt that many contractors, particularly those people who are said to be in category "A" or "B", are making upwards of 40 per cent profits.

[MR MORDI]

This is true. This is not the place for us to attack anybody, but it does seem to me that the Tenders Board that is actually responsible for the award of contracts is rather too kind to the contractors.

In the Western Region, in fact, events have shown that occasions abound where one finds a contractor asking for £25,000 for some work and the people awarding the contract asking him to tender for £50,000. That was exactly what happened in the Western Region in many cases. I do not want to say that that is exactly what is happening in the Federal Territory, but when one looks at the buildings put up, their costs sound very fantastic. I would say that if members of the Tenders Board were asked to put up these buildings themselves, they would make better bargains. And so, I want to advise the Minister to talk to members of the Board and ask them to see what they can do to make better bargains on behalf of the Government.

Perhaps there is a way out. I understand that the Federal Minister of Works is directly in charge of contracts in the Ministry which are over £5,000. If this is true, it might be necessary for the Minister of Works and Surveys to arrange for every Ministry to have its own Tenders Board and then he will have his own Tenders Board. The result will be that when there is a tender to be given out, the Tenders Board of the department will call for tenders and the Tenders Board of the other Ministry will also call for tenders. In that case, we would have two prices to compare and whichever is better should be adopted by the Government. If this makes some sort of duplication, I think it is a way of cross checking.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): On a point of order, I wish to point out that the Ministries always make out their estimates before giving out the work to the Tenders Board.

The Chairman: That is a point of information and an unfortunate waste of the time that we actually lack.

Mr Mordi: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. In any case, I hope that the Minister will examine all the questions of contracts in all its ramifications and perhaps know how best to help the country by reducing the costs of contracts. That is what I am concerned with.

The other point which I hope it will not be out of place to mention even now—though it does seem to me late—is the question of the Niger Bridge. At this stage when there are only pillars in the river, it is possible to modify the plan of this bridge to make it possible for a railway track to pass through it. It is my considered view that it is very necessary.

Finally, there is a section of the Asaba to Lagos road which I consider to be a very big death trap. I do not know what other Members feel, but the section of the road in Shagamu seems to me not to be very good. Houses are about two feet from the road. I think that the Federal road at that point requires a slight diversion from its present track so as to give enough allowance to people who are passing and, of course, to reduce the number of accidents.

I also think that the section of the road between Benin and Agbor is also very bad. Between Asaba and Agbor, there are about ten bridges, and the windings at that section of the road are too many. They are so bad that, in many cases, lorry drivers and motor cars cannot negotiate corners safely, with the result that we have many accidents, particularly at Uguafia River. It is very bad at that point, and I think that what we require really is a bit of reconstruction so that the roads could be straightened and a number of these things avoided.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Zanna Isa Monguno (Chad): The Chairman has jumped my name and my Amendment is still standing.

The Chairman: Order, order. I think I did make mention of this in the afternoon, that Members who take it upon themselves to challenge the Chair may not find it easy to catch the eye of the Chair.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East): On a point of order, since the House started this sitting, I have not made a single speech.

The Chairman: Will the hon. Member please take his seat?

Mr J. B. Eboighbodi (Asaba West): On a point of order, I want to point out that many hon. Members have not spoken since we came to the Committee Stage, and I must say that the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) has spoken many times.

The Chairman : I have appealed on several occasions for co-operation from the Floor : these points of order certainly do not add to the time that is already too short.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I should like the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys to drive in a land-rover from Kano to Dambatta to Daura and Kongalan and to report the condition of the road to this House.

I beg to support.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : I do not wish to take a long time, but I wish to bring to the notice of the House that if all the "trees were one tree what a great tree that would be." That is to say, if all the trunk 'A' roads in our Federal territory were to be like those in the Regions, I do not think we shall come here to complain. Therefore, I am in agreement with what the Member for Enyong North (*Mr Udenyi*) has said, that the hon. Minister should travel out to see exactly for himself the conditions of the roads in the Regions, so that he may know that we are serious in whatever we say here.

The importance of good roads in this country is great. Good roads help a great deal to minimise the number of accidents and, in turn, many lives will be saved. It is very unfortunate that some of the bridges in the Western Region are a bit wider than some of the bridges one will find in the Eastern Region. Those in the East are too narrow. In particular, I would mention the Uya-Oron bridge which is just four miles to Ikot Ekpene. It is very narrow, and I would appeal to the Minister, at least to travel to that section of the country to see for himself. So many lives have been lost because of the narrowness of this bridge and, therefore, I am appealing to the hon. Minister that as soon as funds are available, he should please consider putting up a better bridge which will prevent further accidents.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I think I am not too early, but it seems to me that several hon. Members are repeating what others have said and quite a lot of what was asked in the form of questions to which replies had already been given. But, however, I would endeavour to give very brief replies to the various points mentioned by hon. Members.

The Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) made a point which was apparently well received by hon. Members. But in the Estimates, perhaps because he had the wrong glasses on, he did not realise the items he was quoting were written in italics, and that there is no provision for them in this financial year. However, I want to assure the House that the Government is not unaware of the fact that we should establish our own buying organisation. (*Hear, hear*). Already the Federal Government is making investigation into this—it might be Mr Odulana was tipped and he mentioned it in order to score some points.

The Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*) spoke about his famous A-13 road. I must say that I really sympathise with him. This road is, no doubt, one of the worst roads in Nigeria but, unfortunately, the present plan had been drawn according to a very careful survey of traffic density and traffic potential of all the various roads. However, I can console the hon. Gentleman that out of the rehabilitation vote that I have at my disposal, I will do something to satisfy him.

The Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) and quite a number of other hon. Members have spoken on the need for the Federal Government to take over some of the Regional roads. This point has been raised on the Floor of this house on several occasions, and the reply had always been that funds available to me are simply not enough to allow me to take over these roads. The point is ideal, but at the moment we cannot do it.

The hon. Gentleman then speaking on the Survey Division of my Ministry said that we should train Nigerians to take over more responsibility in the Survey Division. I do hope the hon. Gentleman was here when I said that the Survey Division is now headed by a Nigerian and that we are doing all we can to train as many Nigerians as possible. If hon. Members will help me to interest suitable Nigerians to come and take up appointment in the Survey Division, I would very much appreciate it.

The Member for Egbado South (*Mr Aihonsu*) spoke on road accidents and, according to him, the very conditions of the roads are responsible for the large increases in road accidents. Roads may be responsible for accidents, but I want to assure the hon.

[MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS]

Member that the real cause of road accidents is not in the condition of the roads but due, very often, to drivers and their vehicles. However, we are doing all we can to widen the roads wherever possible and to straighten them also wherever possible.

About the hon. Gentleman's favourite road—Sango Ota-Idiroko—I have already made mention of it. It is in our plan and we hope, during the next dry season, to start reconstruction work.

The bridge at Ajilete is due for reconstruction. I am sorry this is a major undertaking which we cannot complete within a very short time. It will take time to finish, but when it is reconstructed I want to assure the hon. Gentleman that it will be very strong and, unless there is an exceptionally heavy rain, the bridge will not be easily swept away.

The Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*)—I do not know where he got the idea from of contractors making a forty per cent profit. The contrary is the case. On many occasions contractors lose instead of making profits. And I want here to tell him that the award of contracts is done very often by competitive tenders. Contractors tender and these tenders sometimes come through. Many of them tender in order to keep their employees in employment, not in order to, or because they will, make profit. The Tenders Board, I want also to tell him, is a very responsible organisation, and there is no chance for them to tell contractors, "Well, although so much is provided or so much is our own estimate, we want you to tender for a higher figure". I do not know where the hon. Gentleman got this idea from. It may be done elsewhere, but I want to assure him that the Federal Tenders Board has never indulged in this scheme, and it is just impossible for them to. If work is going to be tendered for by many people, they cannot know who will win. Therefore, how can they get into a deal with him? I do not want to say anything about his idea of each Ministry creating its own Tenders Board, *et cetera*.

I think I have covered all the points raised, and I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

The Chairman : Order, order. It might be better to allow one or two speeches more.

Mr T. O. Oloyede (Ife-Ila) : I have only three points to make.

An hon. Member : Ah ! That is too much.

Minister of State (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : On a point of order, I think *Omimi* is sleeping.

The Chairman : Far from sleeping. I think he was rather too active this evening.

Mr Oloyede : I want to remind the Minister of Works and Surveys about the Lagos-Benin Road, through Ibadan and Ife, which is a Trunk "A" Road. For a long time now before work started on the Shagamu-Benin Road, it had been long in use and it is over-burdened now. I would like to appeal to the Minister of Works and Surveys that there should be a complete re-surfacing of this road, particularly from Ibadan, between Ibadan and Ife. It has been so much used that there are many bumps, with the result that the lives of cars are easily spent on these roads.

The second point is that I have discovered that there are new mile posts being erected on this road, between Ibadan and Benin, to be in line with the mile posts which are being erected in the Northern Region roads. These mile posts have numbers marked on them on both sides. May I remind the Minister that the inscriptions on most of them are now either washed out by rain or illegible. I am appealing to the Minister that there should be a supervision by the Ministry of Works over the contractors to whom this type of work is given.

The third point is this question of structural engineering. In the item, we have the Department of Engineering, Building Section. Under this Building Section we have senior quantity surveyors and structural engineers. I have the information that when the Ministry gives out a contract, it usually employs structural engineers overseas, and that most of the building drawings are made overseas before they can give them to our local contractors.

May I mention that our structural engineers locally should be employed. We also appeal to the Minister to see that more structural engineers are employed in the Ministry so that much money will not be spent on these foreigners.

The only point I need to add is the question of discrimination in the award of contracts between indigenous contractors and expatriate

contractors. Messrs Cappa Limited are taking most of the contracts of the Government, whereas we have indigenous qualified contractors as well. I am appealing to the Minister to see that the Tenders Board is asked to patronise the indigenous contractors.

I support the Head.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head of the Estimates.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East): On a point of order, I do not need to go down and bow down to the Speaker in order to be allowed to speak in this Parliament. After all, we are all politicians and I even had more votes than some Members here.

Mr Enefola: In supporting this Head, I just want to draw the attention of the Minister of Works and Surveys to some special areas that need the help of the Ministry's Department of Surveys, especially the area along the Niger, between Onitsha and Idah. There is a very large water-logged area between the Anambra River and the River Niger. There is a special area that is enclosed in a marshy type of water-logged soil, and there are so many people in this area. The Northern Regional Government finds it difficult to penetrate into that area. The Survey Department of this Ministry should survey that area between the Anambra and River Niger and then try to create an access to the interior. The place is well populated:

it is also an arable land. It is a very good land for growing rice and sugar cane. I would like the Survey Department of the Ministry to pay particular attention to this area and if something can be done, I will be very grateful.

I like to thank the Minister for the efforts he is making in Lagos to improve the roads, especially immediately after the Bridge at Iddo. The way the road has been improved is very good and if he carries on like that, he will improve the traffic in Lagos.

I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

£6,493,340 for Head 58—Ministry of Works and Surveys—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Wednesday, April 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn.—(THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 23rd April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL

Mr Speaker reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (1st April) as follows :

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

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker : I have to acquaint the House that I have been informed by Alhaji Mohammadu Dodo, Provincial Court Judge, Kano, that Alhaji Shehu Kazaure, Member for Kano North West Central, appeared before him on 12th November, 1962, on an indictment on which he, Alhaji Shehu Kazaure, was found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
FINANCE

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : On a point of order, may I ask the question on behalf of the hon. Member ?

Mr Speaker : I am afraid, you cannot ask the question on his behalf. The answer can, however, be printed in the *Hansard*.

Internal Loans

O.405. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Finance what is the total value of internal loans raised from 1st April, 1962 to date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Prince A. Lamuye) : The total value of internal loans raised from 1st April, 1962 to 31st March, 1963 is £36.36 million.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : May we know the names of those who have received these loans ?

Mr Speaker : That is a new question.

Smuggled Spirits

O.645. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that the smuggling of Spanish drinks is still rampant in Mfum and Akpoha and what efforts are being made to arrest the situation.

Prince Lamuye : The Minister is aware that extensive smuggling of Spanish drinks and other contraband continues. He has evidence that liquor now passes from Fernando Po to West Cameroun, whence it is smuggled into Nigeria through places like Mfum.

The hon. Member will have learned from the Budget Speech of the anti-smuggling measures which the Minister is taking, including the use of air-craft patrols.

But above all, the Department of Customs and Excise needs information, and if the honourable Member has any information about smuggling at Mfum and Akpoha, or indeed anywhere else, I trust that he will without delay pass it on to the Customs Authorities, who will use it to the best advantage.

Anti-Smuggling Campaign

O.708. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Finance, if he will abandon his proposal to use helicopters in his anti-smuggling campaign in view of the fact that the cost of the operation does not make it worthwhile.

Prince Lamuye : The aircraft which are being acquired for anti-smuggling activities are in fact not helicopters. They are Otter aircraft built by the De Haviland Aircraft Company of Toronto, Canada. They will not be engaged exclusively in activities relating to the suppression of smuggling but they will be available for other assignments to which the Government of the Federation may find it necessary to put them.

The hon. Member is probably not aware of the extent of the damage to this country's revenue which is done by persons who run contraband and I wish to assure him that full consideration was taken of the cost of operating these aircraft before the decision to use them in anti-smuggling activities was taken.

I would add that these aircraft are to be under the control of the Board of Customs only temporarily. They will come under the control of the Nigeria Air Force as soon as that Force is established.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : In view of the exorbitant cost of these three aircraft and in view of the fact that they may not be so much utilised to warrant the cost, will the Minister say whether these aircraft are amphibian so as to be able to go into the creeks.

Prince Lamuye : Of these three, I think one is amphibian and the other two are ordinary aircraft.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : May I know whether these aircraft are going to be operated with palm oil or spirit ?

O.709. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Finance, what successes he has achieved in the savings campaign and why his efforts have so far been limited to the Federal Territory.

Prince Lamuye : The hon. Member is no doubt aware that the Minister referred to the National Savings campaign in his Budget Speech. Its start has been slow but this was expected for the habit of thrift and saving is not taught in a day and he is confident that the campaign will achieve its objective.

The hon. Member is mistaken in suggesting that the campaign has been confined to the Federal Territory ; it is a national campaign and the evidence of this is that the first Premium Bond prizes are being won by people in every Region of this country.

LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Unemployment

O.375. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what plans he has for solving the problems of unemployment in the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : The hon. Member is referred to the second part of the Answer which the Minister gave to Question No. 141 on 9th April, 1963.

Tiger-Fullmer Fight

O.710. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will advise the Federal Government to increase its guarantee for the Tiger-Fullmer fight in order to ensure that the fight takes place in Nigeria.

Mr Ezonbodor : The Minister does not intend to advise the Federal Government to increase its guarantee for the Tiger-Fullmer fight in order to ensure that the fight takes place in Nigeria. There is no reason why the sum of £65,000 already guaranteed by the various governments of the Federation should not make it possible for the fight to take place in Nigeria.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : In view of the present financial problems of the Federal Government, will the Minister consider cancelling this programme ?

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : I think it is advisable that the money be spent for the university students who have not got enough money to continue their studies.

Employment of School Leavers

O.711. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will consider consulting with the Regional Governments for employment of school leavers in their public service through Regional Labour Offices in the Regions.

Mr Ezonbodor : The Ministry is in regular consultation with the Regional Governments on the question of making the fullest use of the facilities available at the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry for the recruitment of all grades of staff for the Public Services of the Federation, including school leavers.

I would like to add that, only quite recently at the Conference of Ministers charged with responsibility for Labour matters, it was agreed that Advisory Committees on Employment should be established in places where there are Employment Exchanges. These committees would review, from time to time, the existing measures for employment of workers in their respective areas.

It is hoped that, with the co-operation of Ministries and private employers, all recruitment and filling of vacancies would be done through the medium of the Employment Exchanges.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : Is the Minister aware that more than 500 children who left school in 1961 are still looking for jobs in this country ?

Applicants

O.712. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, how many school leavers were registered as applicants in Lagos and in each of the three Regions

in the year 1960-62 stating the numbers that were employed in each year.

Mr Ezonbodor : The answer to this question is long and I have, therefore, arranged to have it published in the Official Report.

The answer is as follows :—

	1960		1961		1962	
	Primary and below	Secondary	Primary and below	Secondary	Primary and below	Secondary
Lagos	69,515	4,053	49,445	3,181	50,928	5,873
Western Region	11,758	2,300	18,751	2,969	22,589	3,987
Eastern Region	22,783	1,824	32,008	3,001	26,743	4,490
Northern Region	25,741	10	25,159	258	30,202	762

The number of school leavers placed in employment in the same period is as follows :—

	1960		1961		1962	
	Primary and below	Secondary	Primary and below	Secondary	Primary and below	Secondary
Lagos	3,400	926	1,870	960	950	1,113
Western Region	522	571	1,762	260	1,775	288
Eastern Region	432	359	919	305	710	307
Northern Region	1,540	—	2,310	27	1,606	16

The above figures do not, however, represent the total number of school leavers employed during the period as many of them were known to have secured employment by direct approach to employers.

Recent Dockworkers' Strike

O.713. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, whether he will make a statement on the recent dockworkers strike.

Mr Ezonbodor : I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to Question O.175 on 2nd April, 1963.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : I asked the hon. Minister to tell us what was the content of that particular Question.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Is it not a fact that the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare is trying to evade an answer to a very important issue like the dock-workers' strike ?

Professional Soccer

O.714. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what plans he has for the establishment of a national football team with professional status.

Mr Ezonbodor : The efforts of the Nigeria Football Association are at present directed towards maintaining permanent amateur national teams. There are, however, difficulties of job security for the players, finance and training which the Minister is seriously looking into.

The Federal Government is only interested in amateur soccer. The field of professional football is one for private interests to develop.

Mr Speaker : Question No. O.715 is transferred to the 29th.

MINES AND POWER**Exploitation of Mineral Resources**

O.293. Mr E. A. Odo asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what are his plans to tap to the fullest the country's mineral resources in 1963-68.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) : The Geological Survey is now carrying out a comprehensive programme of investigation of the nation's mineral resources. The programme includes geological mapping and diamond drilling. Airborne magnetometer surveys are now being made to assist this work.

Mineral deposits in all parts of the country are being systematically examined and reports on the results of the investigations are circulated to all interested organisations. In addition, the results of investigations of oil and mining companies are made known to Government and large tracts of Nigeria are being examined in this way.

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All information on mineral deposits is made available to industrial concerns, who are encouraged to exploit them.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): The Minister has mentioned that investigation is being carried out throughout the Federation of Nigeria. Has he done any investigation in Onitsha Division?

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule: Onitsha is part of Nigeria, I believe.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): Will the Minister please explain to this House whether these investigations are being done in secret or in the open where people can see them?

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule: The investigations are carried out in such a way that in certain cases only experts in those fields know that such investigations are being carried out.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): May I ask from the hon. Minister how many provinces he has investigated?

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule: All the provinces in Nigeria have either been investigated or are in the process of being investigated.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East): Would the Minister say what has been investigated in Orlu Division?

Mr Speaker: Question No. O.573 is transferred to the 29th and will be answered by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Natural Gas

O.575. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether anybody is as yet tapping natural gas in Nigeria and if he will make a statement.

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule: A 6½ mile 8 in. gas pipeline with a capacity of 20,000,000 cubic feet per day has been laid from Afam oil and gas field to the new Electricity Corporation of Nigeria power station at Okoloma north of Port Harcourt.

The first unit in this station started testing in January 1963, using gas as fuel. It is now in full operation.

It is intended to increase the size of this station as the demand for electricity increases, and gas will be used to operate the turbines for producing this electric power.

In addition to the Afam pipeline a 3 mile 5½ in. gas pipeline has been laid from the small oilfield at Apará to the trans-Amadi Industrial Estate at Port Harcourt. The capacity of this line for piping the natural gas is 5,000,000 cubic feet per day. Only a small proportion of this is being used at present by existing industries.

I very much hope that in due course the full capacity of the line will be utilised.

A large reserve of natural gas has been discovered during the search for oil in Southern Nigeria.

The hon. Member will no doubt realise that in the present state of our industrial development there is scope for utilising only a very small proportion of this valuable natural resource.

Efforts are being made, however, to interest commercial firms on possible uses of the gas and I have every confidence that in the near future the gas deposits in Nigeria will prove to be one of the Country's most valuable assets.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): May I know from the Minister what plans there are for the development of the gas deposit in Ughelli in the Western Region?

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule: I think the hon. Member is already aware that we are having enough gas deposits at Ughelli and as I have already said, investigation is still being carried out to find other companies that are interested so that they may exploit the natural gas for the interest of the country.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central): Will the Minister explain why the power from these gas stations is not used to supply electricity to places all around these gas stations?

Benue Bauxite Deposits

O.716. Mr P. O. Tarkende asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what is causing the delay in exploiting the bauxite deposits in Awe, Ibi and Gboko districts of Benue Province.

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule: There are no known bauxite deposits in Awe, Ibi and Gboko. If however the hon. Member is referring to barytes, the position is that the deposits have been investigated and as the

profitability of the enterprise is doubtful, capital for developing the deposits and buying the necessary machinery for upgrading the barytes is not forthcoming.

Owerri Mineral Deposits

O.717. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he is aware of the existence of mineral deposits, especially coal and lime, in Mbaise North in Owerri Division and if he will undertake the necessary exploration work.

Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule : The geology of the country which includes Mbaise North, Owerri Division is described in Geological Survey Bulletin No. 24. No deposits of coal or limestone are known to occur in this district.

INFORMATION

Film Unit

O.406. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Information whether the films produced by his film unit are only for local use or are sent abroad ; how much is being spent on the unit annually and what international films have ever been produced.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : Films produced by the Federal Film Unit of my Ministry are for domestic use and for for overseas release.

In reply to the second part of the question, the total expenditure on the Unit for 1961-62 was £10,600, which included all activities such as mobile cinemas, cost of film prints sent overseas, and the processing laboratory which is devoted, to a great extent, to the processing of films for the Nigerian Television Service. It is regretted that the figures for the year 1962-63 are not yet available.

If the hon. Member, in the use of the phrase "international films" in this question, means international in content, the most obvious one is "Pan African Conference." Copies of this were distributed to 20 Nigerian Missions overseas in addition to the Central Office of Information, London, the National Broadcasting Corporation, New York, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and United Nations Technical Aid Bureau (U.N.T.A.B.).

A similar distribution was also made of "Year of Endeavour" and "This is Nigeria".

"Post" Salaries

O.576. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Information, how much was paid as remuneration to the staff of the *Morning Post* and the *Sunday Post* from 1st April to 31st December, 1962, and what was the corresponding revenue for the same period.

Mr Yerokun : The Nigerian National Press Ltd. does not only print and publish the "Morning Post" and the "Sunday Post" but also undertakes commercial printing.

It is therefore not an easy matter at present to determine exclusively the running cost (including staff salaries and wages) in respect of the two newspapers and any corresponding revenue there may be for any given period of operation.

In other words the Press is at present integrated and there is no means of determining what parts of the remuneration paid to the staff can be credited to the printing and publishing of the two newspapers and what parts to commercial printing for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1962.

External Publicity

O.718. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Information, what efforts is his Ministry making to advertise Nigeria abroad and publicise the Federal Government in the country.

Mr S. A. Yerokun : In respect of external publicity, I wish to refer the hon. Member to the answer to question No. O.364 published at page 33 and 34 of the Parliamentary Debates of Tuesday, 16th April, 1963.

With particular reference to external publicity, the present decision of the Federal Government is quite clear. The Federal Ministry of Information will supply the personnel and material for Information posts in our Embassies and High Commissions ; and when it is necessary to engage Publicity Agents in any particular country for any special purpose, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations will appoint such Agents after full consultation with my Ministry.

With regard to publicity for the Federal Government in the country, all the available media of information are at present being

used. I am also glad to say that there is a great deal of co-operation between my Ministry and the Regional Ministries of Information.

It is my earnest hope that the Press will co-operate fully with us in this matter of external publicity for Nigeria at home and abroad.

DEFENCE

Women in the Army

O.407. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerian women have now joined the Army and what are their ranks.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla): 21 Nigerian women have been granted nursing commissions in the Royal Nigerian Army and are holding the following ranks:—

- 1 Major;
- 1 Captain; and
- 19 Lieutenants

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Will the Minister tell this House apart from the medical corps where these women are employed, is there any other place within the army where women are employed?

Navy Recruitment Drive

O.479. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Defence, if he will send a Navy recruiting team to the rural areas in order to popularise recruitment into the Nigerian Navy.

Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla: The number of applicants exceeds by far the number of vacancies we advertise and therefore the need to send a recruiting team does not arise.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): Is the Minister aware of the fact that the advertisements published in the papers of this country are generally insufficient in the Regions?

Navy Overseas Trainees

O.646. Mallam Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians have been sent abroad to qualify for appointments in the Nigerian Navy.

Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla: A total of 461 Nigerians consisting of 71 officers and 390 ratings have attended or are attending courses in Overseas Naval Training establishments.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): How many Nigerians have actually qualified to man the Navy since our independence?

Army Condition of Service

O.719. M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Defence, whether he has any plans to improve conditions of service in the Nigerian Army in order to make the service more attractive to the young elements who may wish to join the Army.

Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla: The hon. Member is referred to the relevant portion of the Speech from the Throne, in which I said, *inter alia*, "that the welfare of the members of our forces will be kept constantly in mind, and more and better barracks will be built in various parts of the Federation".

The House has already passed a Bill which gives soldiers more security of tenure of office. Other appropriate measures would be taken from time to time to better conditions of service of the Royal Nigerian Army personnel.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Is the Minister of Defence aware of the fact that many boys with Standard Six certificates have no alternative but to join the Army when they are found not useful in other careers? Can the Minister not absorb them into the Army?

Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla: We are prepared to accept as many a number of these boys as the hon. Member can send to us, provided, of course, that they have the necessary qualifications.

Nigerianisation of the Army

O.720. M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Defence, when he will completely Nigerianise the Army in view of the future security of the country.

Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla: The number of expatriate officers in the Royal Nigerian Army has, since October, 1960, been halved and it is expected that if the trend continues, the Army will have been completely Nigerianised by March 1965.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION

(1961-62) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the consolidated revenue fund of the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Eight

Hundred and Three Pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the year which ended on the thirty-first day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1962-63) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the consolidated revenue fund of Three Hundred and Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the contingencies fund for the Year which ended on the Thirty-First Day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Three; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

PORTS BILL

Bill to alter the Constitution of the Nigerian Ports Authority; to provide for consultations between the Authority and Persons using its facilities; to make further provision for the giving of directions to the Authority; to require the approval of the Minister for regulations and By-Laws made by the Authority; to make further provision as to Federal Ports; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Transport; read the First time; to be read a Second time on *Thursday the 25th of April, 1963*.

NOTICE OF MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move, That, the Business of Private Members and Government Business be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. the Proceedings on Private Members' Notices of Motions, if not previously concluded, shall lapse and the sitting shall at that hour be suspended until 9 p.m.

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

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): I do not quarrel with night sittings and, as I said sometime last week, night sittings on other days than Tuesdays are acceptable not only to myself but also to all other hon. Members. The same privilege, if it is a privilege, the same concession, if it is a concession, should be given to Private Members' Day. According to this Motion, it means that as soon as it is 6 o'clock, whether or not Private Members' Motions are still outstanding, they will automatically lapse and the Government Business begins.

What is wrong if Private Members' Motions are debated in the night? Is it only Government Motions that are to be debated in the night? If the answers to these questions are in the affirmative, will the Government change its attitude towards Private Members' Motions?

May I repeat what I said last week on the Floor of this House. I asked if it was not a conspiracy within the Cabinet to see that certain Private Members' Motions were not taken up.

To-day is a very important day, as can be seen in the Gallery. There are very important Motions coming up and I do not speak in anticipation of any Motion. We are going to debate the Motion of Censure, we are going to debate other very important Motions like the Local Gin Motion.

There is a certain tendency on the part of the Government. I can read their minds; I can read the mind of the hon. Minister of Finance. He is trying to see (perhaps, I do not mean any harm in saying so, I am entitled to my opinion) that the Motion on illicit gin will not come up. I am asking him very respectfully, I am asking the Prime Minister and the members of the Cabinet to please allow the debate on Members' Motions, if they are not disposed of at 6 o'clock, to be extended into the night. Afterwards, we help the Government to function. It is not only Government Business alone that is to be run here. Private Members' businesses are also to be run here and we must be allowed our full day.

A full day, according to my calculation, means any hour from 12 o'clock to 12 o'clock and, therefore, if we begin from 10 o'clock, if we take 24 hours to mean a day, any part of the day calculated by the clock from 10 o'clock

to 12 mid-night is Private Members' Day. I want to drum that into the ears of the members of the Cabinet. If this cannot get through, I want to say that in future from now on Private Members' Day should be from 10 a.m. to 12 mid-night.

I am opposing this Motion.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): I support my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) in opposing the Motion.

To-day is known throughout the country as "Brown's day". I know for certain that if we had known earlier, as a matter of fact, to-day ought to be declared a public holiday throughout the country.

There is no reason why the Government should interfere with Private Members' Day, at least, as far as to-day is concerned. I know, however, that if I were in the Cabinet, no doubt I would be embarrassed because it would be very difficult for me to be censured in a way that we are going to censure the Minister of Finance to-day.

May I say that to-day should be left in our own hands. Having had this opportunity for us to shake up the Minister and the Cabinet, not with a view to killing them, but to making them to sit up to their bounden responsibilities, may I ask my hon. Friend (and the only friend I have throughout the Federation), the Minister of Finance, to please withdraw the Motion. As a matter of fact, even judging from all sides of the House, people seem not to favour that Motion of bringing Government business to interfere with the business of the day.

I beg to oppose.

The Minister of Finance: I think that my hon. Friend the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has left undone what he ought to have done and, therefore, there is little health remaining in him. If, when I gave the indication previously of what was going to be the order of business for to-day my hon. Friend had thought that we should extend the period of time for the debate of Private Members' Motion, he should have filed a substantive Motion to that effect.

I made a statement earlier in the week to this effect. When I made my Business Statement, I gave an indication previously on Saturday that there would be a night sitting to-day. My hon.

Friend should have filed a substantive Motion then and, therefore, I think that, with due respect to him, his present argument is belated.

As regards my new friend, the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) I want to assure him that when bearded people start courting me, all they have to do is to shave their beards and think again.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Business of Private Members and Government Business be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. the Proceedings on Private Members' Notices of Motions, if not previously concluded, shall lapse and the sitting shall at that hour be suspended until 9 p.m.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): On a point of order, I would like to call the attention of the House to Order 55 (1) (c) about the Business Committee. The business of the Committee is "to select and report to the House from time to time Notices of Motions of Private Members to be placed on the Order Paper on Tuesday". Then Order 17 (b) says, "On Tuesdays the business of Private Members shall have precedence of Government business and shall be taken in such order as may be determined by ballot".

Now, the Business Committee selected these Motions and reported to the House last week in a certain order which was determined by ballot as required by Order 17 (b). That order has been very gravely mutilated on the Order Paper of to-day. The result is that Motion No. 7 has been shifted down and it now becomes Motion No. 8. The mutilation goes on.

An hon. Member: It is only in that one place.

Mr Oronsaye: It is not in one place. The order as it should be is as follows. Motion No. 6 should be for Mr W. O. Briggs; No. 7 should be for Mr B. N. Ukegbu; No. 8 should be for Mr U. O. Ayeni; No. 9 should be for Mr S. D. Lar and No. 10 should be for Mr R. O. A. Akinjide. That is the order which was reported to the House, as reported in the *Hansard*, and as it is here.

I think that the order should be arranged in the way that it had been arranged according to the Standing Orders.

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr Speaker : Only one Member shall be heard at a time. (*Interruptions*).

Order, order ! The report of the Business Committee indicated the number of Motions that are going to be taken, but they did not specifically say that they should be taken in a certain specified order. The result is that the names of those who appeared against the Motions were put up on the Notice Board and it was only later that the order was released and inserted in the Order Paper as we see it to-day.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : I beg to move—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : On a point of order, I have heard from reliable sources that the statement which the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is going to make to-day was made by Chief Awolowo.

Mr Speaker : If this was a court of law, I would have asked for evidence.

Mr I. A. Brown : May I ask if that is the reason why troops have been brought to surround the Parliament Building? They should be asked to leave.

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! There are no troops surrounding the Parliament building.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : On a point of order, I would say if there is any man from the U.P.P. who wants to support the Action Group let him cross over to them. The statement of the hon. Member who has just spoken does not reflect the opinion of the U.P.P.

The Speaker : The House should please allow progress. I should be the judge of breaches of order until we hear quite a lot from Mr Briggs.

Mr Briggs : I should like to tell the half illiterate policeman who made that statement about Chief Awolowo that I have been making speeches for a very long time and that at the time I was on this kind of business he was still in the police force.

I beg to move, That this House views with grave concern the admission by the Minister of Finance that the recent increase to 3s-6d per pair in customs duty on imported shoes will benefit, along with others, his Omimi Shoe Factory situate at Sapele and calls upon the Minister to relinquish his post in the Cabinet.

On the 11th April, while contributing to the Debate on the Appropriation Bill, and in answer to accusations by certain hon. Members, the Minister of Finance had this to say :

"For many years the people of the Mid-West have been shipping their rubber and, having studied shoe-making in Czechoslovakia I thought I should bring my know-how and my money in order to establish it in my own part of the country. Now, all those who know me know that I am not a hypocrite. The name of the company formed to operate this new factory is "Omimi Shoe Company" which shows that I am not hiding anything . . . In fact, as soon as the project was mooted I declared my interest to the Rt. hon. Prime Minister and further whenever any matter remotely associated with it has been discussed in the Council of Ministers I have declared my interest to all my colleagues, as I did when we were considering the recent increase in duties, and that is what a Minister is expected to do."

Earlier, on the 8th of April, the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr I. A. Brown*) who was the Minister's principal accuser, had denounced his partiality in that being the owner of a shoe factory he had, as Minister of Finance, raised the duty on imported shoes with a view to benefiting himself through his factory. On any reading of the Minister's statement, two most important facts emerge. The first is an absolute admission by the Minister of the accusation levelled against him by the hon. Member for Uyo South West, and the second is the unwitting revelation by the Minister that he has the backing not only of the Prime Minister but also of the entire Cabinet in the conduct or misconduct in respect of which he is being accused. And so, we shall start from there.

As for his rationalisation of the embarrassing situation in which by his own doing he has found himself, I shall come to it later. But I wish to state at this stage that the principle

used that position to establish the shoe industry instead of, in his position as an adviser to advise the Government that the shoe industry being a profitable industry, the Government should encourage indigenous capital, and in partnership with it establish the industry.

And if there is a Council of Ministers composed of directors, what safety have we, or of what use will it be for each of them to declare his interest *inter se*, and then proceed to initiate measures calculated to benefit the interest of each and everyone of them?

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involved in this Motion and which will be advocated throughout this Debate is, if I may say so, its own term of reference, whole and entire, and of general application. It does not, except as providing occasion for it, hold exclusive or special relevance for the person of the individual for the time being holding the office of the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I think the hon. Member speaking should debate his subject and not read his speech.

Mr Speaker: Reading speeches is out of order, but I presume that Ministers and Shadow Ministers can be allowed to read their speeches.

Mr Briggs: Both inside and outside this House, accusations of serious misconduct have from time to time been levelled against certain Ministers—accusations ranging from downright corruption, clandestine business dealings, secret profits, unjust enrichment, to the improper use of their high public offices to the material and other benefit of themselves and their relations. Here in Nigeria, one hears all sorts of unsavoury things; of Ministers receiving from five to ten *per cent* remuneration of contracts signed by them on behalf of the State; of contractors building houses free of charge for Ministers in return for some invisible considerations; of foreign governments purchasing Rolls Royce tractors and bulldozers for certain highly placed persons; of contracts granted to foreign firms in which Ministers or their nominees hold directorates; of government contractors tarring roads leading to Ministers' houses—

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): The Motion is a censure Motion on a Minister and not on Ministers. I therefore think that the hon. Member's reference to Ministers is totally irrelevant.

Mr Speaker: Order. Really the Motion is on the Minister of Finance and any accusation of Ministers cannot be allowed. We do not mind short remarks, but accusations that are likely to do more damage to the country than good should be avoided as much as possible.

Mr Briggs: I was saying that accusations have been made of other concessions small and

large too numerous to mention. And in the United Kingdom, in the continent of Europe, in Latin America, all of which I have had occasion to visit during one or other of my parliamentary tours, the same disgraceful story is repeated into your ears that you can get anything in Nigeria if you can pay for it. And the pity of it, as also the danger of it, to the eternal discredit of the country is that the customers of these shady businesses often contain themselves in whispers, but they do talk sometimes. And one of those who had talked loud enough is a Mr Wynch, the Canadian Member of Parliament who recently annoyed a great many people in this country by his plain speaking and frankness.

Incidentally, Nigerian students in Canada sent a letter together with cuttings of newspapers containing the name of a particular highly placed top politician and sent them to the Prime Minister. I humbly and sincerely ask the Prime Minister in the interest of the country if he would read this letter and reveal the name of this Minister.

This same top politician is still in his very high position, besmirching with his dirty hands the name of this country. So, I am humbly asking the Prime Minister if this letter could be read so that we can know the name of this Minister.

But whatever we may say or do these whispers, these rumours, persist, and it is now time to nail them.

It is only fair to say that not all the Ministers are guilty in this respect. In fact, many of our Ministers are, I think, hard-working men of integrity, but they are responsible collectively for government policy, and if the statement of the Prime Minister made on the Floor of this House on the 17th of April should be taken as providing a standard and as an endorsement of this policy then I should say that the future is bleak for this country, for ourselves, and for our children. But if this is going to be a signal for a new orientation, for us to cleanse the Aegean stables, then this Motion, this day, shall go down in history as one of the most important in the annals of our country.

Now to the question of the shoe factories. I am quoting here. The Minister says:—

"If an increase in duty is justifiable in the interests of protecting Nigerian industry it

[MR BRIGGS]

ments of the Commonwealth, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to read them.

"The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Keith Holyoake said that the report of the Select Committee on Ministers' Private Interests, adopted on 26th October 1956, has established "rules of propriety" which "set the standard which Parliament and the people expect a Minister of the Crown to observe". It balanced the demands of public duty imposed on those who were selected for ministerial office against their legitimate private interests as citizens. On the one hand, on assuming office they must divest themselves of those directorships, shareholdings, and business connexions which could give rise to a conflict of public duty and private interests: on the other hand, they could retain private interests which did not breach this basic principle. The penalty demanded—

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): On a point of order, I want everybody in this House to listen to this speech and see how favourably it compares with the lecture on the training ground in Ghana.

Mr Briggs: *The penalty demanded of those who held ministerial office was heavy; but they were not asked to make a complete sacrifice of all personal interests.*

The Government fully supported the principles enunciated by the Select Committee. At the first meeting of the Cabinet following the Government's assumption of office the report of the Select Committee was brought to the notice of Ministers. Many had made considerable sacrifice by resigning directorships, disposing of shareholdings, and severing business connexions.

The question remained whether a greater sacrifice should have been made by these two Ministers and whether, in the discharge of their duties, these Ministers had been influenced by certain private investments which they had retained. Then it went on.

The first case concerned the holding by the Minister of works of shares in South Pacific Airlines of New Zealand. He had invested £500 in this company in August 1960, which was before the Government had taken office. On 7th May, 1962 the Government had agreed to lend this company limited loan assistance over a period of six months. The Minister of

Works was not present in the Cabinet and, indeed, was away from Wellington when this decision was taken and he had not participated in it. His personal interest in the company had previously been disclosed and was widely known.

The other case concerned the Bay of Plenty Airways. It was not alleged that the Minister in Charge of Civil Aviation had at any time held a direct interest in this company. - But attention had been directed to the fact that, as a result of an investment in 1954, he held 400 £1 shares out of a total shareholding of £1.797 million in New Zealand Newspapers Ltd. which in turn had a substantial interest in the Bay of Plenty Airways."

In case some hon. Members on my left do not understand what I am reading, I would like to explain it in ordinary language, that this Minister of Civil Aviation had shares in a certain News Paper which had shares in another company. Even then, his shareholding was only £400 out of a total holding of £1.797 million. In spite of that the Minister was brought to the Cabinet and questioned for his conduct, because the Government had shown interest towards the parent company.

"In June 1961 the Cabinet agreed that, if no other acceptable offer was available, the N.Z.A.C. should buy into the Bay of Plenty Airways. The Prime Minister referred to further developments in the Company's affairs, as a result of which the Cabinet refused to approve a further investment by N.Z.A.C. in the company"

Now, in fairness to my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, I am reading the whole thing so that the Speaker and the hon. Members can judge for themselves and then compare the position with the position as it is published here.

"The Prime Minister said that as a result of his personal inquiries he had reached the following conclusions:

(1) *that the principles enunciated by the 1956 Select Committee did not require revision;*

(2) *that there was no reason why the two Ministers, on assuming the portfolios of Works and Civil Aviation, should have anticipated that their respective holdings in the two companies would conflict with the principles adopted by the House;*

(3) *That in the case of South Pacific Airlines the Minister of Works did not participate in the Cabinet decision ;*

(4) *That in the case of Bay of Plenty Airways the interest of the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation was not, in the words of the Select Committee's Report, 'sufficiently direct and substantial to exert or appear likely to exert an influence on the impartial performance' of his duties as Minister ;*

(5) *That the personal interests of the two Ministers did not in any way influence them or their colleagues in the decisions taken by the Cabinet''.*

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): On a point of order, I think that quotations should not be too long, especially as his quotation is dealing with one subject. But can he tell us that Mr Macmillan himself is not interested in the Macmillan Book Company and things like that? Those are the things we want him to tell us.

Mr Speaker: Members must be careful what they say. I will not allow this sort of thing to happen again.

Mr Briggs: Earlier, I had said in case some people do not understand what I was reading. I have now found that many people in fact did not understand.

What the Prime Minister was saying was that he found as a fact in addition to all these things that the Minister did not influence them. I should like the House to take particular notice of (3) and (4). (3) is that that Minister concerned was not present, he did not participate in the Cabinet decision; and in the other, that his interest was not sufficiently direct and substantial to exert or appear likely to exert an influence on impartial performance of his duties as a Minister.

How does this compare now with the hon. Minister of Finance?

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): On a point of order, I would want the hon. Member moving his Motion to tell us what the Prime Minister said. If he refuses to tell us, we shall tell him when we make our replies.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr Briggs: I have said that he did not understand it, that is the problem. So I do not blame him.

In this case, the Minister of Finance not only himself initiated the proposed increase—that is the difference: he, as the Minister of Finance, initiated the proposed increase—not only that, but also took part fully in the deliberation of the Cabinet whose decisions he is expected to execute.

Again, not only has he a substantial interest in the Shoes Industry, as you have seen, Mr Speaker, he has, directly or indirectly, £80,000 of a capital of £100,000.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry): On a point of order, as Mr Briggs is citing all these things, he must at the same time tell us the story of Moba Estate business before he takes his seat.

Mr Speaker: You are wasting our time.

Mr Briggs: The hon. Minister of Finance has £80,000 of a total capital of £100,000—£60,000 in his own name, and £20,000 in a company in which he is a substantial interest.

Not only that, the Prime Minister, Mr Holyoake of New Zealand, said that at the time those two Ministers took office, they had already had interests in their respective companies and that they could not have anticipated, therefore, that upon taking office such interests would conflict with their duties later on. But in this case, the Certificate of Incorporation of the Omimi Shoe Company was dated 10th July, 1962—three years, at least, after the Minister of Finance had become Minister of Finance. Not only that, he was appointed Director in January 1963—two months to Budget Session.

The whole House, in fact anybody with any good conscience, and anybody outside this House who might probably hear this speech would realise that there is a vast difference between the conduct of the present Minister of Finance, for his increase of duty on the shoe industry, and the conduct of the two Ministers in New Zealand.

I wish now to come back to the argument about his declaring his interest, which interests so many people. If, as may be inferred from Dr Okpara's statement on the matter that the Minister was right in his contention and that

[MR BRIGGS]

as far as he was concerned his duty ended in declaring his interest, and that it was then up to the Prime Minister to make his decision whether to ask him to resign or surrender his holdings, if that was right and if, as I have said, the Prime Minister's statement is an approval of the Minister's conduct, then I must say quite frankly that the Prime Minister has debunked not only himself but also the entire Cabinet Ministers who have taken the decision.

Our Prime Minister has the enviable reputation for honesty and integrity. I say that with due sense of honesty and sincerity. There is nobody in this House and there is nobody in this country who has had any adverse report about any dealing by our Prime Minister, and for that we can say that we in this country are very proud and very fortunate to have a person like him. But, to be personally honest is not enough. Honesty must be seen to exist, and the Prime Minister must, therefore, make his honesty plain to all the world to see.

I am suggesting that the Prime Minister has two of three alternatives to pursue :

- (a) either he should ask the Minister of Finance to resign, or
- (b) he should surrender all his holdings, and—

Several hon. Members : To the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) ?

Mr Briggs : He could surrender them to any of his relatives. After all, I know of a certain Miss Ojegba who owns shares in Dumez in succession to one Okotie-Eboh.

The Prime Minister should either ask him to resign or to surrender all his holdings. And he should institute a high-powered inquiry into the conduct of this Minister to save the face of Nigeria and to bring us back into the pale of honest men.

Finally, there are two more facts I like to bring before this House. The first is that sometime ago, I think last week, the Prime Minister said that we must be careful what we say here because the *Hansard* is read all over the world and also published in all newspapers. Mr Speaker, I beg to disagree with him. I beg to disagree for two reasons. The first is that we must be mature enough to tell the truth to

ourselves even in the face of international public. Secondly, it will serve to tell the whole world that Nigeria is not all rotten and that there are people in Nigeria who will not stand this kind of thing and that we are striving to make good.

The last one is to emphasise what I had earlier said, that this Debate transcends personalities—it has nothing to do with individuals. It is a matter of high principle involving the prestige and future of our country. Ministers are not just ordinary men. There are some of our leaders who have been thrown up by our society as exemplifying its character and nature. They are a sort of human show-pieces in our dealings with the outside world and as such, their conduct ought to be taken as a specimen of what the rest of the stock is like.

If the hon. Minister of Finance has any capacity at all for reflective self-criticism, he would realise that his quotation from *Hamlet* in the same speech and in the course of his tribute to the Prime Minister, applies with far greater validity to him, for the purpose of this Debate. The said quotation which the hon. Minister of Finance quoted from *Hamlet* is as follows :

*"His greatness weighed his will is not his own,
For he himself is subject to his birth,
He may not, as unvalued persons do,
carve for himself,
For on his choice depends the safety and the health of the whole state."*

Either by design or oversight, my hon. Friend stopped there—

Mr Speaker : Order ! The hon. Member has two minutes to wind up.

Mr Briggs : My hon. Friend stopped there. But *Shakespeare* does not stop there. He goes on to conclude :

*"And therefore must his choice be circumscribed ;
Unto the voice and bearing of the body whereof he is the head."*

To my mind, it is these two lines that form the heart of the matter.

Therefore, on this note, I beg to move.
(*Applause from the Gallery*).

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Mr Speaker : Order. If the Gallery continues to applaud, then I will have no alternative but to clear it.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : I rise to second this Motion. In presenting the case of Her Majesty's Opposition on this Motion of Censure, I shall, with the permission of Mr Speaker, during the course of my speech answer the following questions :—

- (1) What is this Motion about ?
- (2) What is the duty of the Opposition with regard to the activities of the Government and its Ministers ?
- (3) What are the facts for this case ?
- (4) What is the standard expected of a Minister of the Crown ?
- (5) To what extent can a Minister be the director of a company ?—

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : On a point of order, I would like to point out that when the hon. Member speaks and mentions Opposition, he should only talk of the Action Group.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : On a point of order, I should like to mention that the U.P.P. is part of the Government, so we are the Opposition.

Mr Speaker : Order. I think you will have to fight that out at party campaigns and not here.

Mr Ajibola : (6) To what extent can a Minister of the Crown be a shareholder of a company ?

(7) What is meant by a Cabinet Minister and the responsibilities of such a Minister ?

This Motion is not motivated by malice. This Motion is of the best intentions. This Motion is sponsored in order to restore public confidence in the Government of the day. It will also help to alleviate the fears of the man in the street. It is also sponsored in order to put the Government of the day on the alert and to show the country and the outside world that our Government and specially our Ministers live up to the standard expected of them.

The Government tends to regard the Opposition as the brake of a car going up hill—

Mr J. M. Damla (Pankshin West) : On a point of order, I would like to call the attention of the House to the fact that the reason for

filing this Censure Motion on the Minister of Finance is that the company in which the Action Group has investment applied to the Federal Government for a loan and was refused.

Mr Speaker : Order. The hon. Member needs to read his Orders more.

Mr Ajibola : I would say that the Government tends to regard the Opposition as the brake of a car going up hill, whereas the Opposition feels that the car is going down hill. Some people say that it is the duty of the Opposition to propose nothing, to oppose everything and to turn out the Government. Others say that the duty of the Opposition is to oppose and not to support the Government. Both statements are old-fashioned. The function of the Opposition is much more complicated. Rather, it is the duty of the Opposition to show that it can manage the affairs of the nation very competently : it is the duty of the Opposition to serve as the nation's watch-dog ; it is the duty of the Opposition, whenever the Government of the day is going astray, to sound a note of warning.

This historic Motion is plain and straightforward. It is non-contentious. The facts are simple. The Motion is intended to purge one of our Ministers of any form of corruption, so that in the end he may be able to render a better and greater service to this country. A lot of public aspersion is being cast on the Minister of Finance, and we on this side of the House shall be failing in our duty if we do not table this Motion on the Floor of this House. I will now deal with some of the allegations being levelled against the Minister of Finance.

The facts of case No. 1 are as follows. Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, Leader of the House, is the Federal Minister of Finance. The said Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh is a Cabinet Minister, *i.e.*, a Member of the Council of Ministers. The said Minister has cultivated a very large Rubber Estate in Sapele, and in order to enjoy this plantation to the fullest, he now forms a Shoe Factory for which the Rubber plantation will be a feeder. In order now to benefit himself, he imposed customs duty of 3s-6d *per* pair of imported shoes, thereby creating a very much ready market for his factory production. This is the first case against him.

[MR AJIBOLA]

Let us go to case No. (2) in order to show that the Minister is guilty of abuse of office. This is according to public allegations which must be cleared on the Floor of this House. We have learnt that when the Central Bank of Nigeria was built, the firm of contractors that built the said bank, out of the materials with which the said bank was built, built a mansion at Mushin known as 'Omimi Cottage' free of charge for the said Minister in appreciation of the said contract award. I want this to be investigated.

In case No. (3), the said Minister of Finance, on or about December, 1960, established a company with £75,000 as capital and made his wife a nominal *de-jure* director whilst himself is a *de-facto* director.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) is talking of cases as if we are in a customary court.

Mr Ajibola : In case No. (4), the said Minister of Finance has a big interest in the Cement Industry now being established in Koko, Warri Division.

Case No. (5) shows that the said Minister of Finance has a big interest in the Dumez Engineering Company. There, he made his wife a director *de-jure*.

Further more, case No. (6) shows that the said Minister of Finance is a director *de-facto* of a log and timber factory somewhere in the Mid-West.

In addition, case No. (7) shows that the Minister is a proprietor of secondary schools in many parts of the Mid-West.

These are allegations levied by the public against this particular Minister, and must be investigated.

Mr B. N. Ukaegbu (Owerri South East) : I think that the text of the Motion is on the increase in customs duty on shoes. It is, therefore, irrelevant for him to mention things which do not concern increase in duties.

Mr Speaker : It could be irrelevant had it not been for the fact that the Motion is seeking the removal of the Minister himself.

Mr Ajibola : There is an Amendment filed by the Prime Minister asking for a vote of confidence in this Minister, and as such he is

open to attack on any of these grounds. By Prime Minister's Amendment, the Prime Minister has declared him open to attack.

The allegations that for every contract award by the Federal Government there is a commission to this particular Minister, must be investigated. These are allegations which must be cleared. It is in the best interest of the Minister himself that all these allegations are brought to his notice so that he may clear himself. It is also in the best interest of the Federal Government so that they can look into the matter and inform the public who is right—whether this particular Minister is right or wrong or whether the public is wrong. Let us know the facts if he has nothing to hide.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : On a point of order, I have been listening to the last speaker and at the same time taking note of any bombastic statements which may lead him to the court of law.

Mr Speaker : I suppose he is covered by Parliamentary privilege.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : On a point of order, I humbly implore the Speaker to enlighten this House. If by this Motion we are going to listen to every accusation and every allegation about this Minister, it means that this House is acting as a commission of inquiry. We have tabled an Amendment Motion on the original Motion accusing him specifically for a false increase on duty which is in connection with his shoe factory at Sapele. I am of the opinion that to bring in all what they are saying means that we have got to make an inquiry into them before we can reply.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree with you that the Motion should be confined to reasoning on his putting a duty in favour of his shoe factory, and I hope hon. Members will not be so careless in their accusations as to go beyond that into his personal character.

Mr Ajibola : Having now exposed some of the facts, the next question to be answered is, what is the standard expected of a Minister of State? In answering this question, I shall have to refer to one or two books of authority. With your permission, I beg to

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quote from a book entitled "Cabinet Government" by Sir Ivor Jennings. It is a book from the Library. Hon. Members can read it later on. This should be found in the Second Edition at page 96—

"The most elementary qualification demanded of a Minister is honesty and incorruptibility. It is however, necessary not only that he should possess this qualification, but also that he should appear to possess it".

Does the Minister of Finance possess this qualification?

Some hon. Members of the Opposition : No.

Mr Ajibola : I will leave the answer to the Government. But if the answer is in the affirmative, does he appear to possess this qualification? Our own answer, as well as that of the public, is that the Minister of Finance has fallen short of the standard expected of him.

I would also like to ask and ask another question. To what extent can a Minister of the Crown be the director of a company? These are matters that have been raised in the British House of Commons, and I will therefore refer to certain speeches made by the respective Prime Ministers of the Crown at one time or the other on this issue. I refer this Honourable House to the same authority at page 97 and, with the permission of Mr Speaker, I beg to quote—

"In 1906 the Government laid down the rule that all directorships held by Ministers must be resigned except in the case of honorary directorships in connection with philanthropic undertakings".

Some hon. Members : Who laid it down?

Mr Ajibola : That is the British Government. All these should be found in the Parliamentary Debates—Fourth Series Volume 154 column 234.

I would also like to quote further at page 98 and, with your permission, I quote—

"Mr Baldwin—(that is the then Prime Minister) stated in 1926 that the rule laid down in 1906 had become the practice".

"The rule laid down in 1906 has become the practice".

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : On a point of order, may the hon. Member address Mr Speaker, and not the House?

Mr Speaker : The Speaker is representing the House.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : On a point of order, I think that these members of the Action Group are habitual criminals. They have just drowned a government in the Western Region and now they are pointing accusing fingers on innocent people.

Mr Speaker : Order ! You are only wasting our time.

Mr Ajibola : The Members are trying to waste my time by raising unnecessary points of order. I have to quote from page 98 with your permission, Mr Speaker :

"Mr Baldwin stated in 1926 that the rule laid down in 1906 had become the practice, and added : "It has always been the practice, so far as I know, in all Cabinets with which I have had acquaintance, and I believe in Cabinets before I had the honour of service, that whenever the question of private interest comes in the Minister always makes a declaration to that effect, and sometimes does not take part in the discussion, or, if he does, it is with the full knowledge of all his colleagues.""

This rule was further reaffirmed in 1935 and also in 1949.

I will now come to the extent to which a Cabinet Minister is permitted to be a shareholder of a company. All these points are material in order to show whether the Minister of Finance had stood by the standard expected of him. And in dealing with the question of whether the Minister should be permitted to be a shareholder of a company, I shall humbly refer Mr Speaker to speeches in the House of Commons. I quote from pages 99 and 100 of the same book. When the Mover was referring to the case in New Zealand, some hon. Members were asking him to quote instances from Great Britain. That is what I am quoting. Somebody was also asking that he should quote from America. I am coming to quote from America. Mr Speaker, I beg to quote about how far a Minister can be a shareholder of a company :

"The question of shareholding was raised in the Marconi debate of 1913. Mr Asquith then laid down the following propositions :

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'The first and the most obvious is that Ministers ought not to enter into any transaction whereby their private pecuniary interest might, even conceivably, come into conflict with their public duty Again, no Minister is justified under any circumstances in using Official information, information that has come to him as a Minister, for his own private profit or for that of his friends. Further, no Minister ought to allow or to put himself into a position to be tempted to use his official influence in support of any scheme or in furtherance of any contract in regard to which he has an undisclosed private interest Again, no Minister ought to accept from persons who are in negotiation with or seeking to enter into contractual or proprietary or pecuniary relations with the State any kind of favour I will add a further proposition, which I am not sure has been completely formulated, though it has no doubt been adumbrated in the course of these Debates, and that is that Ministers should scrupulously avoid speculative investments in securities as to which, from their special means of early or confidential information, they have or may have an advantage over other people in anticipating market changes.'

This matter was of such importance that in 1937 Sir John Simon laid down the following propositions in the House of Commons. I beg to quote :

"In the first place, it is plain that in no circumstances must a man who holds the position of a Minister ever allow himself to be in such a situation that his public duty will conflict with his private interests . . . The second principle is that no man should allow himself to occupy any portion of the time which he is bound to devote to his public duties in a disregard of his public duties, and pursuing any private interest whatever, whether it is in playing golf or in the nature of business. The third principle is that inasmuch as the secrets of the Government are specially in charge of Cabinet Ministers, no Minister, and particularly, no Cabinet Minister, must in any circumstances put himself in a position where he is not able to be the complete guardian of those secrets in that there is any possibility of any private interests being served through a knowledge of those secrets."

These are authorities and we have all on many occasions acclaimed in this honourable House that the British Parliament is the Mother of Parliaments, and that is the practice of the Mother of Parliaments. What is good in Great Britain is applicable in this country if we want to live up to the standard expected of us all over the world.

Some Members have raised the point that we should quote authorities from America. We are speaking on principle. We are showing to this country and to the outside world that this question was not brought out of malice. The Minister of Finance is my personal friend. I respect him; I like him and I love him. But we have come to speak on a policy and that is the point that we are now striking. The same thing would obtain whether it is the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Mines and Power.

In the House of Lords, a proposition was laid down, and I beg to quote to this honourable House from this book entitled "*Tory M.P.*" by Simon Haxey. It is a book from the Library.

"A Committee of the House of Lords published a report in the case of Lord Murray of Elibank which had the following conclusions :

"We think it is within our province to express our strong opinion that there should be henceforth an inflexible rule to preclude those who hold any public office from entering upon any speculative transactions in stocks and shares. This statement was made on the implicit grounds that such speculation might well influence a Member's conduct in that public office."

And then an American author was quoted here again which reads as follows :

"Members of Congress should observe the correct principle that an honourable judge does not sit in a case in which he is interested. Republics are as likely to be destroyed by a corruption of morals from within as by attacks from without."

Furthermore, a distinguished German lawyer says :

"Whenever a Member of Parliament is closely connected with business circles outside, and especially with a particular concern, it

cannot be disputed that there is a danger of the conflict of his political duty with his private interests being decided in favour of the latter."

Ministers of State are trustees and custodians of public interests. And one remark must be made on all trustees alike and that is, a very high standard of honour, care, prudence and business efficiency is demanded of them. A trustee is not entitled to make profit by his trust either directly or indirectly. He is not allowed to put himself in a position where his interest and duty may conflict.

The Minister, by his conduct, has committed a breach of trust. The Minister is a Cabinet Minister and the Cabinet has been described as Her Majesty's confidential servant. In substance, the Cabinet is the directing body of the national policy consisting of the principal leaders of the party in power. It is able to forward that policy by reason of its control of the House of Representatives, consisting too of the Heads of the more important Government Departments. It is able to forward its policy by laying down the principles to be followed by the Central Administrative machine. Their service under the Crown is the legal explanation of the political fact that Ministers hold the important Government offices.

The Cabinet is a general controlling body. The Cabinet has a plethora of eminence.

Mr Speaker : This debate is not on the Cabinet.

Mr Ajibola : A Minister in such a Cabinet therefore should put the nation first, the nation second and the nation last. But our Minister of Finance, by his conduct, has put self first, self second and self last. If he has nothing to hide, let him subject himself to an enquiry.

I would prefer to give cogent example where a tribunal of enquiry was instituted when allegations of this nature were made against a Minister of the Crown.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member has one minute to wind up.

Mr Ajibola : The Minister involved was Mr Belcher, a Parliamentary Secretary in the British Parliament in 1948.

In conclusion I would say that it will be a great disservice to the nation and a great injustice to this honourable House, if the

Minister of Finance does not resign his portfolio in the Cabinet or in the alternative, surrender himself to a tribunal of inquiry as to his activities in the Government in all their ramifications.

Sir, I beg to second.

The Prime Minister (A'haji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : I rise to move an Amendment to the Motion, "Line 1, leave out from "House" to the end of the Question and *add*—"expresses its full confidence in the integrity of the Minister of Finance."

The Amendment to the Motion will now read as follows :

That this House expresses its full confidence in the integrity of the Minister of Finance.

I am very sorry to hear the two speeches made by the hon. Mover and the Seconder of the Motion. As I have always said in this House it is not good for hon. Members of this House to take undue advantage of their parliamentary privileges and make all sorts of wild allegations against Ministers.

This debate, so far, has gone beyond the terms of the Motion on the *Order Paper*. There have been allegations on the questions of commissions and contracts and all sorts of things and I think that if we are not very careful this will be the start of a kind of practice which will continue in this House. If this happens, I do not know what we shall be turning this Parliament into.

Nigeria is a young country. There are many Nigerians in business, some of them have also entered into politics, but it does not mean that after they have come into politics and are lucky to be appointed Ministers, they should throw away their former business interests. There are quite a large number of hon. Members, not only in this Federal House but also in the Regional Houses, who have got their private business interests.

Sometime ago, one hon. Member here said to me (I think the Member might be from the opposite Side or from my right) that we Ministers are doing a temporary job, and I replied that I entirely agree that we are doing a temporary job and no Minister regards his position as permanent. I hope it is not being suggested that if a businessman gets elected into Parliament and becomes a Minister, such a businessman should no longer

[PRIME MINISTER]

have business interests because he is a Member of Parliament or a Minister.

I think we had better faced realities. It has been our policy in the Federal Government and this policy has been endorsed by this House that our aim is to encourage local industries. That is the basis on which this increase in the duty on shoes has been approved and brought to this House. The whole aim is to protect local industries and the particular industry on which this Motion is being debated is only one out of twelve in the country.

This House has always talked about our unfavourable balance of trade. This imposition of duty on shoes will save us about one-quarter of a million pounds of foreign exchange. When the increase was announced the whole idea was not to increase revenue, but to protect local industries and I must say honestly that I find it very difficult to see why people should discuss this matter with such a great heat.

We in the Council of Ministers have got what we call "Ministers Code of Conduct". Whenever a Minister is appointed he has to disclose to the Prime Minister all his business interests, and I must say that when the Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh was appointed Minister, he disclosed to me all his business interests and I did not see why I should ask him to sever his connections with those interests. (*Applause*).

There might be some Ministers who disclosed some interests and have been asked to sever their connections with those interests but in this case, the Minister of Finance disclosed to me all his interests when he assumed office as Minister. When this matter was to be brought before the Cabinet, the Minister again reminded his Colleagues that he had disclosed those interests to me.... Again, before the establishment of the shoe factory, the Minister also disclosed all his interests and I did not think that it was wrong for the Minister to have such interests.

I had wanted to give it back to the people on that Side but I think it is wrong. The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) quoted extensively from Reports of Parliamentary Proceedings in the Commonwealth, and particularly, the one dealing with New Zealand. Before he started his quotations he said

that some students in Canada made a cutting of a newspaper article and sent to me and that they even sent to me the name of a highly placed politician. Well, they sent to me a cutting of a newspaper article written by one Canadian Member of Parliament accusing us of being corrupt in Nigeria and doing all sorts of things; the stupid Canadian Member of Parliament said "the Chairman of the Senate Committee told him that if he gave him the money, all would be all right." We do not have any Chairman of the Senate Committee in this Country.

The man is a very stupid fellow but I will be very pleased if my hon. Friend, Mr Briggs, would care to tell me the name of the highly placed politician, and if there is some truth in what he was trying to suggest, we might be able to do something about it. I have always told this House that I am very anxious to make examples of either Ministers or anybody we can catch indulging in malpractices. If the allegation is true, why did the hon. Member not come and tell me?

As I have said I do not know of any highly placed politician who is the Chairman of the Senate Committee. Well, it might be the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) himself. (*Laughter*).

I do not like this debate to continue with the unnecessary heat with which it started. That is why I want, at this stage, to water it down a bit. I want us to approach this matter with all sense of responsibility. I also want to tell the House straightaway that I, as Prime Minister, cannot accept that whenever a man is appointed a Minister, such a man has to sever his connections with all private interests. I will not accept it. (*Applause*). If I am satisfied that this is not going to interfere with the Minister's duty as a Minister, then I will ask him to continue. But if I am sure that it is going to interfere with his duty, it is also my duty to tell him to sever his connection.

I would appeal to the House to stop making these wild allegations and to try to bring points which will help me as the Prime Minister in dealing with situations of this kind.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Defence (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): There has been a vicious and sustained attack on the Federal

Minister of Finance. From the very nature of the attack one can see that it is all inspired by enemies of Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, and the enemies of Nigeria.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, the Minister of Defence is imputing motives. We have no personal animosity against the Minister of Finance. It is a matter of principle.

The Minister of Defence : There is no principle involved. We all know the person who wrote the speech for the hon. Mr Briggs.

The integrity of Chief Okotie-Eboh is high and it is well known all over the world. Chief Okotie-Eboh is an international figure and in his capacity as Minister of Finance he has done a lot to put our country on the map of the world. It is to his everlasting credit that the Nigerian pound has, and still maintains, its value. Nigeria is now among the countries which have a strong currency. This is an achievement of which every Nigerian should be proud. To seek to paint a black picture of the Minister of Finance is to blackmail the country.

I would strongly advise those who indulge in these reckless speeches to remember that our newspapers and Reports of Parliamentary Proceedings are read outside Nigeria by people who do not know those who have made the speeches. If they know that the speeches come from people like the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*), nobody will take note of them. (*Laughter*). If millions of Nigerians know that this attack has been made by Mr Briggs, they will not worry about it but it is not so outside Nigeria. Those outside this country will only know that the speech has been made in Parliament. If such a thing should continue to happen, I think we will all stand to lose.

Unlike Mr Briggs, before Chief Okotie-Eboh joined the Government, he was a man of substance and a successful businessman. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr L. J. Dosumnu (Lagos Central) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance has a choice of whether to remain in business or to resign from business.

The Minister of Defence : He established a rubber factory in Sapele which still provides means of livelihood for many people. Before

becoming a Minister Chief Okotie-Eboh had been a man of substance and a successful businessman. He built several schools which give education and training to over two thousand children. Hon. Members can see, therefore, that he had joined the Government not because of financial benefit, but to help in building a nation to which he has made a substantial contribution. When the historians write about the development of this country, I am sure Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh's contribution as a citizen of Nigeria will feature prominently.

Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh places the problem of the nation before his own and before everything else. The Government has never under-rated the problem of unemployment which faces the country to-day, and has urged that everybody should assist in overcoming it. The effective solution to this problem is industrialisation. Anybody should be welcome if he intends to start some industries. Without protection and encouragement, local industries can never survive. We have to acknowledge our gratitude to Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh for going another step further in the effort to assist in the industrialisation of this country. The shoe factory which he has established will use local materials and, above all, provide employment for many people.

I am sure hon. Members will readily agree with me that this is an effort which is praiseworthy and should be emulated by patriotic Nigerians who have the means of doing so. (*Hear, hear*). This is what the members of the Action Group should have done instead of squandering the money of the Western Region. It is only by emulating patriotic Nigerians that the country will be made self-reliant and self-sufficient eventually. Some hon. Members criticise solely for criticism's sake. They should know that by their speeches they do a lot of harm to this country.

It was alleged that the increase of extra shilling in duty *per* pair of shoe is to enable Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh to benefit from it. This allegation shows clearly the ignorance of those people. The increase was meant to protect local industry so that producers may be able to break even. Without this they cannot survive, which means that thousands of people will be rendered jobless.

[MINISTER OF DEFENCE]

As I said before, those who brought this Motion are the enemies of this country. What Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh is trying to do is to help local industry, and hon. Members of the Action Group are helping those who are dumping their goods in this country, who go round lobbying them and giving them money. Many of the members of the Action Group are financed by these firms. If these industries are not encouraged, thousands of people will be rendered jobless because of the reckless speeches of members of the Action Group in this House. Anybody who takes note of these reckless speeches is an enemy of this country. The people whom members of the Action Group brought to the Gallery ought to know that they are their enemies—

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North): On a point of order, the Minister of Defence should address the Speaker and not hon. Members.

The Minister of Defence: What I am saying is that the people whom members of the Action Group brought and who are doing some yelling in the Gallery ought to know that the people speaking on the narrow Benches on the other side are their enemies. All we are trying to do is to provide employment for the people of this country. What they want done is for the Japanese to come and dump their goods here so that they can go and lobby the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) and give him some money to come and talk nonsense here.

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): On a point of order, I very strongly object to that imputation of motive.

Several hon. Members: No, no.

Mr Briggs: Furthermore, anybody who knows me knows that I am incorruptible, I cannot be bought.

Mr Speaker: I remember when the Mover of the Motion was moving his Motion, he did impute quite a number of motives not only on the Minister of Finance but on the Council of Ministers as a whole, and I think this is a return bout. (*Applause*).

The Minister of Defence: We heard it from a reliable source that the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is on the pay roll of the Action Group receiving £3,000 a year. Will

he tell us where the money is coming from? Without industries many people will be rendered jobless. This is the first step being taken by the Government, and when the local industries can satisfy the needs of Nigeria an embargo will be placed on the importation of such shoes.

The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) said that the two factories he mentioned were not in existence. I will like him to go to all these factories, these industries are there. This is a normal practice as commonly known all over the world. A young industry can hardly show profit, and even when it does, the idea is to plough back the profit into the industry to expand it and thereby give more employment to the people.

As I have often said, it is the duty of every citizen of this country to encourage local industry so as to minimise the problem of unemployment. It is only natural that people want to buy cheaper things, but it must be realised that the money to buy these things must be found first. As I said before, the countries which dump these articles on the Nigerian markets are interested only in selling and not in buying from us. It beats my imagination that any good citizen of this country can come to this honourable House and table a Motion to condemn an act which seeks to protect local industries.

The people who tabled this Motion said that this principle is wrong. I cannot see anything wrong in that. If somebody had industries before he became a Minister and now he is improving on them in order to give millions of people employment—

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): Does a person need to be a Minister before he provides employment for others?

The Minister of Defence: We know some people who squandered millions of pounds and it was brought to light. Let the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) tell us what they did to provide means of livelihood for the people of this country.

An hon. Member: Nothing.

The Minister of Defence: Yes, nothing. And it is not surprising that a member of the Action Group should table a Motion of this type on the Floor of this House. If the name

interests back to themselves and they resume their position.

What I like about the action of the Minister of Finance is that when he made his statement on the Floor of this House, he placed before his

Chief Rosiji : I think that the opportunity provided by this Motion will enable the Prime Minister to reconsider the rules which he had set down. There is indication from his Speech that he has already

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of Nigeria has been dragged into the mud, it is due to the action of the Action Group and nobody else. What happened is that the leader of the Action Group went to England to paint this country black and after that an inquiry was instituted. If members of the Action Group are people of moral character, they should have committed suicide. They should not come here at all. I think we have established a moral conduct here for the people of this country. The people know all these things and they know what members of the Action Group are doing. There is, therefore, no need for them to come here and accuse some other people.

In any case, I would like to thank the Mover of this Motion for one thing. This Motion has given us an opportunity to ratify or to reaffirm our implicit confidence in the Minister of Finance. (*Applause*). Millions of the people of this country, perhaps minus two or three of the Members on the other side who belong to the Action Group, have implicit confidence in the Minister of Finance. (*Applause*). We pray to God that the Minister's shadow may never grow less. May He prolong his life, strengthen him further and give him power to continue with the good services that he has been giving to this country. (*Applause*).

12.20 p.m.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): For two classes of reasons which I wish to give later, it is obvious that the Motion which was brought here this morning is bound to fail. (*Applause*). The Motion was moved and seconded by two lawyers and they were too legalistic in their approach. These people are my juniors—

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North): May we know if the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) is a Queen's Counsel?

Chief Rosiji : As I said before, these people are my juniors, and I hope they will not mind it if I teach them a thing or two about law. If we were in a law court, I would simply raise a preliminary objection and the case would finish.

There can be no offence without law. I think that is a principle which is accepted not only in the law courts but also by ordinary people outside. Now, the indictment which is supposed to be brought here—which indeed is

not the text of the Motion, I shall dilate on that later—has not been brought under any rule or law of this nation or this Parliament. The Mover and the Seconder of this Motion have quoted very copiously from British practice and from the practice in New Zealand. This is Nigeria. Any charge that is brought here must be brought under Nigerian law. On this issue, there is a Nigerian law. On this issue, there is a Nigerian rule and a Nigerian practice. It is surprising to note that neither the Mover of the Motion nor the Seconder said anything about Nigerian rule and Nigerian practice. I think that probably if they have ever been Ministers in their lives they would have known the fact.

Their ignorance has been corrected by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister who has given the Nigerian rule in this Parliament here to-day. The rule which I have read myself, when I was a Minister, and which operates in the Federal Government, and similar one too which operates also in Eastern, Western and the Northern Regions, is that whenever any Minister assumes office he should declare his interests in all businesses. This is one. The second one is that whenever any matter is being discussed in the Cabinet which affects those interests, he should furthermore declare such interests. Thirdly, that no Minister should use his office to benefit deliberately and to the detriment of this country. (*Interruptions*).

I wish hon. Members will let me speak. I did not interrupt them when they were speaking. Their conscience is worrying them.

The third principle is that no Minister would use his office to benefit himself to the detriment of this country.

These people have based their argument on British practice and on the practice in New Zealand. They have not used the rule and practice which is known not only in this Parliament but also in all other Parliaments of the Federation of Nigeria. In such circumstances, the normal thing to do in the court is to say that the case be dismissed.

I would like to quote the text of this Motion, and I would like this House to follow it very carefully. It reads as follows—

That this House views with grave concern the admission by the Minister of Finance that the recent increase to 3s-6d per pair in customs duty on imported shoes will benefit, along with

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

because of our nationalism, everybody wants to go into politics. That explains why we find that most of the capable people we have in the country are in politics to-day. If we are now to say that those who are in politics should not do business I think it will be tantamount to cutting our nose to spite our face.

I am holding no brief for the hon. Minister of Finance. I am speaking purely as a Nigerian. If the Minister searches his mind and he finds that he has not used his position as Minister of Finance to benefit himself, we are satisfied. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Hon. Members must appreciate that there are Reporters who take down their speeches and unless there are less interruptions and noise they may not be able to hear.

Chief Rosiji : From what we have heard on the Floor of this House from the speeches of the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion there has been no (and I want to emphasise this point) there has been no evidence from their speeches that the Minister definitely used his position to benefit himself.

It has been said that there are eleven other factories making shoes in Nigeria, and I know that when an application of this nature is made it is not made to the Minister of Finance; it is made to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. Why did they not consider carpeting the Minister of Commerce and Industry since it is clear that it is he who approves the application? If the Minister of Commerce and Industry does not approve the application the matter dies and the Minister of Finance never sees it again.

I am convinced that there has been no evidence brought this morning in this House to show that the Minister of Finance has used his office to benefit himself to the detriment of the country, and, therefore, I oppose this Motion vehemently, and I support the Amendment.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I rise to support wholeheartedly the Amendment to this Motion, and to oppose very vehemently and very vigorously the original Motion.

It is an indisputable and incontrovertible fact (and the Prime Minister has confirmed this by moving a motion of implicit confidence) that the

Minister of Finance is a sincere, responsible and devoted son of Nigeria. I am asking in the names of hon. Members of this House—the accredited representatives of the people—who believe in the ballot box, that the Minister of Finance should continue with his great effort to foster the economic growth of this country, and by so doing provide employment for so many millions of the unemployed people in this country. I would like to emphasise that we have implicit confidence in our Minister of Finance.

The Prime Minister has well covered the main points concerning this Motion, and the other Gentleman who could be described as versed in matters of this kind, the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*), has cleared a lot of grounds. I only wish to make some reference to points raised by the Mover and the Seconder of the original Motion.

In the first place I should like to describe their statements as ill-conceived, ill-motivated and dangerously irresponsible. They argue that before a man is appointed a Minister he will have to divest himself of all his holdings and shares, if he has any. This suggestion, in my humble opinion, is funny and silly, because this would mean that men of experience and ability would not be prepared to surrender whatever interests they had before accepting ministerial appointment.

It has been made clear by the Prime Minister that, according to our ministerial code of conduct, a Minister is required to declare his interests to the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Cabinet, and it is up to the Prime Minister or the members of the Council of Ministers to decide whether the interests will in any way conflict with the Minister's normal responsibility as a public servant. In this connection the Minister of Finance had already declared his interests to the Prime Minister and his colleagues and we have been told that it was found that his business interests will not run counter to his official duties.

The Minister of Finance had chosen the name, *Omimi*, in order to connect the company with himself in the public mind, and this is in accord with the frank and obvious sincerity with which our Minister of Finance has tackled his responsibility.

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Appointment to a ministerial post does not deprive a man of his legitimate interests as a private citizen. All that is necessary, and all that is required is for him not to permit his private interests to conflict with his normal duties. There is no conflict in this case at all and therefore it is not surprising since the Minister has commendably and in accordance with the Government policy taken the initiative to try his hands in new ventures in the country and thereby provide employment for the people.

The Mover of the Motion, the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*), has made reference to some companies which he alleges are owned by the Minister of Finance. If I am allowed, Sir, I should like to make reference to some companies belonging to some people in this country, and I would ask the House to listen very attentively.

First of all, we have an Estate Company, the breakdown of which is as follows :—

DIDEOLU ESTATES LIMITED

Incorporated 30-12-59.

Nominal Capital £20,000 of £1 each.

Issued Capital £19,998.

Shareholders

Chief Obafemi Awolowo—

Politician £5,000

Hannah Awolowo—Housewife £4,999

Olusegun Awolowo—Law

Student £2,000

Omobola Awolowo—Student .. £2,000

Olatokunbo Awolowo—

Student £2,000

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : On a point of order, the hon. Member is mentioning Chief Awolowo, who is not here to defend himself.

Several hon. Members : Sit down ! (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member is mentioning the Awolowos and not merely Chief Awolowo.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : Thank, Sir, that is why we welcome democracy. As I was saying, I was giving you the breakdown of the company. I will continue.

Directors

Mrs Hannah Awolowo

Ayodele Awolowo

Olusegun Awolowo.

Registered Office : Ijebu Bye Pass Ibadan.

I will now give you the other one. This one is, as follows—

DIDEOLU STORES LIMITED

Certificate of Incorporation issued 27-1-60.

Nominal Share Capital £10,000

Issued Capital £9,998

Shareholders

Hannah Idowu Dideolu Awolowo £4,999

Olusegun Awolowo £999

Omotola Awolowo £1,000

Oluwole Awolowo £1,000

Olatokunbo Awolowo £1,000

Ayodele Awolowo £1,000

Head Office : Ijebu Bye Pass Ibadan.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : On a point of order, I would like, humbly, to ask the Speaker to tell the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) and the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) to please keep quiet and listen carefully.

Mr V. T. Shisha (Iharev Masev) : The Member for Dambatta is saying "Awolowo", "Awolowo"; how many Awolowo's are there ?

Mr Speaker : I may know of only one Shisha, but I do know of many Awolowo's.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : Mr Speaker, from this you, and, I hope, hon. Members of this House, will easily see the difference between our Minister of Finance and the former Leader of the Opposition, Chief Awolowo. The Minister of Finance is sincere, while Chief Awolowo was making *wuru wuru*.

Mr Speaker : Order ! It is now one o'clock, and, under the standing Orders, sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr U. O. Ayeni (Afenmai North West) : I rise to speak on the Motion as amended by the Prime Minister. After listening both to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence and my hon. Friend, the Member for Dambatta (*The Sarkin Bai*), there is very little one can put in. But all the same I have to correct the ideas expressed by the Mover of the original Motion, and his Secunder.

[MR AYENI]

Now the speech referred to in the *Hansard* which the Mover read shows quite clearly the sincerity of the Minister of Finance himself. He said at that time that he had nothing to hide and that was why he gave the whole information. I think if the Minister of Finance wanted to hide anything from this House he would not have given us all that information, and as a matter of fact we could not have known anything about it at all. The fact is that that speech which the Mover referred to defeats the very Motion he was trying to move in the morning.

One other aspect is that some of us know so much about Chief Okotie-Eboh before he became an active party politician. He was a big businessman and he was a prosperous citizen of this country. The fact that one is a successful businessman does not mean that, as soon as one becomes a Minister, one should sell all that one has, or has to do away with all of one's possessions and be in a position in which the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) wants every Minister to be. Ministerial appointment is not synonymous with poverty.

The main thing which we should think about on this matter is the duties placed on imported shoes and rubber. The argument is purely economic, it is not just the question of sentiment. The increase of 3s-6d on the duty placed on imported rubber and shoes was intended to protect the interest of younger industries in this country, and I believe that there are such industries like the Omimi Shoe factory. The Omimi shoe factory at Sapele, we all agree and as the Minister has told us, is not a monopolistic one. If the Omimi factory was a monopolistic business then the whole of the argument which was advanced this morning would hold water. But because of its competitive position with other eleven shoe factories it therefore ruled out the monopoly positions of any factory. Moreover, the Omimi factory has not started to produce anything at all. So the idea of the Minister trying to benefit by that does not arise at all.

The Member for Degema has also read a long statement made by a Minister of New Zealand in the Parliament of New Zealand. I think the Prime Minister has made that point clear and it is needless to say that in this instance at any rate "what is good for the

goose may not necessarily be equally good for the gander". We have our own code of conduct, if we are going to face up to comparison. For instance in the old Commonwealth countries they have a limit to the amount one could spend for an election.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : This House is bound under the Standing Order to listen attentively to the debate and in silence. The Mover and the Seconder of this Motion are being disturbed by a volume of noise in this House. I wonder how the Mover and the Seconder would comply with the provision of the Standing Order : that the Mover and the Seconder of the original Motion are entitled to reply to the debate. We are being so terribly disturbed that we cannot hear what is actually being said.

Mr Speaker : Thank you for drawing the attention of the Chair to that. I think it will do us good if we comply with the Standing Orders of the House.

Mr Ayeni : Everybody knows how much the party to which the Member for Degema East belongs spent during the last Federal Elections. Therefore he cannot draw a parallel between himself and what people do in other parts of the world. Quite vividly, from what was read to us this morning, the Prime Minister of New Zealand gave some five reasons or five instances in reaching his decision. The fifth of them was that—

The personal interests of the two Ministers concerned did not in any way influence them or their colleagues in the decision taken by the Cabinet.

That was precisely what the Minister of Finance told us, that he revealed his own interests to the Prime Minister and that if a matter was being discussed which was even remotely connected with this, he had nothing to say. So there is no point in belabouring all these voluminous arguments which people opposite are adducing.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) spoke of Sir Ivor Jennings on the conduct of Cabinet Ministers. I think that Sir Ivor Jennings was more of a book-writer than a practising politician.

The Minister of Finance has revealed his interest in the Omimi Factory. He has declared his interest to the Prime Minister and to his

Cabinet colleagues. The very name of the factory Omimi is obviously connected with the name of the Minister of Finance. I think he is even justified in giving that Company a name by which he, the Minister of Finance, is popularly known.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) and those who spoke earlier on that Motion could not have even connected it with him, but for the fact that the Minister himself chose to tell us in a very honest language that this is a company he was interested in. He did not hide it. As the Sarkin Bai pointed out, some people floated some companies and gave them names quite remote from their own, and distributed the shares even to little children still in school.

Now the increase in duty, which is the main thing in this debate, is justified. The aim is to stop the flood of cheap, imported shoes and to build up the Nigerian Industries behind the tariff wall. We quite believe that the growth of shoe industries will help to correct Nigeria's unfavourable balance of trade. We shall save at least about £1 million every year in Foreign Exchange, and, besides that, industries will provide a lot of employment for many Nigerians. It is hard to get the capital to float an industry and on the other hand it is hard to give employment to people. This is what the Minister has done in this case.

Increases in duty will not lead to a rise in the price of shoes, if that is the argument, since the Nigerian industry, as I believe, can meet the effective demands of the people. It is only when demand exceeds supply and demand remains what it is that prices can rise. In this case we are anticipating a great deal of supply and at the same time we hope that the people will demand to such an extent that the price will remain what it is.

References made were very irrelevant and I do not want to trouble Members about such. I think the Motion, as amended, commends itself to this House and I beg to support.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): I wish to oppose, with all the emphasis at my command, the Motion moved by Messrs W. O. Briggs and Co. Limited. I am supporting in entirety the amendment made by the hon. the Prime Minister.

He that lives in a glass house should not throw stones. I am terribly surprised at that handful of people who regard themselves as Members of the Opposition. During the course of my speech, I am going to make an appeal to this honourable House that a line of demarcation be drawn on this Opposition Bench. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order! The House must listen in silence.

Chief Okunowo: I think it is not a crime to be on the Opposition Bench. It all depends on how one comports oneself. Any Member who comports himself in a dignified manner, I can assure him that he will be respected by the whole House and if he comports himself anyhow, he has had it.

Evil communications corrupt good manners. I happen to have known two, three or four Members of the Action Group. I have known that some of them were born with silver spoons in their mouths, but I do not know by what they have their food these days, whether by steel spoons or something else.

It seems to me that there are always two ways to destroy a country; either by ammunitions or by vicious propaganda. I would like to appeal to the House that this matter should be viewed with all seriousness. As mentioned this morning by the hon. Prime Minister, our *Hansard* is read all over the world and for certain people to have the audacity to come to the Floor of this House to impeach the character of a man of the calibre of the Minister of Finance, a man who is known all over the world, as said this morning by the Minister of Defence, is most annoying and most disgraceful.

These people are like the ostrich hiding its head in the sand whereas its body is outside. These people should not have had the audacity to come before this House and attack our Minister of Finance who, by his sole effort, has been able to do more than anybody for this country.

I would like to appeal to the Speaker, because it is not unlikely that some of these people may be good in future, not to use his good offices or the Parliamentary privilege to impose punishment on them, otherwise I see no reason why these people should not be given twelve strokes of the cane.

[CHIEF OKUNOWO]

It has always been said that when a man is accused of stealing, he should avoid playing with a lamb because when a man is accused of stealing and he does not avoid playing with a lamb, he may be accused of stealing the lamb. Daily we hear of these people's mischievous ways, their speeches and actions and yet they will not keep away from doing evil. I think it is about time that something must be done about these people. They cannot come to the Floor of this House and try to smear the character of one that is very precious to this country, one who has elevated this country.

I would like to make an appeal to some Members of the Government Bench, to stop making use of these people. If certain Members on the Government Bench have their own personal jealousies or their own personal grievances, they should not try to make use of these people because they are instruments of evil and they will always make themselves available to be used as instruments of evil. I would like to appeal to the Members on the Government Bench not to allow these people to ruin their country because this is our own country and it is very precious to us all.

These people are just like foxes that have lost their tails. They have lost their tails and all they want to do now is to smear the character of every Member of this House. To them no Minister is good, nobody is good in this House, with the exception of themselves and themselves alone. They wake with their importance, they sleep with their importance and they are going to perish with their importance.

An hon. Member : Speak on the Motion.

Chief Okunowo : I want now to speak on the Motion. I used to know the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) when he was a very good man, but to-day he is already corrupt. I know for certain that he is regularly paid.

Mr Briggs : I am not paid.

Chief Okunowo : Oh yes, he draws £3,000 all right. He is an agent. I do not know of the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*), but I know that the Member for Degema is regularly paid.

Mr Briggs : On a point of explanation, I am saying on the Floor of this House that I do not

receive a farthing from anybody. I am speaking on conviction and anybody who knows me will agree with what I am saying.

Chief Okunowo : I would only like to appeal to this honourable House that it is about enough. These people have totally failed to destroy this country by ammunition and the only method they are now resorting to is to see that our *Hansard* is full of unprintable material, which I do not think is good for this country.

I would like to appeal further that in future a Motion of this kind should not be allowed to be debated in this House. By allowing this kind of Motion we are helping to drag the name of this country in the mud. Although we say we are practising democracy, yet if democracy is too much, it is not going to be in the interest of this country. We may not be surprised to see these people tomorrow come here again with another vicious propaganda just to be able to give people something to read which will not be in the interest of the country.

I beg to support.

3.18 p.m.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I am grateful—

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo) : I think it is necessary that we exercise a little more patience. Before the Minister of Finance gets up to speak, I would advise the Speaker to allow more Members to speak so that we may get more people in the Gallery as we had in the morning.

Mr Speaker : Thank you for your advice.

The Minister of Finance : I am very grateful to our respected Prime Minister, my hon. Friend and respected Colleague, the Minister of Defence, as well as hon. Members from all sides of the House who have spoken on this Motion.

I would like to crave the indulgence of the House as I know that there are many of my Colleagues and hon. Members who would like to speak on this Motion, and I think the Speaker will grant them the opportunity to do so.

Personally, I did not propose to speak on this Motion. Indeed what else could I say after the Prime Minister of the Federation had spoken on this subject on the Floor of this House? It is enough for me in my political career to feel proud that on one occasion people who miscalculated had given me,

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amongst many, the opportunity for the Prime Minister of the Federation to move a vote of confidence in me. Also it is an additional source of joy to me that no less a personality than the Minister of Defence seconded the Motion.

As I said, I did not intend as perhaps on previous occasions to throw any abuse at anybody, but certain mis-statements were made that I think I should correct, and that is just what I want to do.

Now, God moves in a mysterious way. I would like to remind this country that for no less than eight years the whole of the Action Group in the Western Region used their Press, their Courts, their Native Authority Police, their Chiefs to try to destroy one person in Nigeria and that person is no other person than my poor self. It is not a secret in this country. It is well-known everywhere that when *Aiyekoto* was in the *Daily Express* there was nothing new that was said here to-day that *Aiyekoto* had not published. Even if I go overseas with a Secretary-Typist it must be news for the *Daily Express* because it is Festus. If I cough it must be news for the Action Group and in their attempt to destroy me, God destroyed the Action Group and will continue to destroy them.

It ought to be something of a mystery to everybody in Nigeria that such a powerful party like the Action Group with a Government should set themselves to pursue one man and one man alone. Even on the Tribunal, while I was in London, they were after me, they wanted me to come and give evidence: the Minister of Defence and myself. Only Festus, Festus all the time. Even in the Court of Law they still mention my name, just because I refused to betray my conscience to the Action Group. They have done everything in this world to get me and I refused to make company with people who have no conscience and no fear of God in their mind.

What are the facts? The fact is as you have been told by my hon. Colleague. It is not for me to blow my own trumpet, but the whole nation will realise that I challenged the hon. Chief Awolowo in Nigeria openly to let us state what we were worth. I gave one condition, that in order that people may be able

to assess our worth to date, we must declare what we were worth before we became Ministers. That was the condition. Chief Awolowo was a Letter writer when I was a manager of a company. And before I go to correct this mistake—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): My hon. Friend is being irrelevant. Chief Awolowo is not the subject to the Debate.

The Minister of Finance: Before I start to correct the mistake, I want to say that I registered one company in 1963, a shoe company, and people begin to move Motions. In 1943, twenty years ago, I owned four companies namely: the Omimi Venture, the Novelty Venture, the Paramount Venture and the Afro-Nigerian Import and Export Company.

Since as far back as 1942 people in the Mid-West have known that I own the Zik's Academy Secondary School with commercial bias, the Sapele Academy Grammar School with a bias for science, and the Girls Academy, the largest single Primary School in the whole of Sapele.

When I entered the Western Legislature in 1952, when no Minister of the Action Group had a car, I came to the House in a Buick and an Opel Kapitan.

People talk about rubber. It takes seven to eight years for rubber to grow. So, If I own a rubber plantation now, did I plant it when I became Minister?

Several hon. Members: No.

The Minister of Finance: My rubber factory and plantation, as Members may know, used to export an average of three hundred tons of rubber every month before I became a Minister and people are suggesting that I acquired them when I became a Minister. They want me to give them to the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) so that he can become a rich man and I should be a poor man. (*Laughter*).

Hon. Members have been told that the company, the Omimi Shoe Company, is owned eighty per cent by me. What are the facts, Sir? The company is certainly owned sixty per cent indigenous by Festus Okotie-Eboh & Sons Ltd., which Company was incorporated on the 27th day of August, 1960.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

The aims of the company are to carry on in Nigeria or elsewhere the business of planters, growers and cultivators of rubber, coffee, cocoa and other products of the kind, and to treat, prepare and render marketable, buy, sell and dispose of any such products either in their raw or manufactured state. This is a policy that every progressive Nigerian should adopt.

Members were misinformed this morning that I owned another twenty *per cent*. The fact of it is that the twenty *per cent* is owned by a company which is known as the International Investment Company Limited, 241 Igbosere Road, Lagos. This company was registered on the 26th day of July, 1962, and the registration number is 3077 and the directors are Mr E. E. Carlier, who is General Manager of S.C.O.A., Mr S. Nomoja, Mr J. A. Lawrence and the entire shares of this company are owned by S.C.O.A. It will be interesting to note that when I contacted the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to pay and get the particulars of this company, just because somebody wanted to deceive this House, the file had vanished from the custody of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, stolen by the Member for Degema.

Mr Briggs : As a matter of fact, Sir—

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame, *Ole, ole!*

Mr Speaker : I do not want to name a particular Member, but if anyone catches my eye as a persistent interrupter I shall not hesitate to do so.

Mr Briggs : It was only this morning that we got this file. I did not go there myself. When I sent somebody there on Friday and Saturday, the file was missing. They said it was with the Registrar and it was only this morning that it was given to me. It was stolen by these people opposite.

The Minister of Finance : I want to say that my hon. Friend, the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*)—

Mr A. U. D. Mba (Owerri North) : This is a serious point. We do not know whether it is a practice now that people should go to Government offices and remove files.

Mr Speaker : Unless you are raising a point of order, I think you are likely to cause some

irritation which may be inconvenient to the House.

The Minister of Finance : Now that my hon. Friend, the Member for Degema, has said that he had only just seen the file I hope he will be bold enough to stand on the Floor of this House and say that he was telling a deliberate lie in this House when he said that a company owned by S.C.O.A. was owned by me under any camouflage. Not only that, when they searched further they discovered that all the documents regarding Chief Enahoro and Sons Limited had been stolen by these same people in anticipation of the return of Chief Enahoro. That is the type of thing the Action Group does in this country.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of order, though not really a point of order, I do not really know, but I am just trying to think—

Mr Speaker : If you are not raising a point of order there is no need for you to talk.

Mr Ekanem : I am raising a point of order now.

Mr Speaker : What order ?

Mr Ekanem : Standing Order No. 28.

The Minister of Finance : Now, my hon. Friend in the course of his arguments said that some of the shoe companies had closed down. That, certainly, is the support for the action of Government. It is because these companies cannot continue to produce shoes due to the dumping of shoes here from abroad that some of them have closed down. Do we want to close down Nigerian companies to enable overseas companies to take over ?

Several hon. Members : No !

The Minister of Finance : That is the point.

Now, I will go further to say that my hon. Friend knew that in 1960 as Minister of Finance I also presented increased duty for shoes here and there, and though I was a Minister of Finance then, to my detriment, I imposed increased duty on rubber which is my pre-occupation. If I were a dishonest man I would even have taken advantage and shipped my rubber before duty was increased, but I never did. Everybody knows that I used to entertain people in the *Water Club* at Sapele ;

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when I increased duty on alcohol last year, I never took the advantage of asking my Club to pile up drinks for two years or so. If I were dishonest I would have done so, and it would have been known. That I did not do it has shown my clear intention. Everybody knows that I am in Lagos for my ministerial duty, and God will punish me if I betray the country and the Prime Minister.

What I was saying was that the confidence imposed on me by the Prime Minister is so important that I would not because of a shilling on a pair of shoes betray that confidence.

Now, before duty was imposed representations were made by several companies, and representations were made even to the World Bank by shoe manufacturers in the Eastern Region whom the Mover of the original Motion regarded as petty. If the rich men must exist should petty men not live as well?

Now, what happened after the imposition of duty is what I will read, for the purpose of record, I shall hand over the original to the official Reporters. The letter which I received from the Eastern Region reads as follows:—

THE EASTERN SHOE MAKER ASSO.,
c/o 62 Aggrey Road,
PORT HARCOURT.
4.4.63.

THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE,
Chief Festus Okotie Eboh,
Lagos, Nigeria.

ACCEPT CONGRATULATION ON BEHALF OF
THE EASTERN SHOE MAKERS ASSOCIATION
PORT HARCOURT

On your Government response to some of our requests contained in our welcome Address to Mr D. H. Decaux Industrial Economist and member for World Bank during his tour recently.

Representation on this particular issue was not only made to the Government but was also made to the International Economist from the International Bank, so that it is not just something that fell from the blue. Now, I shall continue—

The Association demanded increase duties on imported shoes and sandals in the country so as to protect the indigenous manufacturers in the market, and further demanded the total "BAN" on all imported Footweares as was done in other independent countries.

Wishing you a success and freedom for all and sundries.

(Sgd.) D. U. ORIAKU
Secretary
(Sg) R. O. OZOR
Chairman (FOR THE EASTERN SHOE MAKERS ASSOCIATION)

They made representations before the duty was imposed. My Colleagues here will agree that the representations went as far back as 1960. Anyone can trace that if he cares to. Since 1960 these representations had been persistent, and I say it on my word of honour in this place that both officials in Commerce and Industry and my officials have persistently since 1960 been examining these things. I was advised. I do not just do things like that. I was advised by officials that unless this protection is given to the shoe industry it will never thrive in Nigeria. It will die a natural death. So, I am obviously carrying out my duty with all honesty and not for profit making.

It is not a secret, wherever I went in the world or in this country people always asked me what I did to the Action Group that they wanted to kill me.

The Action Group cannot even cover their sins now because they are too well known even by their friends overseas. It is too well known that the dishonesty of the Action Group leaders be they Ministers or otherwise is clear all over the world. By the time the money which they paid to their broadcasters overseas is no more they will find that the truth will continue to grow. By the grace of God I will survive. They have been trying to remove me as a Minister. They should leave it to the Prime Minister to remove me any time he wants to. He will not remove me just because two riff-raffs like Briggs and the other fellow have come to talk nonsense in this place.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East): I wish to thank you very sincerely for giving me this opportunity to speak, and in this case I have to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister of this nation who has made our work very simple. You will agree, as the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) had earlier on pointed out, that the Motion for which we were all geared up this morning was not moved. What was moved as I was trying to point out to this honourable House when Mr Briggs was speaking was a statement to assassinate a

[CHIEF ABII]

character adding a lot of rumours here and there which could only be presented before a commission of inquiry. In that respect I thought that there was no need for the Minister of Finance to reply to this nonsense, because before this morning what we came to hear was that the Minister of Finance had declared his interest, therefore, the increased duty on shoes would benefit his Omimi Factory at Sapele, and he should resign. This means that Mr Briggs had acted formally according to his own class of people. I shall give you an example. In my own town if we find two or three men are thieves from the same family everybody from that family is suspected and is a thief. That is what we do in my place and I hope that is what is being done throughout the whole country, and the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) knows that. That is why I want to make this statement.

We have come to a stage now in this country when we must declare our position. There is no need for decent men to be mixing with thieves. Now, here is a lawyer who knows the rules of things, he put up a Motion and when it was time to move that Motion he refused to move it. He only got up and gave all the nonsense he had gathered from outside to this House; as a result the whole of this morning was wasted.

This morning he gave us an example of of Select Committee. He said the Select Committee of the New Zealand Parliament submitted a report on the code of conduct of their Ministers. Even though New Zealand is a member of the Commonwealth it has a right to institute a Select Committee to look into the ministerial conduct of the Ministers there. There, they set up the Committee and that Committee submitted a report to which their Prime Minister replied. Nobody has ever requested that this Parliament should set up a Select Committee to do such and such a thing, and we have not had anyone to give us a report on ministerial conduct in Nigeria. How could Nigeria be judged by the standard of small New Zealand which has got its own standard based on the circumstances (*Interruption*). Members should please give me the chance to talk.

The point I want to make is that if the Members of the Opposition had asked this Parliament to institute a committee to examine

the ministerial conduct as laid down by the Prime Minister that would have been quite different. But to ask Nigeria to-day to judge the conduct of our Ministers on what a Select Committee of another country has done, I think, is stupid.

Another point is this. The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) in his argument said that the Minister of Finance has been bamboozling the country, taking money here and there, putting his name in this or that company, but he forgets—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): On a point of order, I never used the word 'bamboozling'. I did not say that the Minister has been taking money here and there. I would like the whole thing to be on its proper footing. I am the last person who will say such a thing of the Minister of Finance.

Chief Abii: The hon. Member may deny the exact word but he will not deny the meaning which he has given to his friends in the Gallery. We were told that this Motion would not have come to this House if it had not been drafted in the prison yard. I want to show that this is a fact, because when the hon. Member (*Mr Briggs*) was arguing he seemed to have told the House that all he was telling the House was given to him by a Ministry or from outside. He did not say anything he was sure of himself.

When a Bill for increase in duties was brought to this House some Members on the Opposition made mention of the shoe factory at Warri and another at Sapele, and the Minister kindly told this House that he had nothing like Omimi Shoe Factory at Sapele but that he has one which happened to become an effective factory at Warri. Up till now there is no shoe factory in Sapele at all.

Some Members on the Opposition said that the Minister had declared his interest in order to clear himself of the complaints of the Action Group Members. This Motion seems to have condemned the idea of declaration, and that was why we all came here to see how it is sinful for an honest man to declare to his colleagues that such and such a thing concerns him. That is what we want to know in this House, but up till now nobody has been able to tell us. But we know that if the hon. Member

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for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) had been in another section of this House he would not have complained. If he had not been a colleague of thieves, people who do not care—

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South): On a point of order, I think it is unparliamentary for a Member to call another Member a thief.

Mr Speaker: Actually he did not say that Members here, at least in this House are thieves. What he said is that somebody is a colleague of thieves.

Chief Abii: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for saving me. I will repeat what I have said, and that is that people who do not like honesty hate an honest man. We believe that if the Minister of Finance had wanted to be dishonest he would have been silent over the whole matter, and if he had been silent this could have pleased the Members of the Opposition because they do not like honesty. A few months ago in this country it was proved that some people have been signing documents with their toes. A lot of revelations have been made in this country of dead men receiving loans, and it is only that same class of people who can be rich overnight. These people hate a man who is rich right from his birth.

Now, let us look at this question of ministerial conduct which they are pressing. They are trying to say that anybody who is appointed a Minister in this country should have nothing. If he had anything before he became a Minister he must declare it and sell it off. That goes well with their interpretation of socialism in this country. What does that mean? It means that people of no substance are the only people who should be appointed Ministers. That of course will suit them because when these people come together they make arrangements on how to plan evil, and they do not want anybody who will reveal it. That is the beginning of this ministerial conduct they are crying for. I would not like to be appointed a minister if the condition given to me is such that I shall be known to my colleagues as having been poor and shall have to die poor; I will not accept it at all. It is only when they win their own election and form their own government that they will be able to do that.

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): On a point of order, I think if we go on like this nobody will have a say on this matter. We all want to

have a say and I would therefore like to appeal to the hon. Member to cut his speech short.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) is taking up more of our time.

Chief Abii: I agree with the hon. Member that I have to be brief. But in doing so I want to tell hon. Members this afternoon that the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) and his colleagues should be told to go and call for a commission of inquiry on the conduct of all the Ministers so that we can know that they are speaking the truth. There is no need coming to this House to mislead the Members. The only reason why they have gathered all their men in the Gallery this morning is to talk nonsense and to see whether they will be able to smear the character of this man, the Minister of Finance; but God is kind, the Prime Minister made an Amendment and for this reason we are no longer going to move an Amendment. The Prime Minister's Amendment was seconded by the Minister of Defence. If the Opposition Member were to have the shame to press for a division in this House they would see how many people would vote for them.

I support the Government Amendment and would say that such a Motion should not be accepted in this Parliament again until these people have proved their allegation somewhere else. We cannot vote for a Motion that will result in a commission of enquiry. If any Motion is coming to this House on the character of any Minister, such an allegation ought to have been proved before it is brought to Parliament and if it is proved we shall have no need for arguments here.

I support the Government Amendment.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai): I rise in support of the original Motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Mr Briggs. Both the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion have dealt so exhaustively with it that I have only a few observations to make.

I will confine myself to the text of the Motion. There is only one dispute in the House. The dispute is one of principle. We are not after assassinating anybody's character or person. The dispute is one of principle and the principle is the code of conduct of Ministers as regards private interest. That is the dispute, so that is what I am going to confine myself to.

[MR OBI]

Ever before we filed this Motion, we were quite aware of the fact that it was bound to be defeated but we have moved it in order to discharge our duty as the official Opposition and as the watch-dog of the people of this country.

The implication of what I have said is that many Members of the Government Benches will be voting against their conscience to-day when we press for a division. Otherwise some of them had urged on the Opposition that it was advisable to move the Motion and that they would vote in favour of the Motion if Party Whips were withdrawn.

Several hon. Members : Name them.

Mr Obi : They said so. This Motion is timely, without bias or malice, and we call on Members from all Sides of this House to give it their support. The trend of political events in the country to-day has shown that the Federal Government does not represent the interest of the people of this country but represents itself. The Prime Minister's speech last week on Minister's wealth is evidence of this. The Prime Minister's speech that Minister's appointment are part-time jobs was least expected of him.

Several hon. Members : He did not say so.

Mr Obi : He said so, and Members may refer to their copies of *Hansard*.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): The hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr Obi*) is misleading the country by putting words into the Prime Minister's mouth, which he never said. He clearly stated that Ministerial jobs are temporary jobs. That was how he put it.

Mr Obi : The original Motion which I support is based on the established principles in civilised countries the world over as regards the code of conduct of Ministers as far as private interests are concerned. On the 11th of this month, the Minister of Finance in his reply to points raised by Members during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill admitted on the Floor of this House that he is interested in the Omimi Shoe Factory as earlier alleged by the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*). He further stated that he declared his interest to the Prime

Minister and his Cabinet colleagues. One wonders why the Prime Minister failed to take appropriate action before on this issue.

Before I proceed further, I would like to make reference to a Member's question to the Prime Minister of Great Britain on the 25th of February, 1952 on Ministers' private interest. The question was asked by Sir W. Smithers. Here I appeal to Members of this House to listen attentively while I quote from the Official Report, House of Commons, Fifth Series, Parliamentary Debates 1951-52—Volume 496, 19th to 29th February.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): The hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr M. C. K. Obi*) has not declared his interest to this House. He should be able to tell us how much he has been paid to make this speech.

Mr Obi : I shall tell the House when the time comes that people who resigned from the Action Group are those committed to the National Bank. I am free to speak my mind because I am not committed to anybody. I quote :

"Ministers (Private Interests)"

"Sir W. Smithers asked the Prime Minister what regulations govern the continuation of salaried service with a private company on appointment to Ministerial office.

"The Prime Minister : I have recently issued general guidance on this subject, and as the text is rather long I will circulate a copy in the Official Report."

"Following is the text :

1. It is a principle of public life that Ministers must so order their affairs that no conflict arises, or appears to arise, between their private interests and their public duties.

2. Such a conflict may arise if a Minister takes an active part in any undertaking which may have contractual or other relations with a Government Department, more particularly with his own Department. It may arise, not only if the Minister has a financial interest in such an undertaking, but also if he is actively associated with any body, even of a philanthropic character, which might have negotiations or other dealings with the Government or be involved in disputes with it. Furthermore Ministers should be free to give full

attention to their official duties, and they should not engage in other activities which might be thought to distract their attention from duties.

3. Each Minister must decide for himself how these principles apply to him. Over much of the field, as is shown below, there are established precedents; but in any case of doubt the Prime Minister of the day must be the final judge, and Ministers should submit any such case to him for his direction".

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe): Mr Speaker, are you going to allow this man to read the whole book? I want to speak.

Mr Obi: "4. Where it is proper for a Minister to retain any private interest, it is the rule that he should declare that interest to his colleagues if they have to discuss public business in any way affecting it, and that he should entirely detach himself from the consideration of that business.

5. "Ministers" include all members of the Government except unpaid Assistant Government Whips".

Directorships

6. "Ministers must on assuming office resign any directorships which they may hold, whether in public or in private companies and whether the directorship carries remuneration or is honorary. The only exception to this rule is that directorships in private companies established for the maintenance of private family estates, and only incidentally concerned in trading, may be retained subject to this reservation—that if at any time the Minister feels that conflict is likely to arise between this private interest and his public duty, he should even in those cases divest himself of his directorship. Directorships or offices held in connection with philanthropic undertakings should also be resigned if there is any risk of conflict arising between the interests of the undertakings and the Government.

Shareholdings

"7. Ministers cannot be expected, on assuming office, to dispose of all their investments. But if a Minister holds a controlling interest in any company considerations arise which are not unlike those governing the holding of directorships and, if there is any danger of a conflict of interest, the right course is for the Minister to divest himself of his controlling interest in the company. There may also

be exceptional cases where, even though no controlling interest is involved, the actual holding of particular shares in concerns closely associated with a Minister's own Department may create the danger of a conflict of interest. Where a Minister considers this to be the case, he should divest himself of the holding".

The point I want to emphasise is No. 8 and is very brief.

"8. Ministers should scrupulously avoid speculative investments in securities about which they have, or may be thought to have, early or confidential information likely to affect the price of those securities".

I would also like to refer to the fact that Lennox-Boyd had interest in the Guinness Factory and, on assuming office as a Minister, he surrendered all his interests. If we follow the practice in Great Britain from whom we inherited our own system of Government—parliamentary democracy—it is fair to say that the Motion was not filed out of hatred, spite or malice. What I am saying is that the importance of the press cannot be over-emphasised. Its function is second to none. We all know that the press is the vehicle of news and the mouth-piece of public opinion.

Early this morning, one Member raised the question that all the examples we have quoted are those obtainable in Great Britain, New Zealand and America, and that we want Nigerian pattern of the code of conduct expected of Ministers. I now want to come nearer home to refer to our Nigerian standard.

I have made reference to the importance of the press. If you may permit me to refer hon. Members to the editorial opinions—first of all the *West African Pilot* (which is the organ of the N.C.N.C.) of 19th April, 1963, the *Daily Times* issue of 20th April, 1963 and the *Daily Express* of 19th April, 1963. These editorials go a long way to show how the public feels about the admission of the Minister of Finance of his interest in the Omimi Shoe Factory. It should be proper for the Prime Minister to ask all the Ministers to declare their business interests, or for anyone affected to choose between business and ministerial appointment. The consequence of the story of a Ghanaian Minister's wife who bought a £3,000 bed—

Mr Speaker : Order. This is getting away from the Motion.

Mr Obi : That is known to everybody in the country. Nobody would have quarrelled with anything. The point is that we quarrel with the admission. The Minister of Finance may not be the only one affected. We would like all other Ministers, both Federal and Regional, to declare their interests in all these things, so that they will leave business for those interested in business and take their appointments as Ministers or go to business. That is our contention. We are merely asking the Minister of Finance to resign pending an explanation from the Prime Minister as to why he has failed to act in accordance with established principles.

Dr Okpara made a statement on this issue and people said that he backed Omimi. I want to tell you, Mr Speaker, the implications of that speech. What Dr Okpara merely said was that what was left was for the Prime Minister to act because the Minister has declared his interest and the Prime Minister was to act on that—

Mr Speaker : Order. Surely it is not correct to bring argument which drags in the statement made by a Premier.

Mr Obi : From hon. Members' contributions to the debate, it is clear that the Action Group is the only party in Opposition in this House; if there is any other party, it exists only on paper.

There is no doubt that the Minister has been successful as a Minister of Finance, and that his Shoe Factory will surely provide employment for many Nigerians, including myself. As regards his private interest in the Shoe Factory, we sincerely ask that he resigns his post as a Minister or divest himself of his interest, in keeping with established principles the world over, otherwise a capitalist class will be built from among politicians while the unprivileged masses suffer untold hardship for ever.

Many people have made references to people unconnected with this Motion. I want to say that we are not surprised because out of every twelve in a congregation, there is bound to be a Judas. That is how Judases behave. It is true that the Action Group as a

party sent certain persons abroad and gave them sums of money ranging from £10,000 and above for publicity of the party of which they have not given account—

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I would like to suggest to the hon. Member to ask Chief Awolowo to account for the £5 million which he received from the Marketing Board of Western Region.

Mr Obi : Speeches have been made in support of the Amendment to the original Motion. I really appreciate the effort made by the Prime Minister in his three-minute reply, and of those members who spoke afterwards. But the point is, having listened to many arguments attentively, those Members who have spoken so far, including the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*), have merely tried to defend the indefensible.

The Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) made reference to Chief Awolowo in his speech and gave a series of names—Awolowo, Aina Awolowo, Sarkin Bai Awolowo, Obi Awolowo, everybody Awolowo. He was not serious when he was saying this. Granting that what he said was true, if he made reference to the year 1960 when Chief Awolowo was not a Premier but merely Leader of the Opposition, granting that the allegation was true, I would like to add that Chief Awolowo at the material time referred to in the speech of the hon. Member for Dambatta, was not in a position to impose a duty on anything. It is possible.—

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : On a point of order, it seems to me that the hon. Member does not know that Chief Awolowo had been a shareholder in his wife's business for a long time.

Mr Obi : As I said, it is possible for the Minister of Works to be interested in a Shoe Factory having regard to the fact that the Shoe Factory has no direct relation to his Ministry. That should be understood, so that the argument of my hon. Friend does not hold water.

I would emphasise that those who have deserted the Action Group are people who are committed one way or the other to the National Bank, the Housing Corporation and the Finance Corporation. Those of us who re-

main loyal to the Action Group are not committed to the National Bank, the Finance Corporation or the Housing Corporation, and we owe no one.

I beg to support the original Motion.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): I rise to oppose the original Motion and support the Amendment as ably moved by the Minister. We all know that the motive behind the Motion is not because of the 3s-6d duty imposed on a pair of shoes, but the aim of that Motion is that of character assassination, as was admitted by the hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) recently. I want to assure the disgruntled, frustrated and ill-conceived Action Group that they will not get through with this Motion. We are all in support of the 3s-6d duty imposed on a pair of shoes. At this stage, I would like to assure the Minister of Finance of our overwhelming support, and as such he should not fear. The Minister of Finance should not have the slightest fear in his mind because the whole of the nation is behind him. The whole forty million people of Nigeria are behind him and even in this House a hundred *per cent* of that side is behind him another hundred *per cent* on the other side is also behind him, and almost ninety-nine *per cent* of the Members sitting on the Opposition Benches are behind him.

The leader of the Action Group knows that the Minister of Finance is a sincere, honest and trustworthy fellow. It is not a hidden fact. Why these two disgruntled people filed this Motion is because they are jealous and envious of the prosperity of the Minister of Finance. This Motion exposes in the extreme their petty jealousy. They should instead thank the Minister of Finance for his good deeds rather than file this obnoxious Motion which is a sign of ungratefulness. The Minister of Finance, by establishing the Omimi Shoe Factory, is helping to solve our unemployment problem. This shoe factory will give employment to many Nigerians, especially in the Western Region.

I understand that when the Action Group was in power in the Western Region, they neglected and discriminated against the people of the Mid-West. Now, this honest and loyal son of Nigeria, on knowing that his people were being discriminated against, founded so many schools to train the children of the

Western Region and also founded this shoe factory to give employment to the unemployed. We shall therefore, not support their original Motion. We shall all be behind the Minister of Finance. We should in fact congratulate him on reaping the good crops he had sown.

May I ask those people to tell this honourable House why they do not want to wear Nigerian made shoes? After all, we should be proud of the shoes that are made in Nigeria. I would like to inform the Action Group that their refusal to wear Nigerian made shoes is a clear indication that they are actually against Nigeria.

I do not want to take the time of the House as I know that there are so many Members who are wishing to support the Amendment moved by the Prime Minister. I will, therefore, urge hon. Members to oppose vigorously the original Motion and support the Amendment Motion as ably moved by the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria.

Lastly, I will ask the Minister of Finance to look behind and see for himself that we are always behind him—the forty million people of this country are behind him.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I did not intend to contribute to this debate, but since people have made so much fuss about principles, I want to say a few words to convince the House that not only the supporters of the Government but particularly the Members of the Council of Ministers are men not only of learning and importance, but men of principle.

The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) who moved the Motion and the hon. Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) who seconded the Motion, were talking about the practice in New-Zealand and in the United Kingdom and other countries of the Commonwealth. I was very pleased when the Prime Minister made it very clear when speaking, that we in Nigeria have also our own code of ministerial conduct. Some people feel that we just come in to this place and do not know how to behave and that we have not got a proper code of conduct. We have a code of conduct and our code of conduct is as high as that in any other part of the world.

Already, the Prime Minister made it very clear, and the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) who has had the good fortune

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of being a Minister before and of being properly informed, has also made it very clear that when a man is appointed a Minister, he is bound to declare his interests in various types of business, and when the declaration is made, it is up to the Prime Minister and his Colleagues—the Prime Minister particularly—to decide what degree of severance is necessary for a Minister to make so that his private business interests and his Ministerial duties may not conflict. The point that I really want to make here is this, and I believe that the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) will at least concede this much, that we of the Council of Ministers have as much intelligence, education and confidence and also that we have as much experience to decide, particularly the Prime Minister, whether the interest of a Minister in any particular business will conflict with his official duties or official activities. I want to make it absolutely clear that the hon. Member for Degema is not more qualified than myself or anybody—

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): On a point of Order, besides my hon. Friend being my senior in practice, I do not know what qualification he has over and above me.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation: As a lawyer, I am better qualified than he is and I have a longer experience than he has. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: All these big voices should, please, stop interrupting.

The Minister of Transport: What I am saying is that if the argument of the Action Group Opposition is followed logically, they are saying that they are talking about principle. I am saying it is all right. We met them on the question of principle. Leave all other allegations. The Minister of Finance was perfectly right to say that he was interested in a certain factory which has not yet gone into production. I think it was very honest of him to make that disclosure. Once that has been done, it is the duty of the Prime Minister to decide whether there should be a severance of his attachment to the business, or whether his attachment was such that it would not conflict with the performance of his duties as a minister. The Prime Minister took this decision which, I think, is quite right—that the Minister need not sever his connection with that business.

Also, on top of this, when the matter came up, some people gave the impression that the Minister of Finance, just because he is Minister of Finance, has the right to levy duties, to remove duties, to increase duties. It is not so. Members of the Council of Ministers have collective responsibility. So when it is said that the Minister of Finance is raising the duty, that is not true. All he can do is to bring the matter to his Colleagues in the Council, and whatever decision is taken is not his decision but that of the Council of Ministers. It is not the Minister of Finance that is imposing the duty; it is the Council of Ministers.

As I said, I was very surprised to hear the hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr Obi*) saying about Members of the Government Bench going to vote with him. The question is very simple. Leave politics entirely out of this and take this as purely a debate devoid of politics. If I were to take his points as points raised in ordinary debate, I am saying that he entirely lost his case because his case is that a man who makes a declaration which he is supposed to make has committed an offence. The man has said that he is interested in this thing and left it to the Prime Minister and his Colleagues to decide whether there would be a conflict, and it has been decided by the Council of Ministers—by the Prime Minister, backed by his entire Colleagues—that there would be no conflict between the personal interest of the Prime Minister and the public interest.

This morning we were told that so much money was being paid as duty on imported rubber shoes and that type of things. There is another point which many people have not adverted to seriously enough, and that is the fact that the shoe factory the people are making so much noise about is not even in being. It is not the question of the man saying, "I have got a hundred thousand pairs of shoes and if this duty is imposed, we are going to make so much money." As a matter of fact, those that are going to profit by the present imposition of duty are those that are already operating factories, and I think it is merely wasting our time here to ask us to listen to so many speeches, making accusations and counter-accusations.

I will confine myself strictly to the point of principle raised by the Action Group Opposition, and I am saying that the point that he

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had made an admission—and in fact, it is wrong to say that it is an admission; they should have said that the Minister had *declared* that he had an interest in this thing—I think that it was up to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers to decide whether there would be a conflict. My main point is that the Mover of this Motion, the Seconder and the Supporters of the Motion in the Action Group cannot consider themselves better judges on this issue of ministerial conduct—a code of conduct which they do not even know. They do not even know that code of conduct and now they constitute themselves into the highest court in the land to say that there is a breach of ministerial conduct. We are the custodians of this code of conduct. We have studied this code and we have been acting by it, some of us, for many years.

I am saying in all seriousness that this matter has not taken us by surprise. We fully considered this issue of imposition of duty on imported rubber shoes and we were quite convinced that the duties were imposed in the best interests of indigenous business in this country. The question of the Omimi Shoe Factory ever profiting by the imposition of this duty is very remote and as a matter of fact, it might well be that before the shoe factory goes into production, there may be a change in the policy. That is another point people have not thought about.

An hon. Member : It may not even get into production.

The Minister of Transport : It may not. I am saying that we have on this issue full confidence in the Minister of Finance. He acted with the full consultation of his Colleagues and with the full backing of his Colleagues and we repose in him implicit confidence. I am quite sure that supporters, all Members of the Government and all fair-minded people in this House are going to vote for the amended Motion which the hon. Prime Minister moved.

Mr Speaker : I think it is about time we brought the Motion to a conclusion.

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

The House divided.

Ayes 122, Noes 14.

Seat No.	Name of Member
4	Adeyemo, B. A.
6	Onwuchekwa, I. S.
7	Nnaji, S.
15	Nwaleji, V. A.
16	Akor, J. A.
20	Mohammadu Kumo
22	Shettima Ali Monguno
37	Oronsaye, D. N.
38	Oyewole, S. A.
41	Chikelu, I. O.
42	Udenyi, J. U.
43	Nwangbo, N.
44	Elenwa, N. E.
45	Ogbalu, F. C.
46	Ifezue, E. O.
47	Oloyede, T. O.
48	Egboigbodi, J. B.
50	Okay, D. D. U.
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar
56	Sule Abba Biu
64	Alhaji Muhammadu Bello Marafa
66	Ekenokot, U. O.
67	De. Omomadia, J. K.
68	Falaiye, W. J.
69	Nwofokoda, J. N.
71	Aghahowa, D. E. Y.
73	Ukah, N. D.
74	Muojeke, R. N.
75	Mordi, E. A.
79	Amadi, F. A. M.
80	Ayeni, U. O.
82	Ikeh, B. O.
83	M. Alhaji Abdullahi Mai Kano, Sarkin Rafi
85	Maina Waziri
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi
87	Alhaji Umaru Gumel
94	Chiedozi, C. O.
96	Odey, J. U.
102	Igwe, J. O.
103	Ogunbiyi, J. O.
104	Eleke, P. O.
105	Nweke, O. O.
107	Dr Okeke, P. U.
108	Senu-Oke, D.
109	Mbah, A. U. D.
112	Chief Mariere, S. J.
113	Chuku, H. O.
115	Ukaegbu, B. N.
116	Eneh, G. O. D.
117	Albatam Yerima Balla
119	Akwihu, E. C.
120	Opia, A.
121	Chief Ubani, M. W.
123	Ogunsanya, A. O. O.
125	Aminu Kano
131	Usman Gwarzo
132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
134	Lar, S. D.
136	Alhaji Muktar Sarkin Bai
148	Rosiji, Chief A.
151	Ekanem, P. E.
152	Okunowo, Chief E. O.
156	Odo, E. A.
157	Ede, J. O.
160	Olatunde, P. B.
162	Alhaji Ahmadu Baba Maikwatashi

Seat No.	Name
180	Fajimi, S. O.
181	Odulana, A. F.
185	Tobun, L. O.
189	Alhaji Musa Hindi
195	Muhammadu Bayero
197	Babatunde, S. A.
198	Ahmadu Angara Doma
199	Enefolo, D. O.
200	Yacim, J. A.
202	Alhaji Mohammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki
212	Kolade, S. O.
213	Afanideh, M. B.
214	Olaore, J. O.
216	Dame-Obob, M. A.
223	Balang U. Balami
227	Ahmadu Babandi
246	Ogunkanmi, E. J.
248	Etukudo, J. I.
249	Eminue, O. J.
254	Abdulkadir Dukku
	Minister of Finance
	Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Minister of Communications
	Minister of Defence
	Minister of Economic Development
	Minister of Education
	Minister of Information
	Minister of Transport and Aviation
	Minister of Works and Surveys
	Minister of Establishments, Hon. J. C. Obande
	Minister of State, Hon. M. A. Olarewaju
	Minister of State, Chief Hon. Omo-Osagie
	Minister of State, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe
	Minister of State, Hon. Ibrahim Tako
	Abubakar Isandu
	Alhaji Ahmed, U. A.
	Yerokun, S. A.
	Sanni Gezawa
	Lamuye, A.
	Lana, S.
280	Dada, G. K.
283	Peter Ipu
292	Zubairu Liman Katagun
A.	Damla, J. M.
B.	Ka'allaya Shekarau
D.	Maigari, H.
H.	Sarkin Gobir
	Dominic M. Mapeo
	Mbakogu, F. U.
	Nwika, S. F.
	Offor, F. E.
	Okafor, R. B. K.
	Orodi, E. T.
	Ezonbodor, N. A.
	Ugwu, D. C.
	Alhaji Aliyu Bissala

Tellers for the Ayes, Alhaji Bello Dandago and Chief D. N. Abii.

NOES

140	Dosunmu, L. J.
141	Briggs, W.
145	Akomolafe, A.

Seat No.	Name
176	Adedamola, A.
177	Aihonsu, D. K.
178	Daka, S. T.
179	Tarkande, P.
206	Udo-Inyang, D. S.
207	Obi, M. C. K.
208	Oladiran, Oba S. A.
209	Ajayi, B. A.
236	Akinyemi, J. A.
242	Shisha, V.
243	Bulus Biliyong

Tellers for the Noes, Mr A. A. Ajibola and Mr E. D. Akinbowale.

Tellers for Ayes :

Mr D. N. Abii
Alhaji Bello Dandago

Tellers for Noes :

Mr A. A. Ajibola
Mr E. D. Akinbowale

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, accordingly agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and the House divided.

Ayes 130, Noes 15.

Seat No.	Name
2	Muhammadu Nalado
4	Adeyemo, B. A.
6	Onwuchekwa, I. S.
7	Nnaji, S.
8	Chukwu, J. C.
15	Nwalieji, V. A.
16	Akor, J. A.
19	Mohammed Ningi
20	Mohammadu Kumo
22	Shettima Ali Monguno
29	M. Ladan Isa
37	Oronsaye, D. N.
38	Oyewole, S. A.
41	Chiekelu, I. O.
42	Udenyi, J. U.
43	Nwangbo, N.
44	Elenwa, N. E.
45	Ogbalu, F. C.
46	Ifeazue, E. O.
47	Oloyede, T. O.
48	Eboigbodi, J. B.
49	Enwo, N.
50	Okay, D. D. U.
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar
56	Sule Abba Bui
64	Alhaji Muhammadu Bello Marafa
65	Ahamefula, D.
66	Ekenokot, U. O.
67	de Omomadia, J. K.
68	Falaiye, W. J.
69	Nwofokoda, J. N.
71	Aghahowa, D.E.Y.
73	Ukah, N. D.

TOURIST INDUSTRY

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. That in view of the growing importance of Nigeria in World politics and the increasing desire of foreigners to visit this great country this House calls on the Government to establish a Tourist Industry in Nigeria.

Before introducing this Motion, I want to appeal to all sides of this House to support it because I am sure that if the Motion is supported and accepted by the Federal Government, it will go a long way to reduce the number of our unemployed in this country.

At this stage of our development when Nigeria is so widely advertised all over the world, we are bound to have visitors and businessmen attracted into our country, and as a result we shall be faced with many problems. One of the questions that easily come to mind is, how can we accommodate these visitors? It may well be that these visitors and businessmen may come from highly civilised and industrialised cities of the world such as London, New York, Paris and other advanced places, and when they come to Nigeria, some of them may expect the same standard of things to which they are used. That is the reason why I am appealing to the Federal Government to introduce what is known as the Tourist Industry into this country.

As I have already said, Nigeria has been well advertised to all parts of the world and has been accepted by so many people as a leading African state. Some people may think that it is very difficult to introduce this tourist industry. This is not so. After all, we have all the materials and what we need are just modern hotels to be sited in some places of interest. For example, we have got a very nice place on the island of Lagos known as Tarkwa Bay. This place we can improve and convert to a holiday resort so that instead of our people going overseas or to some other advanced and highly furnished cities on holidays, they could be attracted to stay at home.

Apart from Tarkwa Bay, we also have places like the Ikoyi Park here in Lagos and other attractive places in the Plateau which are well known for their coolness and enticing atmosphere. There is no reason why we should not develop these places. There are so many beautiful sceneries in Plateau Province, like the Kura Falls, the Tin Mines and many

others. These places will naturally attract many people. We also have the Abraka Water Side at Benin. There are other fine places like the Museum to which visitors and businessmen could be attracted. There may be also centres of attraction at Abeokuta and Ibadan. From this, hon. Members will agree with me that we have the materials and it is now up to us to make use of them in order to attract visitors and businessmen to come to this country.

Some people may ask why I want these people to come to this country. The tourist industry is one of the greatest industries in the world to-day. In Britain, a lot of money is derived through this source. Hon. Members will be surprised to know that in 1958, the money obtained through the tourist industry in Great Britain was enormous. In 1960, the sum of about £5½ million was realised in East Africa. There are so many places that benefit immensely through the tourist industry. The tourist industry is one that can pay its way, it is never run at a loss.

Hon. Members will be surprised to learn how much is spent by our people annually and how much we get in return. In 1961, Nigeria spent not less than £8.9 million. That is the amount spent by people who travel from Nigeria to America, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and many other places. Why then should we not establish similar industries in order to make visitors pay back what they have already taken from this country.

For purposes of comparison, I should like to inform this honourable House that in 1961, as against the £8.9 million that we spent on tourism, what we received was only £1¼ million. You can see, Sir, that the comparison is very poor, and I think we must do something about this. The figures I have quoted are very correct because they have been obtained from statistics and if any hon. Member doubts them, he should refer to the Digest of Statistic, Volume 12 of January 1963. Anybody who is interested can go and check up the facts.

I do not want to dwell on this for a long time because I know that there are other hon. Members who would like to speak on this Motion. I am only appealing to the Government to give effect to this Motion because it is one that will fetch more money for this country.

I beg to move.

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu): I rise to second this Motion.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): On a point of order, I would like to make this comment because it is becoming the practice in this House for people who second original Motions to have their names dropped from the Order Paper.

This Motion was jointly sponsored by the hon. Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) and myself but I was surprised to find that my name did not appear on the Order Paper. Mr Lar can bear testimony to what I am saying.

Mr Lar rose—

The Deputy Speaker: Has the hon. Member for Lowland East anything special to tell the House?

Mr Lar: It is true that the hon. Member for Orlu West said that he would like to second this Motion and I agreed that he should but how it happened, I do not know, that his name does not appear on the Order Paper.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I think, in any case, it is too late in the day to bring up this matter.

Mr Chiedozie: On a point of explanation, I think it is very irrelevant for an hon. Member to stand up after we had decided that the hon. Member for Orlu West—

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Enugu has been called upon to speak and it is none of his business to make the ruling he is now about to make.

Mr Chiedozie: The Motion is an interesting one and its intention is to appeal to the hon. Minister to see the necessity of establishing the tourist industry in order to encourage strangers visiting the country to have appreciation for our culture, tradition and other things of interest.

Nigeria, so far, is dominating African politics and many people all over the world are becoming very much interested in our affairs. Some of them, who have not been into the tropics will like to see things of tropical culture and tradition.

We are all aware that a lot of parliamentary delegations have been coming into this country and our own delegations have also been going

outside the country. The tourist industry is intended to increase the revenue of a country and if our people are going out in considerable number, visiting other countries, paying them money and thereby enriching those countries, then, there is no reason why we should not encourage the promotion of this industry in order to have the same type of revenue because when people come into this country, they pay into our own revenue and thereby increase our revenue.

Knowledge of things historical, antiquarian and geographical are projected to strangers. They will come and see with their eyes—not like those who write articles in magazines saying that Nigeria is only infested with vultures and so on. This is a matter of making foreigners to come and see with their eyes what we look like and the aim of establishing a tourist industry is to project the personality in reality and not in theory.

We are clamouring for the increase of our national income and it is my belief that tourism is one of the greatest paying concerns. Switzerland depends absolutely on the tourist industry and many of us run to Switzerland in order to see interesting things, enjoy ourselves, visit their lakes, the seaside resorts and, we pay heavily in the hotels. I know very well that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is aware of these things. Already I see that he is doing excellently well in the question of initiating something but we are trying to make him aware that at the moment the country is desirous to have a tourist industry in order to encourage people coming into our country to see things that are of interest to them and then to make them know what we look like.

One of the main reasons why those who wrote the geography of Nigeria before say that it is a "white-man's grave" and so on is that they did not tour Nigeria before writing these books. If one looks at the geography books on Nigeria and other countries in Africa one would see that our country was painted black. What we are saying is that we want people from all the countries of the world to come here and one of the most attractive things to strangers is the tourist industry.

We are very lucky to have a Minister who is enthusiastic, pushful and indefatigable and his Ministry has been one of the best. We do not therefore expect that he will amend this Motion. We feel that apart from the fact that

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

our Development Programme 1962-68 can be accelerated by the provision of a tourist industry, this would make investors also keen to come to our country and they would be able to tour the country and see things for themselves.

After all what makes people to visit a country? It is the amount of interesting things seen there. And all of us know what is meant by happiness and being jovial. Everybody wants to go on a visit to another country and the first thing I ask when I visit a place is, what are the traditions of the people, things of interest, their museums, their holiday resort and so forth? When we visit Britain we all go to the London Zoo and visit the Zoological Gardens. Let us begin now to project this our personality right from here and I know, and it is a very great coincidence that this our Minister, is the man who will project us. Already, we can all see that he is doing very well.

I beg to second.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name, That in Line 1, leave out "That" to the end of the Question and add, "The House appreciates the benefits that can accrue to the country from a well established Tourist Industry and congratulates the Federal Government on taking the steps which have led to the formation of the Nigerian Tourist Association".

I am amending the Motion not because I have any quarrel with the Motion as originally moved but because Government has already moved a step further than the Mover and the Seconder of this Motion. As long ago as 1957, my Ministry appreciated that the successful establishment of a tourist industry will be profitable to the country and so, I sought the co-operation of and permission from the Council of Ministers and they gave me the necessary approval and so we set up a body to look into the whole matter. The report of the Committee which was issued as Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1959 was laid before the House and the main conclusions reached by that body were as follows:

"(a) The development of a Tourist Industry will directly or indirectly benefit Nigeria. The demand for goods and services created by a

tourist industry will add to the national prosperity and with the improvement of local facilities many Nigerians and expatriates who at present spent the whole or part of their holidays outside Nigeria will be encouraged to visit parts of the country other than those in which they normally reside.

(b) In developing the Tourist Industry, Nigeria will be working in the course of friendship and of understanding between peoples of different races and beliefs."

As a result of this, the Government decided on the formation of a Nigerian Tourist Association which would draw its funds from subventions by the Governments of the Federation and contributions by those interests likely to benefit from the expansion of the Tourist Industry. The Association has now been incorporated under the Companies Act and the Governments of the Federation have agreed on annual subventions as follows: every year the Federal Government is to contribute £7,500, the Eastern Regional Government £3,750, the Northern Regional Government £3,500 and the Western Regional Government £3,500. Also full members of the Association pay £100 per annum while associate Members pay £10 per annum.

At the present moment apart from the Governments, the following Organisations are full members of the Association: the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Nigerian Hotels Limited, the Elder Dempster Agencies Ltd., and the Nigerian Airways. I regret, however, to tell hon. Members that there is some lack of enthusiasm displayed by Nigerian firms although previously I expected that the Nigerian firms and businessmen would be keenly interested because the successful running of a Tourist Industry will materially benefit the Nigerians themselves. So, I appeal to hon. Members to interest the Nigerian businessmen, to make our country a centre of attraction so that many tourists may come. Nigeria is a vast country with different climatic conditions and a beautiful cultural heritage.

Secondly, our game reserves, our beautiful trees, our picturesque mountains, our easy flowing rivers make this country an ideal place for tourists. Greater than all these are the human elements, the wonders of our towns, the beauty of our girls and the culture of our people. These will make Nigeria really an attraction for people to come and spend their time here.

It will therefore be seen that the Federal Government far from having to be informed of the possible benefits of a Tourist Industry in Nigeria have on its own initiative taken steps to lay a strong foundation for such an industry.

I have no doubt that in the months to come hon. Members will be hearing a good deal about the Nigerian Tourist Association because the Association has already succeeded in recruiting an expert as the Secretary to the Association to advise the new Organisation as to the best way to run it. A competent and highly qualified Nigerian is understudying this European expert so that he will take over from him as soon as possible. When wintry conditions in Europe and America prevail the warmth of our climate, the cheap food and the service of our own boys in the hotels are such as to attract the well-to-do and those who have good faith and good intentions towards the country. May I tell hon. Members one thing. People talk of the so-called civilised countries. I have gone round the whole world, I have stayed in the best hotels in almost every part of the world that counts and I can assure hon. Members that the hotel service, the food, the surroundings of our hotels and the ability of our stewards and cooks compare favourably with any I have seen anywhere in the world.

5.20 p.m.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): I want to support the Amendment proposed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry and to say that we are all aware of the fact that a Tourist Association of Nigeria has been created. All I want to do now is to make a few comments which may be of interest and encouragement to this Association.

As is so well proposed by my hon. Friend the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*), tourism can be viewed from various points of view. If one looks at the economics side of tourism one will see that it is now a pairless way of filling the gap of the balance of payment. As hon. Members know, Nigeria over the past decade has been faced with adverse balance of payments problems. Our imports have quadrupled in value, whereas our exports have only doubled in value. This gap can be filled either by stopping importation of goods from overseas, or by finding some other invisible ways of filling it and encouragement of tourism is one of the ways of filling the gap.

Last year, for example, England made over £150 million from tourist business alone. This is a higher contribution to British economy than all the vehicle industries in the United Kingdom. Canadians, who are reputed to be the greatest tourists in the world to-day, spend over £160 million every year. This sum is more than the whole of the budget of the Federal Government plus those of the Regional Governments of Nigeria. We are also told that over half a million people visit the United Kingdom every year. Even a small place like the Bahamas Island receive over three-quarters of a million tourists every year. Some islands in Latin America receive millions and millions of tourists. Hawaii is famous for the number of people who go there every year from all parts of the world.

The important thing is not just creating the Association but encouraging it to work well. Tourists have certain questions in common. They can not simply like to come to Nigeria, they have to be stimulated. They want to know, for example, what hotel and restaurant facilities exist in the country; what the menu are; and what things are available in the country and their prices. If one looks at the Canadian Tourist Bulletin or the Egyptian Tourist Bulletin, or the Israeli Bulletin, one will find all the details—hotels menu, time of service, cost of service, distances and tourist's economy class available, and so on. Tourists also want to know about sports facilities. They want to know about game hunting. Americans, for example, are famous for game hunting. Elephant hunting or Elephant riding in Nigeria will offer very attractive sport facilities for Uncle Sam tourists. They want to know about fishing. The Bar Beach here is an ideal place for that. They want to know about the cost of internal travelling.

Information facilities, are non-existent in Nigeria. It is difficult even for us Nigerians to know the cost of internal travel. The tourists want to know about wholesale travelling. For example, it is very expensive for a person to travel from here to Enugu. In places like Israel, United States of America, Italy and some other places, charter planes can be arranged so that a group of people can travel from one place to another within a short space of time. A similar thing would be organised

[DR NZERIBE]

in Nigeria so that a group of tourists can travel from Lagos to Enugu in a charter plane. The Minister of Transport, I know, can arrange that in future. He can make economy planes available so that tourists can go round Nigeria in a very short time.

We have here various types of animals and other things of interest. We have the Biney Zoo, for example; the antiquities, Ife bronze, Awka carving, schools, community centres like Aiyetoro, Kano City walls—all these things and places can be fascinating to foreign tourists. All we need is to give more impetus to the encouragement of tourism. The Nigerian Airways can arrange annual economy class planes for people coming from the United Kingdom and elsewhere to facilitate visits to Nigeria.

I would also appeal to the Minister of Finance to make it possible for tourists who come to Nigeria to take away from Nigeria certain goods duty-free. For example, in England one can take away goods worth up to £180 duty-free. This is the cheapest way of advertising the country's manufacture. It is cheaper than Trade Fair, advertising by radio, television or the newspapers. These things will enhance the tourist business in Nigeria. Also, the foreign embassies in Nigeria should be encouraged to sell Nigerian beauty, culture, antiquities, resources by way of advertising.

The issue of *visas* should be facilitated so that people coming to Nigeria do not have to wait from four to five weeks for their papers to be ready. A common complaint has been that visitors to Nigeria are handicapped because their *visas* cannot be issued in time. I have just got a complaint to-day that some Israeli people who wanted to come to Nigeria have been waiting for the past six weeks because the British office in Tel Aviv that is responsible for the issue of *visas* to Nigeria does not move fast. I think these things should be ironed out.

I beg to support.

5.27 p.m.

Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang (Opobo North): I rise to support the Amendment proposed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. He has said that the Government has done some-

thing in this direction to promote tourist industry. But I would like to add that much still remains to be done. This industry has not been developed in this country.

I would like also to point out that it is one of the most important ways of attracting foreign money into this country and thus improve our balance of payments. I remember quite well that in some small countries like Ireland, their main source of getting money is their agricultural products; then the next thing is the tourist industry. We are in the same position as Ireland in this respect.

If one considers the position of Ireland one will see that many of their people have migrated to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. These people of Irish descent like to go to their country of origin to spend their holidays. As a result of that, they bring money into Ireland. Now, if one compares our position in this country with that of Ireland, one will see that it is the same. People of African descent were taken away in the days of slavery to the West Indies and the United States of America. I happened to meet some West Indians and I learnt that the best place in the world that they like to spend their holidays is in Africa. As far as African countries are concerned, Nigeria is the biggest and most popular, so, most of the people who are of African descent would like to be coming here on holidays. But what prevents them is the question of *visas* and passports. If the Minister of Commerce and Industry does realise that these people of African descent have a natural desire of coming to see the land of their origin, I think that he should help make things easy for them to come in.

I am very happy that this Amendment proposed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry has been seconded by the Minister of Education. I am very happy about that because if this industry is to grow in this country, the Minister of Education is the person to help the Minister of Commerce and Industry in his duties. For example, there is no point in students who have been taking African history, African religion, or African culture going to London library to seek for information and books. If the Minister of Education can organise special libraries where people all over the world can come to do research in African studies, it will be very good indeed.

I have a friend in the University of Ife who is going to write some thesis for a doctorate degree on Yoruba culture. The Government of Western Nigeria has to give him a scholarship to go to London to stay for a few years in order to do that. I think that that is a sheer waste of our money. It is the people from the outside world who should come here to find such materials for their thesis. Therefore, it can be seen that the Minister of Education can help in this respect.

The Minister of Transport has a great deal of work to do too. Tourists who come to this country, I know, will like to see and to travel on good roads. The Minister of Communications can also help to offer communication facilities. At present, our inland transport is very poor. A lot remains to be done if we are to attract respectable and wealthy tourists to this country.

All historic places in this country should be developed. Any hon. Member who has ever studied the history of Nigeria will not fail to read about Opobo. Opobo is one of the historic places in this country. I think if we built a tourist industry there, it will attract foreigners, people who are interested in African history would like to visit there.

When one goes overseas, one notices that one is not taken to big towns like London or some other big towns, if one spends a day in a British home. Their places of resort are on mountains.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central): Having regard to the fact that unless we pass through these Motions before the time runs out many Members will not have time to speak, I appeal to the hon. Member speaking to cut short his speech.

Mr Udo-Inyang: If the Minister of Commerce and Industry should take this fact into account—that many people do not like visiting big towns, because in their own countries they come from big towns and want to see rural areas—it will be a very good thing. Some of them if you go to their countries, would like to show you lakes, rivers, and so on. Here, some of them would like to follow the course of our rivers. It is these things that interest tourists very much, and if we can locate them, we will be advertising Nigeria abroad. If we can point these things to tourists, they will be attracted to Nigeria.

Another point that I would like to touch is that the Minister of Education has impressed me by the way he is trying to develop our antiquities in this country. I think it is one of the things that will help tourists industry in this country. Musicians like to know something about our music, study it and be able to write books on it. It is my belief that the tourist industry will be developed in this country and that it will attract much foreign money which will help us to improve our balance of payment.

I beg to support.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): I rise to speak on the Amendment moved by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. In view of the shortness of time at my disposal, I have to confine my observations to one or two points. It is obvious that the intention of the original Mover of this Motion and of the other people who put down their names amending the original Motion is to show that the effort of the Federal Government in this connection has really not produced any impact in the country. That is my obvious impression of the efforts which the Government has made. Obviously, if the Government has made sufficient efforts as has been clearly put down by the Minister now, in fact the country would have known that the Government is making efforts to establish a real tourist industry. But to have started in 1959 to make plans and appoint a tourist association and so on and up till to-day nothing has been heard about it, really seems as if the Minister's explanation was merely an excuse. It is an intention, and I wonder when the proposals would be made a concrete reality. I think that now that this Motion has come to the Floor of this House, the Government should make more vigorous efforts to see to it that these proposals are put into force.

I know that it is because of the intensive desire for regionalisation that tourist association has been created instead of a tourist corporation, so that the Regional Governments can be given good scope to carry out their own activities and also for individuals and individual firms and companies to make their own contributions. Since this is as a result of our Constitutional set-up, I should recommend that I do not think that a tourist association alone can cater effectively for the whole of

[MR OGBALU]

the Federation, particularly for the Capital of this country—that is Lagos. It will be a good thing now to create a tourist corporation for Lagos—Federal Tourist Corporation. That Corporation will be in association with the one already set up by the Government—that is the Nigerian Tourist Association.

It will be the function of the Tourist Corporation to look around Lagos and choose good sites and good places of resort where these visitors can be taken to—places that can easily attract visitors. For instance, the capital of the country which is really the soul or nucleus of attraction for people from other countries of the world. I should suggest very strongly that there should be a definite body quite distinct from other bodies in the Region so that the tourist association would serve as a link between the Federal Tourist Corporation for Lagos and others in the Eastern, Western and Northern Regions.

It is very important that this proposal by the Federal Government should be publicised, not only in this country, but throughout the countries of the world. Information booklets and other necessary attractive instruments should be used in order to attract tourists from abroad.

As some other people have already pointed out, there are some other places of interest which foreigners would like to visit. It will be a good thing if the Federal Government will try to spotlight such places and, in conjunction with the Regional Governments, try to do something in that direction. I have to point out that in Awka Division, we have very fine lakes such as the lake Ezu Ogbunagu. It is so very attractive, and along with the carving industry and the black-smithry and many other arts which are being carried on in Awka town, it will attract many tourists.

It is not my intention to speak for a long time in view of the time, so I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): May I also support the Amendment very ably moved by the very able Minister of Commerce and Industry, and say at the same time that, apart from those reasons which he advanced for the development of tourist industry or for the encouragement of the development of the industry in this country, there is abundance of hospitality which is always appreciated outside,

perhaps because of our very good ambassadors abroad, and which, to a very large extent, has impressed a number of people abroad to the point of making them rather curious to find out for themselves what is going on, not only in Africa, but also in Nigeria.

Because of our activities and because of the external publicity given abroad to Nigeria, hundreds of thousands of people abroad will like to come to Nigeria. Even with our very limited media of information, people are now aware of the very favourable climate of this country. Even though this is through a limited media, people are now aware of the very favourable climate of this country. As the Minister has rightly pointed out, Nigeria is a vast area. It could accommodate not only people who are born and bred within the tropics, but also those who have been living in what can be regarded as very, very cold weather.

The hills in Jos, and also the hotel accommodation within the country could easily attract a number of tourists to the country. Furthermore, the seaside resorts here along Lagos and along all the coasts of Nigeria, the shores of rivers and lakes such as the Chad, which are very well known would also attract people of all standings to the tropics.

May I appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry that certain publications produced by his Ministry which give some limited information about our culture, our tradition, our towns, hotel accommodations, *et cetera*, are in fact not very up to date.

I am speaking particularly on the publication which unfortunately gives some information on the very town which the Minister himself comes from. The publication on Maiduguri, gives the population of that town as 600,000. Also, certain of the pictures do not in fact give the correct information.

I would like here to ask the Minister humbly to take immediate steps to see that this particular publication is amended, and also that such similar publications are not only brought up to date but are also sent abroad so that they will enable people to read about what the country holds for them.

Undoubtedly, the encouragement of tourist industry in this country would also serve as external publicity, and this will project Nigeria

to such an extent as would gladden the hearts of hon. Members of this House.

Besides, we have been encouraging, begging, and appealing to the Government to see to it that the Development Plan is carried out, carried through, and carried through with a sense of responsibility. I think that if this industry is given encouragement, and is established, it will go a very long way to improve the economic condition of this country, and would also in a way, even though indirectly, assist the Government in carrying out the Six-Year Development Plan.

I need not dwell on this, and having scarcely anything else to add, I beg to support.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central): Having regard to what the Minister of Commerce and Industry has said and to the contributions which have been made by the Members who have spoken, and also having regard to the fact that we are at the nick of time. I will cut my Amendment as short as possible.

There is typographical error, Sir, as far as my Amendment is concerned.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! I have not called the hon. Member to move his Amendment. I have called him to make a speech.

Mr Muojeke: Sir, there should be an "and" between "establishing" and "the siting".

Now, what are the tourist industries that I have in mind? They are many and various. For example, the Awka wood carving and iron gate making industries. They are very, very attractive, and everybody, foreigners and expatriates alike, who have been privileged to come to this country, whenever they come to Awka and are presented with Awka carvings and iron gates, they go back with very lovely memories of these visits and what they have seen.

In addition, we have the catering industry. We all know that if the tourists come to the country and find out that they cannot have comfortable accommodation, and no efforts are made to reduce their expenses, they will go back with very bad impressions.

Furthermore, the question of excursion coaches comes in. The Government should take steps to see that excursion coaches are provided. We have not got excursion trains between the East and West, or between the North and any other region, or Lagos, so that

in effect, what the travellers make use of is invariably, our motor vehicles—our mammy waggons and taxis.

Not only are these mammy waggons and taxis very expensive, but they are also not what a tourist would want to use in travelling round the country in order to get the best views. In some countries some Governments have taken it upon themselves to provide regular coaches to carry tourists round.

There is the pottery industry in Enugu and Okigwi. These are the industries that the Government can provide with initiative and capital to develop still further, so that when tourists come from other parts of the world, they can be taken to Okigwi or Enugu where they will see very fine pottery works.

In the North we know there are some fine carvings in ebony and elephant tusks. The Government would do very well to give this industry the cash and if necessary, even the training to develop, so that when we have tourists coming into the country, they will see these things and go back with very good impressions of what we can do in this country.

We have not got what one may call wax works in this country. We know that in important countries, and in important parts of the world, there are wax works, which carvers utilise in preserving the personalities in those countries. For example in England if you come to Madame Tussauds you will see statues of people of ancient and modern times such as the former kings and people like Churchill. Here, there is no reason why the Government should not establish a wax works industry, where we can preserve the statues of people like Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Dr Azikiwe, the Governor-General, and that of the Minister of Commerce and Industry himself.

One final point that weighs against the Tourist Industry is the lack of a circus in this country. Quite recently we held in International Trade Fair which was, incidentally, the first since the century, but that was not sufficient to encourage our neighbours to come to the country to see what we can produce. We should not only concentrate our attention on erecting fairs in Lagos but we should go far off into the interior, especially places like Maiduguri, Calabar or Sokoto. Surely people in these far places cannot come to Lagos in

[MR MUOJEKE]

order to witness any fair that is being exhibited. Fairs should be established all over the whole country so that people can travel at less inconvenience to see them.

In order to avoid duplicity of effort and money I am suggesting that whatever action the Federal Government proposes to take in the establishment of a Tourist Industry, should always be taken in consultation with the Regional Governments.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): I am very happy to have a copy of Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1959 which relates to the establishment of the Tourist Industry in Nigeria. I know that that was what the Minister mentioned when he made his speech, but there are so many recommendations, about five in all, which were made in favour of the tourist organisation.

The first one is, what resorts should be developed and in some particular respects; the second is the measures to improve hotels and catering for tourists; the third is the improvement of transport facilities within Nigeria and abroad; the fourth is on the publicity for scenic and other fashions, and the fifth is on the provision of entertainment facilities. I think the Minister has not told us what progress this tourist organisation has made in these fields. There is none, and if so I would like to suggest to the Minister to turn this organisation into a statutory corporation, so that hon. Members will be enabled to debate the progress being made by the organisation on the Floor of this House. It is only by so doing that we can encourage the organisation and help it to do very good work in Nigeria.

The other point is the dearth of zoos in this country. I think that if we want to encourage the thriving of a tourist industry there should be one, at least, in each Regional capital. Zoos, as a matter of fact, help to attract tourists.

I do not know what extent the Immigration Act will affect the tourists industry, because if tourists know that they are going to be saddled with filling lots of particulars before being allowed into the country, they might as well decide to go to another place.

I think there is too much red-tape in our Immigration Law, and I do hope that the Minister will see to it that tourists coming into this country are not bothered with having to fill too many papers.

I beg to support the Amendment.

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

Question, That those words be there inserted. put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House appreciate the benefits that can accrue to the country from a well established Tourist Industry and congratulates the Federal Government on taking the steps which have led to the formation of the Nigerian Tourist Association.

And it being six o'clock the Deputy Speaker suspended the Sitting until 9 p.m. pursuant to the Resolution of the House (23rd April).

Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 9. p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

LAGOS HEALTH SERVICE BILL :

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND
READING (4TH APRIL)

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. Dr M. A. Majekodunmi): I wish to make a brief statement on this Bill, the provisions of which have now become a controversial issue.

No one will deny that medical facilities throughout the Federation are hopelessly inadequate. The situation in Lagos here is aggravated by the large numbers of highly enlightened people who have come to work here from all over the country, and who demand modern medical treatment. This has resulted in great pressure on our medical institutions. It is to remove this pressure, and—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): On a point of order, Sir, hon. Members of this House must only come into this House properly dressed. Members are supposed to put on ties when they are in Western dresses. I can see my hon. Friend, the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) sitting on his seat in this House in a jacket but without a tie. I think this is most improper.

Federal Parliament Debates

1955

[Lagos Health Service Bill]

23 APRIL 1963

[Lagos Health Service Bill]

1956

Mr Speaker : Are you unable to recognise the dress of princes ?

Chief D. N. Abii : Do not mind him, Mr Speaker.

The Minister of Health : It is to remove this pressure, and to make medical services available to all on reasonable terms that this Scheme was introduced. I am of the firm belief that the Scheme we seek to introduce is good for the people of this country and, contrary to the views expressed in this House, that it is too advanced for our people, I think it has not come a day too soon.

I am only too well aware that if the Scheme is to succeed and to be of benefit to all, it must be generally acceptable. So far it is clear that this Bill has been much misunderstood and I would, with your permission, ask that the consideration of the Second Reading be deferred to the next sitting of Parliament in order to give the people an adequate opportunity of examining it more closely.

I wish to state here categorically that I have no other interest in the measures proposed by this Bill other than that I sincerely believe that it would prove of benefit to the people of this country. Good, like truth, is eternal. If this Bill is good to-day, it will still be good tomorrow, and indeed, even after all of us have disappeared from the scene.

I have every confidence that the measures which we have proposed here will stand the test of public criticism. If it cannot stand public analysis and criticism, it cannot be good for our people and I have no fear in submitting it to the test. I want it to be debated in the workshops, in the pubs, in every home, in the Mosques and the Churches and on the Radio. I want it to be pulled apart and placed together again. It is only by so doing that we can ensure the best for our people.

One thing about the Scheme is that it is not a carbon copy of any similar Scheme elsewhere. It is designed specially to suit Nigerian circumstances in general and the conditions of the medical needs of Lagos in particular. It has been said that I am in a hurry to have this Bill passed, and I freely admit that, of course, I am

in a hurry. If any of the Members here have seen as many numbers of women and children die as I have, when they need not have died ; if they have ever come face to face with human suffering in its stark reality as I have done during the 20 years that I have practised medicine in Nigeria, they will be just as impatient as I am.

However, I have no doubt that Members of this House who have expressed misgivings about this Bill are quite sincere in their opposition, and I concede that to them. But if any person or group of persons have been obstructing this Bill for their own selfish ends, the blood of the innocents who die daily in our medical institutions will be on their heads.

I am of the sincere belief that this Scheme is a practical and workable alternative to the present unsatisfactory conditions in our medical services, but if any-body has a better alternative, let him bring it forward and I shall gladly accept it. Here, I would like to sound a note of warning: Our people throughout the country, are not satisfied with the medical services we provide for them at the moment and the demand for better facilities is growing daily. Quite rightly, we spend huge sums of money in educating our people. Many more people than ever before can now read. More and more of our people are learning what is going on in the world. They know that when their children die it is not due to witchcraft or evil spirits. They know it is due to pneumonia, diarrhoea or bronchitis—diseases which can easily be cured. This Scheme is intended to supply the needs of our people, but as I have already indicated, anyone who has a better alternative should bring it forward and we shall examine it.

I wish to assure the House that Government has no intention of abandoning this Scheme, but as everyone knows, we have accepted in this country, the principle that Parliament is supreme, and since Parliament has indicated that they would wish more time to reconsider the Bill, I have no hesitation whatsoever in deferring to the wishes of Parliament.

I would, therefore, with your permission, Mr Speaker, move that debate on the Second Reading of this Bill be adjourned until 31st July, 1963.

The Minister of Finance : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the debate on the Second Reading of the Lagos Health Service Bill be adjourned until the 31st July, 1963.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : I want to seek your permission, Mr Speaker, to speak on this Bill.

Mr Speaker : Order ! No further speeches can be entertained. We have finished with the Bill.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1961-62) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : I have it in command from His Excellency to move, That a Bill entitled "An Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Two hundred and Twenty-eight thousand, eight hundred and three pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the year which ended on the thirty-first day of March, One thousand, nine hundred and sixty two ; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act", be now read a Second time.

This Bill is of a kind to which we are not unaccustomed. It seeks the formal approval of Parliament for excess expenditure of £228,803 actually incurred during 1961-62, on only four Heads, without Parliamentary authority.

As I have always pointed out, it is impossible to expect actual expenditure to be exactly equal to provision authorised by Parliament. It will be the highest stage of perfection when there is not one single item of misclassification of expenditure in the vast number of individual payments actually made by the numerous paying officials of the Federal Government.

The actual out-turn for 1961-62 was very encouraging indeed. The actual revenue received during the financial year exceeded the

estimated revenue by nearly nine million pounds due largely to increased receipts from Customs and Excise duties and from Mining. On the expenditure side, apart from the statutory revenue allocation payments to the Regions and the large contributions to the Development Fund from revenue, the total expenditure incurred is less than the total approved in the Annual Budget and the various Supplementary Appropriation Acts for the year by more than £1.9 million.

The Public Accounts Committee of this House has, on several occasions, expressed concern on expenditure without proper authority. Members of this House are already aware of my very strong views on unauthorised expenditure and my determination to find ways and means of curbing it. Immediately the Accounts for 1961-62 were finalised and my attention was drawn to the excess expenditure on the Heads for Antiquities, Pensions and Gratuities, Ministry of Health and Inland Waterways, I appointed Boards of Inquiry to examine the circumstances leading to the unauthorised expenditure. The reports of the Boards of Inquiry into the excesses have been submitted to my Ministry and have been very carefully examined.

For two of the Heads, I am satisfied that the excesses were unavoidable because of misclassifications. On the other two Heads, I am satisfied that the excesses could have been avoided or that steps should have been taken to obtain the necessary authority in advance of actual expenditure. I have accordingly requested that these two cases should be referred to the Public Service Commission which is responsible for the discipline of public servants.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Accounts for 1961-62 were finalised by October last. It was my original intention to present this Bill when Parliament met in December. But, owing to the Boards of Inquiry into the excesses which I appointed and my eagerness to obtain their Reports before coming to Parliament, I considered it necessary to postpone the Bill until this Budget Session.

I beg to move.

Federal Parliament Debates

1959 [Supplementary Appropriation 23 APRIL 1963 [Supplementary Appropriation 1960
(1961-62) Bill (1962-63) Bill]

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

Mr Speaker : Order ! Under Standing Order 64 (a), the debate stands adjourned until the next sitting day, that is tomorrow.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1962-63)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : I have it in command from His Excellency to move, That a Bill entitled "An Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Three hundred and nine thousand, Two hundred and eighty pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the Contingencies Fund for the year which ended on the thirty-first day of March, One thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three ; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act", be now read a Second time.

This Bill seeks covering authority from Parliament for certain urgent and inescapable supplementary expenditure. This Bill is unlike the Supplementary Appropriation (1961-62) Bill which I have just presented. That Bill sought the approval of the House for unauthorised excess expenditure which was brought to light when the accounts of the Federation for 1961-62 were closed.

The present Bill seeks covering authority for urgent and inescapable expenditure which has been specifically authorised by me from the Contingencies Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Finance (Control and Management) Act. The Law requires that all such releases from the Contingencies Fund must be reported to Parliament at its next ensuing Meeting and that the Contingencies Fund should be reimbursed with the total sum authorised by me. In all the cases, I am satisfied that the expenditure was urgent and inescapable and that my refusal to authorise it would have been contrary to the public interest.

The details of the Sub-heads to which I authorised additional provision from the Contingencies Fund are shown at page 3 of the Third Supplementary Estimates now before

the House. They were mainly to meet increased expenditure on Government printing and to provide for the 1914-18 War Disability Pensions and motor vehicles required urgently for the Police Mobile Force. I do not, therefore, propose to dwell extensively on them.

In presenting a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, it is customary to mention the Supplementary Capital Expenditure Estimates as well, although they do not form part of the Bill. The Capital Expenditure Estimates are appropriated by Resolutions which I shall present separately.

The Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure total only £519,792 and are required under three Sub-heads under two Heads—Air Transport System and Communications. Under Head 626—Air Transport System, a provision of £169,992 was authorised by Special Warrant for the acquisition of the shares of the Commercial Partners in W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Limited.

Members have, on several occasions on the Floor of this House, strongly advocated the taking over of our overseas communications. In pursuance of the general wish, negotiations were concluded for the establishment of the Nigerian External Communications Limited and the £336,600 inserted in the Capital Estimates under Head 627, Sub-head 269 was to provide for the Federal Government's contribution to the capital of the company.

The third item for which a provision of £13,200 was made by a Special Warrant was to provide for the cost of the installation of cable and telecommunications equipment required for our participation in the American space research. Rule 8 of the Second Schedule of the Finance (Control and Management) Act requires that I should submit to the House for approval at its next ensuing Meeting all Special Warrants authorised by me. In each case, Government was satisfied that the expenditure so authorised was urgent and inescapable and could not in any circumstances be postponed.

I beg to move.

Minister of State (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : Order ! Under Standing Order 64 (a), the debate stands adjourned until the next sitting day, that is tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty minutes past nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 24th April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ESTABLISHMENTS

Administrative Officer Grades

O.408. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Establishments, whether, in view of the dissatisfaction and discontent among the Administrative Officers (Classes III and IV) with the conditions attendant on the creation of the Principal Grade and the down-grading of certain Group 7 posts to the Principal Grade he will consider restoring the grades bearing in mind that unhappy service conditions are not only frustrating but also less productive.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (M. Sanni Gezawa): One of the main purposes of introducing the Principal Grade into the Administrative Service was to reduce the abnormally large difference in the salary which an experienced Assistant Secretary received and what was paid to a Senior Assistant Secretary. Hitherto, it was not uncommon for the latter to receive more than twice the emolument of the former.

When it is considered that only 9 posts of Senior Assistant Secretary have been down-graded to the Principal Grade and that no fewer than 15 Assistant Secretaries have been promoted to the new grade, it seems evident that the immediate promotion prospects of officers serving in Scale A have been considerably enhanced and that a more rational system of promotion has been instituted.

Prison Warders and Wardresses

O.597. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will improve the salary structure of prison warders and wardresses.

M. Sanni Gezawa: The Minister does not consider that the salary structure for warders and wardresses requires any alteration at the present time.

HEALTH

Dangerous Drugs

O.409. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Health, what steps he is taking in the interest of the public against importation of dangerous drugs into the country by unqualified persons.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. Dr M. A. Majekodunmi): The Pharmacy Act and the Poisons and Drugs Ordinance are being revised and are at present being redrafted by the Law Officers. Clauses to enable a more rigid control of the importation of drugs are being embodied in the revised Acts.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): Is the Minister aware that the exorbitant prices that chemists and druggists charge for drugs in this country are on the increase, and is he going to do something about this?

Chief the hon. Dr Majekodunmi: There is no price control of drugs in this country.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Will the Minister tell us when he is going to introduce it in this country? It must be controlled.

Quack Doctors

O.410. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Health, how many quack doctors have been detected in the Government hospitals in the last five years and what steps he is taking to check from time to time such of their type.

Chief the hon. Dr Majekodunmi: Only one such doctor has been detected in the Government hospital in the past five years. He was actually never employed but walked into one of the dispensaries and claimed to have been sent to work by the Chief Medical Adviser.

Hospitals and dispensaries have been advised that unless a doctor, even one already in the Service, produces a written letter by a Senior Officer of the Ministry, he must not be allowed to work in that unit.

Nigerian Herbs

O.480. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Health, whether he will cause research to be made into the efficiency of our native herbs for the treatment of Malaria,

Small pox and mental illness and if he will enlist the aid of the World Health Organisation in this respect.

Chief the hon. Dr Majekodunmi : Research into native herbs and roots commenced at the University College, Ibadan, in 1959, under the sponsorship of the Federal Government. It is yet too early to have any fruitful results. It is also not considered necessary to approach the World Health Organisation for assistance at this stage.

Communications

Oro Postal Agency

O.511. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Communications, when the postal agency at Oro, in Ilorin Division, will be converted into a sub-post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika) : The Minister notices that the hon. Member asked this Question at the last sitting of Parliament in December. It is still being considered whether the siting of a Sub-Post Office at Oro will contribute towards the development of postal services in the Ilorin East Area, and until this is finalised, I shall not be in position to say when the Postal Agency at Oro will be converted to a Sub-Post Office.

Mbano

O.505. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware of the repeated requests by the Mbano people for a post office and telephone facilities and what plans he has for providing a post office there.

Mr Nwika : The following Postal Agencies are operating in Mbano County Area and the current unit of business transacted is shown against each Postal Agency :—

Angara	10,536
Amauzari	5,882
Ehime	17,635
Nsu	19,102
Obollo	8,125
Umuohiri	4,237

It will be seen that none of the Postal Agencies is qualified for conversion to Sub-Post Office or Departmental Post Office in accordance with the standards laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, but it is likely that Ehime and Nsu may qualify for conversion when the new policy comes into operation.

Abudu Sub-Post Office

O.516. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the cause of the delay in opening the Abudu Sub-Post Office.

Mr Nwika : The delay was due to the necessity to train the Sub-Postmaster to equip him in running the sub-post office efficiently.

Arrangements have, however, been completed and the sub-post office was opened on 22nd April, 1963.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : Is the Minister aware that up to nine months ago a postmaster had been trained for that particular post office and that he has had to hang on the whole time ?

Amaraku Postal Agency

O.580. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will now convert that postal agency at Amaraku to a sub-post office since it has satisfied the requirements stipulated in his answer to my Question No. O.774 of December 5th, 1962.

Mr Nwika : Approval has been given to convert Amaraku Postal Agency to Sub-Post Office status and the details are currently being negotiated with the Local Council.

Abudu

O.647. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to provide telephone service at Abudu.

Mr Nwika : A Rural Call Office exists at Abudu Postal Agency. Consideration will be given to the extension of telephone facilities in this locality during the 1962-68 Development Programme.

Ministry Accounting

O.650. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Communications, how many accounting machines have been hired by the accounts and other sections of his Ministry ; from whom are they hired and on what terms.

Mr Nwika : A punched card accounting machine installation is on hire in the Posts and Telegraphs Division from Messrs International Computers and Tabulators Ltd. This consists, primarily, of a Calculator which processes and calculates information fed to it in punched

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card form and a Tabulator which translates the information contained in the punched cards into a printed form, together with the ancillary equipment necessary to create, verify and sort the punched cards.

This equipment is hired on an agreement which either party is permitted to determine on three months' notice, after a minimum period of two years from the date of installation.

O.651. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Communications, how much has been paid for the hire of accounting machines by his Ministry and to whom has the rent been paid since April 1960.

Mr Nwika : The Accounting Machines on hire from Messrs International Computers and Tabulators Ltd. by the Posts and Telegraphs Division attract a total annual rental of £8,862. The first of the machines was installed in late 1961, the others following at varying dates until the installation was complete with the arrival of the last machine on 31st December, 1962.

As rent is payable from the date each machine is installed a full year's rent on all the machines has not yet become due; the total amount paid up to 31st March, 1963 was £5,239-14s-2d.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Will the Minister let us know which is more economical, to continue to hire a machine or to buy a machine ?

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu. Akinfosile) : I think that the answer is in the next question, namely that these machines change ever so often that there is no economy in purchasing them. It is more economical to rent them.

***O.652. Mr F. A. M. Amadi** asked the Minister of Communications, how much an accounting machine suitable for use by his Ministry costs.

Mr Nwika : The cost of accounting machines varies considerably according to their complexity and sophistication. Whereas a straightforward adding machine, many of which are in use in my Ministry, may be purchased at between £35 to £40, the capital cost of purchasing and installing the punched card accounting machines which are at present on hire in the Posts and Telegraphs Division, at an annual rental of £8,862, would be not less than £60,000.

Not only because of the high capital cost of such installations, but also because of the rapid advance which is constantly being made in this field, it is more economical to hire up-to-date machines than to purchase an installation which may rapidly become outmoded.

Mr Amadi : From the answer just given, it appears to me that within six years the cost of production will be covered. How is it then more economical, according to the Minister, to hire rather than to buy ?

Mr Speaker : That question has been answered.

Ezzikwo Postal Agency

***O.668. Mr J. O. Igwe** asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the fact that the Ezzikwo postal agency has reached the twenty-four thousand units required for conversion to a sub post office, he will state how soon conversion of this postal agency to a sub post office will take place.

Mr Nwika : Onueke Postal Agency is the only postal agency in Ezzikwo Council Area which transacts business up to the level of 16,151 units. Members have recently been informed of this Ministry's proposal to introduce a White Paper reducing the standard units of conversion from 24,000 to 18,000. When this is done, any postal agency that transacts business up to 18,000 units will be considered for conversion to a sub-post office.

Chief Abii : Will the Minister tell us why he prefers to reduce the units from 24,000 to 18,000 instead of 15,000 that this House has been crying for ?

Mbieri Sub-Post Office

O.670. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, if he will provide telephone facilities and more post boxes at the recently opened sub-post office at Mbieri and Mbaitoli.

Mr Nwika : Mbieri and Mbaitoli are being considered for telephone service during the 1962-68 Development Programme. Private letter boxes have already been provided at these Sub-Post Offices.

Nkerefi

O.671 Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Communications, if he will establish a postal agency at Nkerefi since the town has done everything necessary to qualify for a postal agency.

Mr Nwika : There has been no application for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Nkerefi. When such an application is received, consideration will be given to it.

Awka Central Postal Agencies

O.672. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Communications, if he will convert the Adazi, Isulo, Umunze and Umuawulu Postal Agencies into sub-post offices seeing that they have fulfilled the necessary conditions.

Mr Nwika : The amount of business transacted currently at the Postal Agencies is as follows :—

Adazi-Ani	4,520 units
Adazi-Enu	4,150 units
Adazi-Nnukwu ..	18,208 units
Isulo	8,261 units
Umunze	7,190 units
Umuawulu	6,728 units

None of the Postal Agencies has attained the level of business laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4/1957 for conversion of Postal Agencies to Sub-Post Office status, but Adazi-Nnukwu may qualify for conversion on approval of the new conversion policy.

Uvuma

O.673. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Communications, if he will allow one sub-post office to be established for the two postal agencies in Uvuma town in view of the increasing population.

Mr Nwika : The business transacted at the two Postal Agencies in Uvuma town is :—

Enugwu-Aboh	11,376
Umuonyiba	6,650

These figures are well below the conversion figure of 18,000 units now under consideration.

Mr Muojeke : Will the Minister take the fact into consideration that the two postal agencies are in one and the same town and if they are added together they will qualify ?

Ogoja Province

O.674. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state the volume of business transacted at each of the four post offices in Ogoja Province, and whether there are enough staff in each of the post offices.

Mr Nwika : The volume of business transacted at the four Post Offices in Ogoja Province, Ogoja, Bansara, Ikom and Obudu, is being compiled and will be made available as soon as possible.

The volume of business at each of the Post Offices is regularly reviewed to ensure that the work is adequately related to the staff employed. For instance now that it has been revealed that Obudu Post Office is not adequately staffed, more staff will immediately be employed there.

Obudu

O.675. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Communications, following the relisting of priorities in the new Development Plan when Obudu is expected to have a telephone service.

Mr Nwika : My Ministry has not yet finished relisting the priorities for the 1962-68 Development Programme and until this is done I cannot say when Obudu will be provided with telephone facilities.

O.679. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, what is the present volume of business transacted at the Atta Postal Agency at Ikeduru, and if the postal agency has attained the requirements of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 for conversion into a full post office.

Mr Nwika : The amount of business currently transacted at Atta Postal Agency is 13,320. This is well below the conversion figure for sub post office and for Departmental Post Office laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Ikeduru Post Office

O.680. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, what improvements he envisages for the Ikeduru post office in the present financial year and if he will state how soon he hopes to provide the Post Office with a telephone exchange to serve the need of the people.

Mr Nwika : Ikeduru Postal Agency was converted to a Departmental Post Office on the 13th June, 1960. No improvements are envisaged in this financial year because the Post Office is capable of meeting any increased traffic.

With regard to the telephone service, a rural call office exists at Ikeduru. The conversion of the call office to a telephone exchange is being considered for 1962-68 Development Programme.

Proposed Diobu Post Office

O.682. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Communications, how soon work will start on the building of the branch post office at mile 2 Diobu.

Mr Nwika : A Branch Post Office for Diobu is included in the 1962-68 Development Programme but site has not yet been acquired.

It is therefore not possible at present, to state when the building will commence.

Port Harcourt Post Office

O.683. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Communications, when he will erect a new and modern post office at Port-Harcourt as the existing one is proving inadequate for the amount of business transacted there.

Mr Nwika : The inadequacy of the existing Post Office at Port-Harcourt has since been realised and provision has been made in the current Development Programme, for a Special Type Post Office to be erected at Port-Harcourt.

It is not possible at present to state when the building will be constructed as site has not yet been acquired and design work has therefore not started.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa : Why the delay in the acquisition of the site in this place ?

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile) : That is being delayed by the Planning Authority and by the Ministry of Lands in Enugu. May be the hon. Member will help by getting at them.

Isiokpo and Elele

O.684. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider making Isiokpo and Elele postal agencies distribution centres from where other nearby postal agencies can collect their mail bags.

Mr Nwika : There is no postal agency at Isiokpo. The amount of business transacted at Elele Postal Agency is 22,369 units which although is still below the conversion level set down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 may qualify this postal agency for conversion to a sub-post office when the new policy is approved.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa : Is the Minister aware that the Ikawawia Post Office is at Isiokpo ?

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, on the 22nd instant I asked question No. O.329 and when the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry could not find the answer the Minister of Finance gave the undertaking that the answer would be recorded in the proceedings, but to my greatest surprise that has not been done.

NOTICE OF MOTION**Business of the House**

The Minister of Finance : We had thought that some of the Bills that we passed yesterday would be dealt with to-day and tomorrow. We do not now intend to move the Motion, but if we decide to have a night sitting tomorrow I shall ask that it be put on the Order Paper and then move it tomorrow, Sir.

ORDER OF THE DAY**APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL**

(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 49—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question proposed, That £278,690 for Head 49—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : Decidedly, Sir, the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice has earned both the praise and admiration of not only the Members of this House, but of also Nigerian citizens as a whole. He works in closest co-operation with his Parliamentary Secretary and invariably he allows the Parliamentary Secretary to carry some publicity and praise and that is what should be the case in all the Ministries. We want the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries to be working as closely and as intimately as obtains in the Ministry of Justice.

The Chairman : Will the hon. Member please speak as loudly as he can ?

Mr Muojeke : Though the Attorney-General is not here, his Parliamentary Secretary might take a packet of assignment for him pending his return.

[MR MUOJEKE]

First, I would suggest that the Minister of Justice works in co-operation with other Ministries so as to pass legislation which will be in consonance with the dignity of an independent Nigeria.

Last year, I asked him whether he would bring in legislation to legalise the processing, possession and sale of what our colonial masters had been pleased to style as illicit gin. His answer was that it was not part of his duty to bring that kind of law and that it was the business of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to do so. I refuse to agree with him because in other parts of the world, the Minister of Justice can take the initiative to promote legislation which the conditions of that country require. He can ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry—after all, the Ministries are not separated into water-tight compartments—he can advise him to do it. He can advise him as to the wisdom of introducing such legislation.

Also, the Nigerian Labour Code concerning Trade Union Law is in a chaotic state. If he is asked to put up modern legislation about Trade Union Ordinance, he could as well say that it is not in his portfolio. The Trade Union Ordinance contains the provision that if an association, either of employees or employers, is for the purpose of trade only that association cannot be registered as a trade union. But, in England, all associations whether they are for trade or manufacture of anything, could be registered as a trade union. Here, all associations except they are associations of labourers or employees, cannot be registered.

We have no system of registration. There is a great deal of virtue in getting these bodies registered—

Mr E. C. Akwivu : (Orlu South East) : On a point of order, I think the hon. Gentleman is really stretching his argument too far to the extent of irrelevance.

The interpretation of statutes belongs to the law courts, drafting is probably a matter for the Ministry of Justice, but initiation of legislations comes from the appropriate Ministry.

The Chairman : Actually we can deal with quite a lot of matters in detail at the Committee Stage, but I agree that he has wandered a bit too far. Perhaps he would like to come to the point.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : On a point of order, much as I respect the hon. Gentleman contributing to this debate, I am afraid that not all lawyers are conversant with labour law.

For the information of the hon. Gentleman and of this House, associations are registered as trade unions, and I can state examples. The African Mining Employers' Association is registered as a trade union.

I think that, with your permission, Sir, I should ask the hon. Gentleman to please retrace his steps from that aspect of the law. I respectfully submit that he does not know much about it.

The Chairman : I do hope that the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is not trying to monopolise labour matters.

Mr Muojeke : Thank you, Mr Chairman. In fact what I was trying to say is that there ought to be legislation which will facilitate the easy formation of trade unions so that, if they are registered, their properties can be protected as legal persons, because without a system of registration they cannot protect their properties in any court of law.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I want to say that already the Labour Code Ordinance provides that five men could form a trade union in this country. We are agitating against this, and the hon. Gentleman speaking is trying to suggest another way of facilitating it. Is he suggesting that the number be increased or decreased?

The Chairman : That is not a point of order.

Mr Muojeke : I am talking from experience because I have been approached by five bodies of people who want to be registered as trade unions but their applications were refused. I am talking here on an important aspect of the law, not on what these people do as trade union leaders. I am speaking on the question of bringing about the trade unions according to the law, making them legal beings, legal persons. If they are not registered, and if the trade unions are not recognised by the courts of law, they cannot bring any action, and whatever properties they acquire are useless because they cannot protect them.

Another point is the system of law reporting. We want law reports to come out as soon as the cases are decided. It is said that "Justice

delayed is justice denied". If cases that are brought before the courts are not as promptly reported as they should be, we cannot make use of them in the law courts, and the effect of those decisions is lost to the lawyers who might otherwise make use of them.

For the past two years we have not seen the Federal Supreme Court Law Reports. The last Law Report we have is the one of 1961, embodied in the All Nigeria Law Reports. That is the last ; but since then, there have been a series of decided cases, important cases, constitutional cases that we ought to see, but up till now we have not seen them.

We were promised two or three weeks ago that we would get new issues of the report, but I went to the Government Printer yesterday, and I failed to get any law report. Every lawyer in this country knows how very, very important law reports are.

Finally, I urge the Attorney-General to take necessary and appropriate steps to see that our Constitution is revised with a view to seeing that the Judiciary is Federalised, at least from the Magistrates' Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court all the courts should be made Federal. There is no need having a multiplicity of law Reports in the East, in the West, in the North, having different kinds of law administered in the Magistrates' Courts.

We lawyers all have our training from and in England. The law we administer is more or less English law. What do we gain, what benefit do we derive from making the law a regional subject? As soon as we make the administration of the law in Magistrates' Courts and the High Courts a Federal issue, there will grow a large body of law reporting and the Magistrates' Courts will earn and enjoy more respect, and pride in the country.

The Attorney-General must take appropriate steps to see that appeals to the British Privy Council is abolished. Justice in our courts must start and end in Nigeria. Any person who feels that he cannot get justice in Nigerian courts should quit the country straight away.

The great humiliation associated with having our cases taken to the Privy Council is too well known. In fact it is no court, but an advisory body, whose decisions English judges regard as not binding. There is a great deal of humiliation in our cases having to go to the Privy Council, as no English judge is bound by

the decision of the Privy Council. They all regard such decisions as opinions which have been given by people who are not judges in the true sense when they are dealing with appeals from the colonies. At the same time, our judges are not represented in the Privy Council. They are not represented and even there is no guarantee that the people know our laws. When a case is before them they ask our courts for our laws, and we make the laws and the constitution ourselves. How then can we rely on foreigners to come and interpret and administer our own laws for us? When we do things here in this country, we pass them on to England where they undo them and then pass them back to us. I think this should be viewed very seriously.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Chairman : Mr Akwivu.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North) : On a point of order, may I remind the House that Head 46—Ministry of Information—has not been taken.

The Chairman : We did actually consider Head 46—Ministry of Information. It was deferred in place of Ministry of Works.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) : I would like to start with the question of Privy Council, which was reasonably argued by the last speaker. There is just one funny aspect of it which I would like to draw to the attention of the House.

There was once when a case was to be argued before the Privy Council, and the English Q.C. who was to argue the case for the appellant started by saying, "If it may please your Lordship, this is a case held before a colonial judge and argued by a native lawyer". That is an appeal to the Privy Council coming from either a colonial or ex-colonial country. I think each one of these things has its more ridiculous aspect. In fact, only recently, a British Q.C. was reported to have said before a British court that cases tried before Nigerian courts were cases of doubtful authority and doubtful validity. I do not think we can carry on with that sort of insult. I think it is a good thing that already indications have been given that the matter is being looked into. We do sincerely urge that it be quickly and properly looked into so that we can know where we are before very long.

[MR AKWIWU]

When we are thinking of African unity, if we feel that a court higher than our Federal Supreme Court is necessary, I think the Minister of Justice can consider the possibility of resuscitating the joint Final Court of Appeal, in which case it might be one of the concrete ways by which we can start co-operation again. Now that we are in the fortunate position of sending judges and magistrates and other law officers to some other independent African countries, I am sure that the possibility of having a final Court of Appeal of wider coverage for African countries is even greater, and I do sincerely hope that the field will be explored so that for appeals amongst the English speaking African countries, we could possibly have a final Court of Appeal embracing not only the West African countries, but also countries in East and Central Africa.

Many people may not agree, but it is my humble view that our judges can do better with some more pay. If I may say so, it takes a lot of restraint to be a good judge. In the first place, you and I are free to roam about the streets as we like, but a judge must be sure of where he goes, otherwise his free movement may be misconstrued as canvassing, and in fact, he may even be labelled by people as being corrupt and asking for bribes. Normally, that sort of job is suited to people who have passed the prime of life. People of about late 50s, 60s and 70s who have lost most of their instinctive inclinations to the joys of life are the people who are suited for the job. Quite frankly, without being asked to, they need no sermons or injunctions to confine their movements to between the law courts, their chambers and their homes and perhaps some respectable societies.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East): On a point of order, I do not think it is proper to be discussing judges' salaries in this House.

The Chairman: I have not heard the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) discuss the salary of judges, but I think we can touch their conditions of service a little bit.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): On a point of order, in support of what the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) said, there is an extra-Ministerial Head which deals with the salary of judges and other things. What the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) is saying is entirely out of order.

The Chairman: Actually, this is Head 49—Ministry of Justice—and item (1) discusses the Attorney-General who has the overall responsibility for justices, and judges are included.

Mr Akwivu: I am very grateful—

Chief Abii: The Attorney-General has not got the power to increase the salary of judges.

The Chairman: What I am saying is that the Parliament has.

Mr Akwivu: I am very grateful to you, Mr Chairman. The eagerness with which Members are prepared to disclose their ignorance is very remarkable.

Chief Abii: I take the statement made by the Deputy Speaker (*Mr Akwivu*) very serious, because I still maintain that Parliament has not got the right to discuss the salary of judges on the Floor of this House, and we can refer to parliamentary procedure.

The Chairman: Actually, the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) has not discussed the salary of judges. He has started by talking of their conditions of service I think I must hear more from him before I can rule him out of order.

Mr Akwivu: I think I have really said what can be said on that point. All I was saying is that these judges need some more inducement.

In any case, I think that the magistrates' conditions of service should be reconsidered. As a matter of fact, they are much more easily within public view, and scandals are spread about far too easily, and I think that their conditions of service should be reviewed. If some one, merely by virtue of his being in the administrative service for, say ten years can earn over £2,000, I do not see why some one—

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I am referring to Order 66 (1) "*The House shall not, except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General, proceed upon any bill, motion, amendment or petition*—" (I lay emphasis on "petition". My hon. Friend is really petitioning) "*which, in the opinion of Mr Speaker or other person presiding, makes provision or requests that provision should*

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be made for imposing or increasing any charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or other public funds of the Federation, or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it or for compounding or remitting any debt due to the Federation."

My humble submission is that any attempt to say that the salaries of certain people should be reviewed on the Floor of this House is contrary to this section. If the hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) is asking that we should reduce the salaries of Magistrates, then he would be in order, but if he is saying that the salaries, should be reviewed or that their conditions of service should be reviewed, my humble submission is that it amounts to making a petition or a request for such charges to be made on the Government. I would say that my hon. Friend is out of order. If he wants to woo any judge or magistrate, let him go and do so outside this House.

The Chairman : Order 66 (1) does state that if it is the opinion of Mr Speaker or any one presiding, that is conducive. In my opinion, he is not.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, I submit to your ruling.

Mr Akwivu : It seems some of my colleagues are too sensitive when the courts are mentioned, and I will be very brief on that. Suffice it to say that I am wooing no one. I am not interested in the job.

I think, perhaps, Members may not be too sensitive about this. I think it is a very welcome move that recently we have been in a position to send some of our lawyers and members of the Bench to assist in some of the independent African countries. I think it is a very good move, especially now that the plight of lawyers is becoming increasingly embarrassing. We are having many lawyers coming out, and I think it will be a practical demonstration of our belief and sincerity in assisting African countries that we place at their disposal the services of our trained lawyers.

I would like to say this that Nigeria, to a very great extent, is going to be judged by the people of the countries to which we send our lawyers by the impression that those our lawyers make. I think it is very important that in deciding on lawyers or members of the Bench to send from this country to any of the indepen-

dent African countries, we must seriously weigh the character of the people we send out. Naturally, in recent times, perhaps, it may be that it has become the practice that people make scandalous statements about certain classes of people ; but we do hope that where a member of the Bench or a lawyer is being sent out of Nigeria to any other country for employment, we should make sure that he is not of a doubtful character, that he is not the type whose ways of doing things might easily lend themselves to serious misinterpretations.

Several hon. Members : Finally.

Mr Akwivu : I wish I could make a speech for three hours !

I think that the Government should take a more active part in seeing what they can do to regularise the practice of legal profession in Nigeria.

An hon. Member : The lawyers have started kicking.

Mr Akwivu : Lawyers may start kicking, I would not be the worst for it, but what I am saying is that at the moment the whole thing seems to have lost control. Some responsible move should be made to smoothen the relationship between members of the Bench and members of the Bar, more particularly people on the Magisterial Bench and especially those who have never practised one day. The more inexperienced they are the more noxious they are on the Bench, and the more they pretend to know so much, and the more difficult they make it for young boys who have just qualified to practise.

Everybody knows that a Magistrate's Court is as good as a market place. It is the major centre of legal practice. Many onlookers are there, whether they are litigants or not, and any Magistrate who gets up to castigate in very rude terms any member of the Bar, at least, is being not only unfair but inhuman and unkind, and of course, he is being unprofessional.

Several hon. Members : They must behave well.

Mr Akwivu : I must say that hon. members who are shouting that they must behave well should know that naturally if one invites critical remarks he should have them, but they should not be in such a way as to damage him professionally. I know Mr Eleke's reputation

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : Can the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) do that ?

Mr Ekanem : Of course, I have worked free for some trade unions in this country and the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) can check that up.

According to an authority like Sir Vincent Tewson of the British Trade Union Congress, strikes should be the last weapon to be used by any real and shrewd Trade Union Leader. There are other avenues open, we have very many more avenues like negotiations, arbitrations and persuasions to get through any demand by trade union leaders rather than strikes, and I am only crying on the Floor of this House because of the appalling daily strikes in this country.

Who is to blame for these strikes ? It is the Minister of Labour, and I will show hon. Members why he should be blamed. He has in the Regions certain people whom he designated as Principal Labour Officers. Now, under the law one cannot send one's demand direct to the Federal Minister of Labour ; one can only endorse it to him for his information. What happens in the Regions is that when there is any demand, the Labour Officer, who already knows about this, will sit down there and not take immediate action until the patience of the men becomes exhausted and it becomes impossible for the leader of the Trade Union to arrest their impatience.

Now, what we want is that the Labour Code or the Labour Ordinance should be amended in such a way as to enable the Minister of Labour or the Commissioner of Labour here in Lagos to take immediate steps in direct consultation with the Trade Unions concerned in any of the disputes without having to pass through his Regional "Deputy or Deputies", called Principal Labour Officers, who may be having only administrative ability and not trade union ability.

I have in mind an incident which happened in Lagos recently. There is a lot of *wuru wuru* going on. There were two sections ; one favoured the strike and the other was against it. The Minister of Labour, his Parliamentary Secretary, the Labour Officer, all sat down hands folded, until the position became aggravated. Now, my information is that there were certain

people amongst the dock workers who did not take part in the recent strike and these people are being used as scape goats and have been dismissed simply because they did not take part in the strike action, and the Minister sat down without investigating it. I am calling on the Minister to investigate whether these allegations are true or not.

An hon. Member : The Minister of Labour is not here.

Mr Ekanem : If the Minister is not here, his Parliamentary Secretary is here.

Another information in my possession is that as a result—

The Chairman : Order ! I do not know when the hon. Member proposes to wind up. He has spoken now for 28 minutes.

Mr Ekanem : When we discuss labour matters, we must realise that it is the life blood of the Government of this country and I would like to ask for the permission of the Chairman to extend my time and I think the House will agree with me.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Mr Ekanem : I am made to understand that because a certain section of the workers refused to go on strike, not only were the men used as scape goats, but their leaders too were being used as scape goats, and the Minister of Labour sits down hands folded. The Parliamentary Secretary also sits down here hands folded. I want the Minister to investigate whether it is true that those who did not take part in that strike are being used as scape goats. In any event, such a strike should have been arrested if we had real labour relations in that place.

The last but not the least of my points is that the Trade Union Ordinance or the Labour Ordinance in this country is out of date and we want a new one.

The Chairman : Order ! I am afraid that under Standing Order 32 the Chair has no power to extend time. Standing Order 32 too does provide for extension of time but that is in the case of a principal Mover of a Motion, not in circumstances such as this. Mr Ekanem, therefore, has one minute in which to wind up.

Mr Ekanem : In conclusion, I am suggesting that the Labour Code Ordinance, the Trade Disputes Arbitration Ordinance and so

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on are all very old. Therefore, a Bill should be brought to this House to amend all these Ordinances in such a way as to make it automatic for employers of labour to recognise all trade unions already recognised by the Government of this country. Any Trade Union whose registration has been authenticated by the Government and the certificates issued to them should be automatically recognised by employers of labour.

May I say that it seems to me that the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Labour has not been made proper use of. He has not been able to answer questions and my information is that the Permanent Secretary there finds it difficult to give him jobs to do and I ask that sufficient job should be given to him to do.

I beg to support.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : It is rather unfortunate that from time to time the Minister of Labour has been absent from the House on Government duties. Last time when we were discussing his Ministry he was sent to Tanganyika. This time again he has been sent to London for the wedding of Princess Alexandra of Kent.

The Chairman : Order ! I am sure the hon. Member is aware of the principle of collective responsibility so that whatever points are made at least in addition to whatever else are contained in the *Hansard*, the Minister and his officials can take care of these. I do hope this point should be left alone.

Mr Mbah : I appreciate your ruling, Sir, but at the same time we would like to see him here to listen to us. In the Estimates you will find that the Minister of Labour has not been allowed a free hand to run that Ministry. There are other external factors which have been militating against the activities of the Minister of Labour. Take for instance the question of sports. We have provision here for the Nigerian National Stadium of £12,500. Now we have reached the stage in our industrialisation when importance should be attached to the Ministry of Labour and when the Ministry of Labour should be divested of all petty assignments. What I want to say is that sports should be removed completely from the hands of the Minister of Labour so that he can devote more time to labour problems.

We do not want next year to see in the Estimates anything about sports or the stadium being related to the Ministry of Labour. The Sports Commission should take full control and accept full responsibility for sports and leave the Minister of Labour alone to do his duty to the workers, the Government and the country.

The other point I want to make is about conventions. The country, before the attainment of independence, was obliged to follow conventions ratified by the United Kingdom Government, but ever since we became independent we have been responsible to the I.L.O. and we are bound as a Government to ratify international conventions without reference to Britain. There are some conventions which this Government ought to ratify, and I just want to mention one of them which I referred to in the course of my speech during the past week, and that is the 1935 I.L.O. Convention on a forty-hour Week for Industrial workers.

This is very really essential because there are variations in the number of hours worked by industries in this country. These things are not regulated. In the ancillary and private sectors they are expected to do forty-five hours a day, but we are all living witnesses to the fact that these private companies do not respect either the provisions of the Wages Board or Orders-in-Council, or even laws relating to hours of work.

In regard to Syrians, or even to Leventis or the S.C.O.A., their workers can work from the morning to any time and their conditions of service are not regulated, nobody cares about them, the Minister of Labour is lenient. Even the penalty in law for contravention is so small that they can even ignore the whole thing or infringe the law with impunity. I think that the time has come when the Minister of Labour should adopt a firm hand because these people are fellow Nigerians. We cannot allow them to be exploited when they have their own Government to protect their interest. They have the Minister of Labour who is charged with responsibility for regulating these conditions in the private sectors. Something has to be done about these private firms working on blank cheques, even though there is a law to check them and no body enforces it.

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A Labour Inspector might be sent there to go and inspect. He returns to make a report saying that things are bad in these companies and nothing is done to arrest the situation. It is the same story from year to year. Why cannot the Minister of Labour take a firm stand against these private employers of labour?

The Federal Government is the largest employer of labour and we expect other employers to follow the example of the Government. But if they feel that they can flout the law and get away with it I think the Minister of Labour has to tell us why the situation should be like that.

I do not want to refer to wage rates because I have said that in some of the private sectors, even though there is regulation, they pay less and work their employees harder. This is really a very big challenge and I do not want us to come here next year to continue to repeat this very case.

The other point is the question of unions in these private sectors. In Government Department it is understandable because there is a clear policy about recognition of unions. But these private sectors have stubbornly refused even the formation of unions. Last week a Member of the Opposition raised the case of a foreign company somewhere at Apapa, which has threatened its workers that any attempt to form a union would lead to a sort of punishment. Of course, the Prime Minister, in the course of his speech, informed the hon. Member that he had got no facts about that company. These are cases that should attract the attention of the Minister of Labour.

I have not got the particulars with me now, but I shall be able, when I get them to pass same to the Minister of Labour to do something about it.

In their own countries, these people are compelled to obey the laws of the land but here, if we have a Labour Code, if we have provisions allowing for the formation of unions, it is the policy of our Government to encourage the growth of trade unions, yet there are firms which will not allow their workers to organise unions so that they cannot agitate for a rise in pay or improvement in their conditions of service. I think the Minister of Labour

should do something about this thing. Some of the directors of these firms tell you openly to do whatever you like. I have met some of them. They tell you to go and meet the Minister. They give the impression that they have the Government in their pocket. It is most unfortunate that a director of a company will tell you to go and report to anybody you like. They use words like: "Nothing will happen; do whatever you like!" It is an insult to the integrity of this Government. I think such employers should be dealt with severely and we hope the Minister of Labour will not give us cause to come here again to talk about these firms.

The other question is about the automatic recognition of trade unions. Once a union has been registered under the Ordinance, I think it should be given automatic recognition. There is no point in delaying recognition after six months after advertisement in the *Gazette* and there is no protest from any quarter. The employer would even turn round and refuse to give recognition to such a union or even try to nominate the secretary and all that. That is why we are having a quarrel with the Minister of Labour.

Another serious issue is the question of foreign aid to unions. The time has come when we have to be very honest with ourselves. I have been very careful on this subject and I do not want to go far into it. But I think we have reached a stage in this country when something has to be done about foreign aid to the Trade Unions. We have two well-known camps—those who belong to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and those who belong to the World Federation of Trade Unions. One is said to be pro-West, the other is said to be pro-East and these fellows have their interests in Africa. But I am very sorry that some of our labour leaders have given the outside world the poor impression that we must bring down here either Mr Khrushchev or Mr Kennedy to run our own affairs for us or that these leaders of the East and West are more acceptable to them than their own leaders in Nigeria. I do not accept that. We have our Balewa, our Azikiwe, our Okpara and other nationalists here who have done much for us and who can still do more for us. We should therefore not give the world the poor impression that, unless we

go with the red label or we go with the American Yankee we cannot do anything in Nigeria. This is belittling our country abroad.

These foreign countries are engaged in an ideological battle in the belief that whoever wins Nigeria wins Africa. The result is that foreign countries continue to give our trade unions money. If these money had been used for advancing the economic lot of the workers I would not bother. But it seems to me that some amount of political flavour is being put into this money that is given to our trade unions.

With your permission, Sir, I will quote a portion relating to the recent dock strike to substantiate my argument. I quote :—The letter is from Nigerian Dockers Transport and General Workers Union.

Facts at our disposal reveal that the sum of £4,000 (four thousand pounds) was received from the Eastern bloc but the Council's General Secretary only admitted the sum of £500 as the amount he received from the Eastern bloc. The £4,000 was allocated as follows :—£500 (five hundred pounds) to each of the ports. The council in their bid to arrange for the strike sent a strong delegation to the provinces and in it they included some people to impersonate in the name of our union, the Nigerian Dockers Transport and General Workers' Union.

Finally, I wish to state here that the strike was called for the following reasons :—

- (a) *To discredit our existence in the docks.*
- (b) *To fulfil the Council's assignment in training the minds of the workers towards the formation of a Labour Party.*
- (c) *The nucleus for the labour party, it is assumed by the Council, should be a combined force of both the Railway and the dock workers organisation.*

Now this letter is from a responsible union, because I want Members to know the facts that led to the strike. One can see that money sent from abroad is not really meant to help the workers economically. But some of this money is directed towards political objectives. It is really unfortunate that some of the trade union leaders devote more time in trying to pursue these political ideologies and political objectives rather than improving the lot of the unfortunate workers.

Again, it is really difficult for some of us to persuade the workers to stop worshipping their misfortunes because these very people who collect this money tell us all sorts of stories with the result that the sincere and honest leaders who are willing to help are side-tracked because someone has got money from abroad which he can use recklessly. I think the time has come when the Government should do something about it.

I am not saying that money from abroad should be stopped but at least the Government should be able to check and control this money and to make the Central Labour Organisation give account of this money that the unions receive from abroad, filing a return on how they spent this money. This is really very essential. By doing this, we can know where we are going.

There is the other question of amendments to the Labour Code. As my colleague the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has mentioned, there is need for the Labour Code to be amended. As I said early this morning in the course of an interjection we have in the Labour Code a provision whereby five people could form a union. Now, this has led to what is called splinter groups in a union. The Nigerian Railway alone has got eight trade unions. They can merge together. Some of us prefer industrial classification, that is unions belonging to one industry having one single union. But because of the poor position of the law five people could form a union. One finds unions springing up here, there and yonder. If a member of a union disagrees with the leader of his union, he collects five people and forms a union. This is a real problem and I think some unions are beginning now to realise the importance of amalgamation based on industry.

We only hope the Minister would give us his full encouragement on this.

When one looks at the provision for the Labour Department one will find that the Minister of Labour last year provided for 26 Labour Officers and 22 Labour Inspectors. The same provisions are made this year. If one goes to Fernando Po one will find two Labour Officers and two Labour Inspectors. The same provisions are made this year. In other words the Minister of Labour has either

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refused to see the reason for an increase in the number of Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors or that the Minister of Finance has refused to give him the money to increase his staff.

Now, many industries are springing up everywhere so that the need for having more Labour Officers, more Labour Inspectors and more Labour Offices becomes more acute and more important. I do not see the reason why the Minister of Labour should continue to be stagnant with his quota of Labour Officers and Labour Offices. There must be need for expansion in the Labour Department and this leads me also to the question of promotions in that Department.

Many Labour Officers have left the Department in disgust because of lack of prospects of promotion. The Permanent Secretary who was a Labour expert has left for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are only fortunate that the present Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour used to be a well-known trade unionist and he has gone there to assist them. I wonder what would have happened if a novice had been sent there. But it is not enough. His activities have to be supplemented by people who are well trained and who understand the intricacies of labour matters.

Labour matters are not matters that we can just handle carelessly. One has to handle them with the greatest caution. I am therefore asking that next year we would like to see the provision for more Labour Inspectors and more Labour Officers. Even in 1961 they told us that in Fernando Po, due to the inadequacy of staff and due to the lack of transport, they could not travel far into the bush to see the workers.

We are complaining of maltreatment in Fernando Po, it is true. I was there in 1961 and I saw things myself. Some employers who live near Santa Isabel are better than those of them who live far away in Rio Muni which is far away from the township. The result is that these labour officers have not got cars to take them about and some of the Nigerian labourers are not seen for two years by Labour Officers.

What do we think will happen? The labourer may have been imprisoned and nothing happened. When we got to Rio Muni we discovered that a man who was imprisoned had to pay for his feeding while in prison.

The result is that when he came out from prison he would be working. He might have to work for another 18 months without pay because already the cost of feeding him had been calculated and he had to pay it back when he came out of prison. The Labour Officer could not trace him to find out what was happening. I think there is need for Government to increase its quota of Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors not only here but also in Fernando Po.

In Fernando Po in particular I will request that they should give them more cars so that these people can move about from time to time and go and see what is happening right in the interior. Still on this question of Fernando Po, in the report we submitted last year we made adverse comments on a few employers we considered to be notorious. We concluded in Fernando Po that Nigerian labour should be withdrawn forthwith from these bad employers where we found our people being treated as beasts. We found ten or twelve people in a room. There are good ones, but there are many bad ones, and that is why we say that the agreement should be revoked because, under the agreement with Fernando Po, we reserve the right to withdraw or to refuse to allow our labour to be taken by any particular employer who is too bad or who contravenes the law.

The Spanish Authorities will prosecute them and fine them in court and, even after their fines, the Spanish employers still continue with their atrocities. The Minister of Labour should withdraw our labour from these particularly notorious employers because we have been belittled. The sovereignty of the country is suffering, our sovereignty is being ridiculed if we continue to allow our people to be treated like chattels in a foreign land.

There is also the question of the Labour Exchange. My Friend the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) dealt extensively with this point. When the Labour Exchange was introduced we were all very happy and we thought that we were going to progress. Now, take a place like the Niger Bridge at Onitsha where the Labour Department and the Dumez Company have co-operated in the recruitment of their workers. Things have been going on smoothly there, nobody complains. If Dumez says that they want three carpenters the Labour Department will send about ten carpenters

who are registered with them. They will say—Go to Dumez—then Dumez will test them and take the best three. That at least eliminates corruption or minimises it. Why cannot other employers do that?

Even the representatives of the Federal Government in the Regions do not want to co-operate with the Minister of Labour in making the Labour Exchange work. Big employers of labour have refused to do that, with the result that these workers are exposed to "Shylocks," and corrupt officers in various Departments are duping them. I think that the Federal Government should put its foot down and ensure that Labour Exchanges throughout the country must receive the support of Federal Government representatives or Federal Government Agencies. We would then be able to prevail on other big employers to co-operate with the Labour Department in making the Labour Exchange work. That is the practice all over the world.

There is also the question of a report I received. About two years ago, we passed the Provident Fund Bill but my information to-day is that in the Western Region the Provident Fund is not in practice. I have got telegrams from workers in the Mid-West area of Warri complaining bitterly of the non-application of the provisions of the Provident Fund Scheme. I want an explanation from the Minister of Labour or his representative as to why the Provident Fund Scheme is not in practice in the Western Region, particularly in the Mid-West. It is no use passing legislation and the Minister sits down or his staff sits down without trying to do something to enforce it. Perhaps they are doing their best but their best is not enough. Something has to be done about this Provident Fund. I do not see why some people should apply it and others do not.

I have said sometime ago that we need a lawyer in the Labour Department. With all the Industrial Legislation and Factory Ordinances, it is no use sending a layman to the courts. Although he might have elementary training in the particular law prevailing in that sphere yet we really need a lawyer who can go to court and be able to prosecute those who contravene the law, whether it be the Factory Ordinance or the Labour Code Ordinance. There should be a lawyer attached to the Ministry of Labour for that is the practice in other countries.

I said that some years ago. Whether the Minister accepts it or not, that is the practice. He should go out and see what is happening elsewhere. When we lose a case it is either that we have a bad case or that we did not make a good case when presenting the facts in court. There is a limit to what a layman can do in court.

I will now speak on trade union education. In the Estimates, we have £7,000 provided for subvention to trade unions. The same amount appeared last year. That shows that in spite of what we are saying about trade union education the Minister is doing little or nothing about it. Workers are inclined to follow any clever man who can tell them that this and that is the truth, and they follow him sheepishly just like that. We must give workers some education and let them know their rights and the conditions prevailing in their respective industries. Then they will be able to tell when a leader is trying to mislead them. The truth is that ignorance is causing a lot of havoc in this country, not only among the workers but also among the people. The general intelligence of the average Nigerian is not as high as it should be because of the general lack of education. Trade union education is very essential.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): On a point of order, trade union education is the responsibility of the trade union movement and not that of the Government.

Mr Mbah: I will say that it is a joint responsibility of both the trade unions and the Government. At one time, Government used to offer scholarships to our labour leaders to go to Ruskin College, Oxford or elsewhere. We are told that Ruskin College has now become a ground for Communist indoctrination and, therefore, those going to Ruskin are inclined to return as Communists. What about other countries? Why should Government continue to work on a £7,000 subvention?

The Chairman: The hon. Member has spoken for twenty-eight minutes.

Mr Mbah: Thank you, Mr Chairman. My appeal is that the Minister of Labour should do something about trade union education and offer scholarships to universities in Nigeria and abroad.

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The last point I want to make is about the relationship between employers and employees at the present moment. This relationship is in a state of nervous tension because the workers themselves feel dissatisfied due to certain utterances we are making. We have been told here that nobody should talk about wage increases. What about rent control? The Lagos Health Bill is expecting a worker to pay something out of his meagre salaries. He is already paying for the Provident Fund and under the check-off system he is also having deductions made from his salary for his union, and yet nobody cares to talk about wage increases, and when we talk people say: "Eh! you have not come here to champion the cause of workers."

My only appeal is that Government is bound to look into the wage structure in this country with a view to reviewing it. Government has to control rent, at least they should start with Lagos. Rent control in Lagos is imperative. If Government begins to do these things then the wage earners will begin to feel that after all they are not entirely left out, something is being done.

I am saying these things with all sense of responsibility. Nobody wants trouble in Nigeria. We want a peaceful country and we can only get a peaceful country if we have peaceful intentions, if we are peaceful in our performance and we take the interests of all and sundry into consideration in all activities of Government.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): Many of the points raised by hon. Members were fully covered when the Minister of Labour made his Budget Speech.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): The Minister of Information is not the Minister of Labour and, therefore, he cannot speak for the Ministry of Labour.

The Chairman: Order! That is none of the hon. Member's business.

The Minister of Information: The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) made many points. It is not true that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour is not being used. He is, in fact, the Chairman of almost all the Advisory Committees in the

Ministry of Labour and he is responsible to the Minister for matters connected with Social Welfare in Lagos. The present Parliamentary Secretary has done much useful work—and is a good Parliamentary Secretary—for progress in the field of youth organisations.

An hon. Member: Why should the Minister begin reading from the bottom. He should start from the top.

The Minister of Information: My hon. Friend, the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) also made mention of lectures for trade unions and under Sub-head 78, Head 50, hon. Members will see that there is a subvention for £7,000.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West): On a point of order, is it not too early for the Minister to reply to points raised on an important Ministry like the Ministry of Labour which has so many divisions? In fact, only two Members have spoken on that Ministry, and the Minister is now replying.

The Chairman: Order! It is a matter of convenience.

The Minister of Information: As I said, the hon. Member's attention is invited to Sub-head 78 of Head 50 entitled Trade Union Education. There is a subvention of £7,000 provided there.

Mr P. E. Ekanem: On a point of order, the Minister has just mentioned £7,000. May I know what the figure was last financial year?

The Chairman: That is a question.

The Minister of Information: Now, the hon. Member also said something about the Chief Inspector of Factories. The post was formerly held by an expatriate who has since retired. The post has since been advertised, but it is hoped that a Nigerian should occupy the post in the near future.

He also spoke of the post of Deputy Inspector of Factories. The holder of this post, who is also an expatriate, has retired. A Nigerian is now acting in the post.

An hon. Member: Cannot the Minister find a Nigerian to fill the post substantively?

The Minister of Information: Well, somebody has first got to act. But hon. Members can be assured that the two posts will eventually be filled by Nigerians.

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With regard to the matter of corruption, if my hon. Friend can substantiate his allegation the Minister will look into it.

Mr Ekanem : Will the Minister go to Calabar and see things for himself ?

The Minister of Information : Yes, I mean the question of corruption in the hon. Member's home town, Calabar.

Mr Ekanem : There is a case now in Calabar where a Labour Officer embezzled the labourers' money.

The Minister of Information : All I want the hon. Member to do is to give the particulars of this case of corruption in his home town Calabar to the Permanent Secretary, and he will look into it.

Mr Ekanem : The Permanent Secretary knows everything about it. The case is now in court.

The Minister of Information : The hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) spoke about the Sports Council. The purpose of the Sports Council—Lagos and National—is explained in the memorandum in the Estimates, page 286. The Minister of Labour is responsible to the House for his relations with the Sports Council.

With reference to the Employment Exchange, referred to by the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*), I realise the anxiety of Members on the little use to which the Employment Exchanges are put by employers. We are doing everything possible to rectify the position. It is not a solution to introduce legislation compelling all employers to use the Exchange Offices. We cannot do that.

Mr Ekanem : But it is done in England ?

The Minister of Information : It may happen in England, but we cannot do it here. I have told the House that the Government cannot introduce legislation to control the employers of labour. It is not possible at all. As an alternative, it has been decided to appoint an Advisory Board on Employment which will be composed preponderantly of employers in every locality where there is an Exchange. This Board will review, from time to time, the procedure for recruiting unemployed workers through the exchange. It is hoped

that in this way employers will be induced to use the Exchanges more than at present. The Board for the Federal Territory will start to function early next month. I am sure the hon. Member is happy about that. The Boards for other areas will be set up as soon as arrangements can be completed.

With reference to the point raised about Fernando Po, I do not intend to say much about it. The House is aware that a new agreement has been negotiated between the Federal Government and the Government of the Spanish Territory on the recruitment of Nigerian workers for work in Fernando Po and Rio Muni. As has already been reported to the House by the Minister of Labour, the new agreement contains improved conditions and will be formally signed early in May. This agreement will therefore, I hope, be published and Members will have the opportunity of knowing the contents.

The Minister of Labour is doing very useful work in that Ministry and I do hope that if any hon. Member has a complaint, he will walk straight into the Ministry and lodge his complaint instead of coming to the House to raise so many points which could have been dealt with by the Minister.

Mr Ekanem : I have not condemned the Minister.

Question put and agreed to.

£643,910 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 51.—NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

£112,990—National Provident Fund—ordered to stand part of the Schedule

HEAD 52.—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS

Question proposed, That £1,271,220 for Head 52—Ministry of Lagos Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : I rise to support the provisions of the Estimates in respect of this Head, and in doing so, I would like to make one or two remarks. Some time ago, it was announced in this House that the Federal Government secured the services of an expert from United States to conduct an enquiry into the Planning of Lagos. That has been done for some time and it is amusing that the Government has not

[MR DOSUNMU]

released the report of this expert on town planning. Allied to that question is the problem that is facing us in Lagos. The matter has now assumed such a great proportion that it is necessary that an immediate halt be called to it.

A considerable amount of money has been spent by the Government in planning Lagos. A considerable amount of money has been spent by the Federal Government in planning Lagos, but we see that sincere efforts are not being made by the Government to work strictly in accordance with the programme. It will sadden you, Mr Chairman, to hear that areas marked out for residential buildings are, without any ceremony, converted into petrol stations. Unless immediate action is taken by the Government, Lagos will cease to be a Federal capital city, but a city of petrol stations. This is a very serious situation.

An hon. Member : But we have petrol stations in London.

Mr Dosunmu : Well, not indiscriminately as we have them in this country. For instance, along Awolowo Road, that is the road leading to Ikoyi, almost at an interval of a hundred or two hundred yards, we have petrol filling stations. This is a very serious matter. The matter is so important and the views I am expressing here represent the views of the entire community of Lagos and, if I may say so, the generality of the Nigerian public.

South-West Ikoyi has been specially planned. Certain areas are owned for building purposes and other areas are owned for other uses. What would annoy anybody is that areas owned for residential plots are quickly given up to some people who are interested in turning them into petrol stations and within a day or two a petrol station would be found on each site. This is not only disgraceful, but it is also ruining the planning of those areas.

What is, perhaps, more saddening is that we know that in Lagos there are three authorities responsible for the planning of Lagos. The three authorities are the Lagos Town Council, the Lagos Executive Development Board and, on top of them all, the Ministry of Lagos Affairs. Enquiries have revealed that there are cases where the L.E.D.B. or the L.T.C. itself would refuse to grant permits for develop a site as a petrol station but for

one reason or the other, the Minister of Lagos Affairs would choose to set aside this opinion and order that these areas should be used as petrol filling stations.

I do not want to say that the Minister is not interested in the development of Lagos, but I do not think I am putting it too harshly if I say that Lagos people cannot be grateful to him for this apparent and reckless disregard of official opinion.

It is not only this, and these things do not only happen at Awolowo Road. At Clifford Street and Herbert Macaulay Street we find that Mosques have been destroyed and petrol stations erected in their places. Also along Herbert Macaulay Street, areas that the local authority, the Lagos Town Council had declared as unsuitable for any building purposes whatsoever, where dumping is still going on, have been given to some private individuals to be used as petrol filling stations.

I am certain that all these things that are being done, are being done against official advice and I think that the Minister ought to assure this House that these indiscriminate approvals being given to those who want to build petrol stations are genuine. I, together with two or three others who are representing Lagos in the Federal Parliament, have had the opportunity of discussing this matter with the Minister. This matter concerns us primarily and also concerns all the Members on both Sides of this House as Nigerians. We all have a great amount of disappointment about it. Through you, Mr Chairman, I would implore the Minister to look into this matter seriously and see that he does not ruin Lagos by making Lagos a petrol city.

I again turn to the question of how the Minister is discharging his duties as the Minister who is responsible for the Lagos Town Council. You will be amazed, Mr Chairman, to hear that since the last election into the Lagos Town Council last October, it has been well-nigh impossible for the Action Group which won the election and is in control of the Council to carry out the statutory duties of the Council due to unjustified interference from the Ministry of Lagos Affairs.

One would expect the Minister to hold the balance evenly between the Action Group and the N.C.N.C. and in the discharge of his duties as the Minister of Lagos Affairs, one would expect a greater amount of impartiality.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : On a point of order, the Minister responsible is neither an Action Group nor an N.C.N.C. member and, as such, he holds and even balance and discharges his duties with impartiality.

Mr Dosunmu : I will give instances of his actions to justify the assertion that I have made. Invariably, a party that is in control of the Lagos Town Council also virtually has the control of the Lagos Municipal Transport Service, because the L.M.T.S., for short, is a creation of the Council itself, it is financed by the Council and it is a Board created by the Council. In effect the Chairman of the Lagos Town Council is, by virtue of that office, the Chairman of the L.M.T.S.

The position is such that all parties in the Lagos Town Council are represented in the management of the L.M.T.S., and for this reason we have a situation where the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group are there in proportion to which they are represented in the Lagos Town Council. So, until the last election, the Chairman was the N.C.N.C. Chairman of the Lagos Town Council and we have two other N.C.N.C. men and one Action Group member on that Board of Management. But since the Action Group got into power in the Lagos Town Council, there have been directives from the Minister that the position should remain as it is.

That is not fair enough and there is no justification for it whatsoever. The Minister is depriving the people of Lagos of the fruits of the victory which was won by the Action Group. Delegations have been led to the Minister on this matter but it is amazing that up till this moment, he has not been able to right the wrongs. The people have even asked for the intervention of the Prime Minister on this matter, but it seems to me that the Minister is very tardy in carrying out his duties and doing what is the proper thing he should do.

This is not all. The Lagos Town Council is also responsible for local education or primary education in Lagos and, through the far-sightedness of the Minister of Education, all responsibilities relating to primary education have been given over to the Lagos Town Council. As such the composition of the Lagos Local Education Committee reflects the party in power in the Lagos Town Council. Since the

Action Group won the election into the Lagos Town Council difficulties have been put in the way of the Town Council to such an extent that, although the Action Group controls the Lagos Town Council, the N.C.N.C. still controls the educational policy of Lagos. This is owing to the intervention of the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs.

The Chairman : Order ! It is now one o'clock and sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu : The next thing is the question of plots in Lagos. It is the policy of the Ministry not to consent to outright assignments of plots of land originally leased to Nigerians to foreigners. What they do is to agree to a sublease of any plot of land allocated to a Nigerian for a maximum period of fifty years. There may be something to be said in justification of that policy because I think that the Government does not want the whole of Lagos to fall into the hands of aliens. But it would strike you, Mr Chairman, that the Ministry itself, in many cases, allocates plots of land outright to aliens for a period of ninety years.

In one breath the Minister prevents Nigerians and rightly, too, from assigning their interests to non-Nigerians, but by some means hon. Members find aliens holding leases for a whole period of ninety years, and they hold their direct leases from the Government. I think the Minister of Lagos Affairs has to explain to us the reason for this kind of attitude. If the policy of the Government is that no aliens should hold land we should stick to that.

We frown against freehold ; we have even frowned against aliens holding land for a whole maximum period of ninety years. The Government should in no circumstance grant outright leases of ninety years to non-Nigerians. I would even go so far as to say that it is very wrong for the Ministry to allot residential plots of land to non-Nigerians. It is quite different in the case of industrial sites or warehouses. Those are very necessary for the purposes of industrial development, but there can be no justification for the Government to allot residential plots to non-Nigerians.

[MR DOSUNMU]

If they come here to establish business and there are industrial plots of land, it is all well and good and we may grant to them. But in no circumstance should Government give them residential plots. Residential plots of land are given to citizens who are in need of them, and when these citizens erect buildings on them, they can lease them to the foreigners. But it will be too much not only to give them industrial sites on which to erect their factories but also to give them residential plots of land. I sincerely urge the Minister henceforth not to allot residential plots to non-Nigerians.

The next point I would like to dwell upon is about the provision in the Estimates regarding the Federal Land Registry. It would strike you, Sir, that the rule nowadays is that departments are expanding, but the contrary is the case in respect of the Land Registry: they are contracting. One has only to go to that office to find that the whole office is cramped; officers are almost sitting one on top of the other. Whereas offices are expanding, some of them are moving right and left, some of them have acquired new office accommodation so that the staff can work in a commodious atmosphere, the Land Registry is getting congested. Under that atmosphere one cannot expect the best from the officers concerned.

Secondly, hon. Members would notice that the establishment has remained what it was for many years. I notice some small increases in the staff: where there used to be one officer it has been increased to two, but the fact is that the volume of work that is being undertaken by that department is so big that it is necessary to increase the establishment substantially. New areas of land are being declared for compulsory registration of title and that makes it doubly necessary that the staff should be substantially strengthened.

Not only should the prospects of the officers serving be as rosy as in other departments, but there should also be room for early promotions to justify efficiency and good work. However, one notices frustration in that department. Officers, apart from increments, hardly get promotions. I urge the Minister kindly to look into the present states of affairs in that branch of his Ministry because it is not good for commerce that documents should be left in the Registry for registration and for upwards of six months documents are

not returned. In fact, one would not normally expect the officers there to perform magic. If there is plenty of work to do and the number of officers to do the work is small certainly the output is bound to be small and the reaction of the public would not be a very pleasant one.

If there is any place where expedition is required in the performance of duties, it is in the Land Registry. It might be necessary for one to use one's documents for the purpose of transacting some business in the banks, but when one lodges them there and one does not have them returned to one as early as possible, one has justification for grumbling.

I shall end up by appealing to the Minister of Lagos Affairs to show more concern for us in Lagos. We Lagosians are as much Nigerians as Alhaji Ribadu and Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, and we want to feel that we are wanted in this Federation. It is quite true that we have social services, but we feel that of all the good things which come with independence of this country, we have not received our fair share.

Hardly would one find any indigenous Lagosian serving Government in any reasonable capacity. In the appointment of Board members, the authorities hardly think of Lagos people at all. In the award of contracts, Lagos people are not considered. We only feel that we should be given our fair share. When there are appointments and we want Nigerians to take them up, we should not confine ourselves to people who come from the Regions. Lagos is our own Region. In appointing members to Boards and all such highly placed positions—

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port-Harcourt): On a point of order, it is very difficult for us to know who are Lagosians and those who are not. Some people come from Ikorodu and claim that they are Lagosians.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): We are the same.

Mr Dosunmu: Yes, it is difficult for those who come from the Eastern Region to know those who are Lagosians, but it is certainly not difficult for the Minister of Defence (*Alhaji the hon. Mohammadu Ribadu*) who is a Chief of Lagos to know.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (*Hon. Jaja Wachuku*) was at one time the *Onikoyi* of *Ikoyi* and yet he is from the Eastern Region.

Mr Dosunmu : I would like the Minister to stand in for us Lagosians more than he is doing at the moment.

An hon. Member : Lagos belongs to everybody.

Mr Dosunmu : Yes, Lagos belongs to everybody, but we Lagosians want to feel that we are also Nigerians.

Finally, I urge again on the Ministry to publish as early as possible the recommendations of a gentleman who came from—

Mr J. O. Ede : (Idoma North) : The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) wants the whole share for himself.

Mr Dosunmu : As I was saying, the Ministry should publish as early as possible the report of the gentleman who came from the United Nations to advise the Federal Government on the question of replanning Lagos. It is very necessary. The tripartite authority which we have at the moment, the Lagos Town Council, the L.E.D.B. and the Ministry of Lagos Affairs should be harmonised somehow.

I am sure that was the subject on which the gentleman was invited to advise, and we are anxious to know what the position is.

On that note, I shall end by supporting the provisions under this Head.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : I beg to support this Head of the Estimates—Lagos Affairs—and to congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs for the efforts he has made so far to improve conditions in our Federal Capital. Despite our limited financial resources, our Federal Capital is showing a considerable sign of improvement. I think this is something all Nigerians should be proud of. Our Federal Capital should serve as a showroom for the nation, although in this respect I am not suggesting that the whole money of the Federation should be spent on Lagos alone to the detriment of other important towns in the Regions.

I would further like to congratulate the Minister for the present traffic arrangement in Lagos. I think that at present there is a lot of improvement. Congestion has been considerably reduced and there are no more long queues of cars along the streets of Lagos. The Minister should also make necessary arrangements to stop lepers, blind men, lame men, and generally, beggars from moving along the streets of Lagos. Some of the foreigners who come here are only interested in presenting this country in bad light to the outside world. They are more interested in taking photographs of these unfortunate men in our society than in taking photographs of Members of this Parliament and other notable men in Nigeria.

Turning to the planning of *Ikoyi*, I have to say that all necessary steps should be taken to replan that particular area of Lagos. The present arrangements made for accommodation at *Ikoyi* were made when the expatriates—our former colonial masters—were here and *Ikoyi* was then simply planned for their own benefit. Now that congestion is the order of the day I think the best thing that Government should do is to replan *Ikoyi* and make more plots for building houses available to indigenous Nigerians.

The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) has made a statement to that effect. Government should no longer allot plots to aliens. I think it is short-sightedness on the part of the Government to allot important strategic positions to aliens. If one looks along the Marina, one will see that plots, buildings and some places of strategic importance are allotted to foreigners. Before any piece of land is allotted to a foreigner, the Minister must take into consideration the security of this nation. The countries of origin of some of those who now occupy these important places may one day turn to be enemies of this country. If these foreigners are allotted land at strategic points and places very near to the sea, we might wake up one day to find that enemy ships have deposited some ammunitions at these places and declared war on us. I think the Government should look into this very seriously.

In *Ikoyi*, as I have said earlier, so many acres of land are lying there unused, whereas there is congestion all over Lagos. The former plan made by the Federal Government to clear slums in Lagos should continue

[MR OKORONKWO]

because, in Lagos to-day, there are some living houses that are not worthy of human habitation. Government should see to it that work on the Slum Clearance Scheme proceeds without further delay.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): On a point of order, I do not want the words "slum clearance" to be used because Prime Dosunmu will once again say that the work will be done over his dead body!

Mr Okoronkwo: This country belongs to all of us and Lagos is the Federal Capital of Nigeria. Lagos does not belong to any one tribe or any particular town in the whole of the Federation. Therefore, I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to take note of what I am going to say now about the L.E.D.B. The L.E.D.B. is a very important organ, established by the Federal Government to cater for the interests of all Nigerians in Lagos and not one particular town or tribe.

There is a lot of corruption in the L.E.D.B. and I am therefore calling upon the Government and the Minister to set up a commission of inquiry into the affairs of the L.E.D.B. I am sure that if this is done a lot will be revealed. In the whole L.E.D.B., with a staff of about 500, only four are non-Yorubas. 98 per cent of the people there are Ijebus. I have said earlier on that this is not a matter for tribalism and I would like hon. Members to take note of what I am saying.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): The hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is not speaking the truth.

Mr Okoronkwo: The Parliamentary Secretary (*Mr Lana*) seems to have no constituency now and I am sure that he will not come back here after the next election.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs (Mr E. T. Orodi): I think it is very unfair for Members to attack people who have not got the opportunity to reply here under the excuse of parliamentary immunity. It is very untrue to say that the L.E.D.B. is corrupt and that appointments are made there on the basis of tribalism.

Mr Okoronkwo: I would like the Parliamentary Secretary (*Mr Orodi*) to take note if he is the one who is going to reply, and make his points when he replies.

I have said earlier that 98 per cent of the staff of the L.E.D.B. are Ijebus and that I want the Government to investigate the matter. The Federation of Nigeria is for all of us, it is not for one particular tribe and it will be very unfair for any son of Nigeria who is elevated to the top in order that he might cater for the progress of Nigeria to begin to cater for the progress of a section alone. That is why I am asserting in this House that there is nepotism, tribalism and favouritism in the L.E.D.B.

There is also a lawyer who is a member of the staff of the L.E.D.B. who has accumulated a large sum of money in one of the American banks in Lagos, irrespective of what his salary in the L.E.D.B. is. I would like the Government to investigate this and see if this money saved with the American bank is part of the salary of this lawyer in the L.E.D.B. When we say that there is corruption in this country we do not expect people put in positions of trust to be corrupt.

The Minister of Finance: On a point of order, I am not quarrelling with my hon. Friend, the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*), but I would like him to exercise some restraint in attacking officials who are not directly represented here and who thus have no opportunity to defend themselves.

Mr Okoronkwo: I will take the advice of the Minister of Finance, but I am still calling on the Government to investigate the affairs of the L.E.D.B.

It will interest hon. Members to know that in the L.E.D.B. if a member of the staff resigns his appointment and goes to London, after spending about a year or two in London, when he returns to Nigeria he will still go back to the L.E.D.B. even on a higher post than the one which he resigned without the post being advertised. I feel that this should be investigated. If we are working towards one goal, if we want the solidarity and unity of this country all these bad practices should disappear. When the expatriates were here and were employing people in different departments, they were not employing people because they were related to anybody.

An hon. Member has said on the Floor of this House once that if a Yoruba man is at the head in any department the whole place will

be filled up with Yoruba people ; if an Ibo man is at the head, the same thing will happen. We do not want all this type of thing to continue.

I now come to the question of distribution of plots. We have heard of cases of officers who collect money from their relations and sell Government plots to them even before the plots are advertised. I think that if we really want the progress of this country, the Government should institute a Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the L.E.D.B. If all these things are investigated we shall be able to know whether those people who are placed in positions to manage the affairs of the L.E.D.B. and other places like that, are honest or dishonest.

The next point is the award of contracts to people to build houses. It will interest Members to know that contracts are also awarded on tribalism. Out of the 546 contracts awarded to people to build houses in Lagos, only 2 were awarded to non-Yorubas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of order, the other day a Member raised this question of tribalism and he was ruled out, but the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) has all along been talking of Yorubas. I want to say that this man is an advocate of tribalism. We also have seen places where Ibos have been monopolising. If he goes to the Ports Authority and the Railway Corporation he will see that these places are filled up with Ibos.

The Chairman : I think these comments on tribalism should stop.

Mr Okoronkwo : If this is investigated it will be found that out of the 546 contracts awarded by L.E.D.B. only 2 went to non-Yorubas. Does it mean that other Nigerians did not apply ?

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede Ejigbo) : On a point of order, I am sorry that despite the ruling of the Chairman, the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) still insisting on tribalism. This will not help this country. I think it is advisable that he stops making statements like this. For instance in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, almost everybody there is Ibo.

The Chairman : You are indicating that you are a tribalist.

Mr Okoronkwo : I have enumerated some of the irregularities in the L.E.D.B. and I am now calling on the Government to investigate this and report to the nation. We all belong to Nigeria and I feel that we should all have a share in all the good things in Nigeria. Lagos is our Federal capital and it is for all of us. At present I am in Lagos and I have taken Lagos as my home.

Now, Mr Chairman, some of the officers, as I said earlier, have accumulated so much wealth at the expense of the people in Lagos and I am appealing to the Government to check closely the accounts of these men and I now will drop this matter so far.

Some hon. Members who spoke in the morning made mention of rent control in Lagos. I think it is time the Government tried to meet the workers of this country at least half way by controlling rents in Lagos. That will enable workers to save more money. Almost everybody to-day is in sympathy with the workers in Lagos. Some of them live very far away from their places of work because of the high rentage in Lagos, and if we really want progress something must be done to help the workers. As regards buildings put up in this country for workers as a result of slum clearance and congestion in Lagos, Government should see to it that workers are made not to pay so much before houses are allotted to them.

I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : Mr Chairman, you know I am not given to long speeches. As soon as I have my points and I make them, I sit down.

First of all, I have to congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs for his keen interest in the Lagos Town Council. He has put his eye on the Lagos Town Council very well.

My second point is the distribution of plots in Lagos. I will not subscribe to the point that we should not give plots to aliens. I remember an Oba of Ibadan (Abasi) who used to give land to anybody whether he was a stranger or not. He said that his children

[MR BABATUNDE]

would inherit such land. For instance, any building built in this Lagos will never be taken back to Australia or New Zealand.

Ten chances to one, many of these people crying for plots have no money to build substantial buildings. That is why I say that land could be given to these aliens. Had this Minister not been an Hausa man, a lot of havoc would have been done in Lagos.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh) : The hon. Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) is an Hausa man, he is not a Yoruba man.

Mr Babatunde : I subscribe to the idea of the Minister of Finance that even though we have immunities, we must exercise some restraint.

In my town, Ilorin there is a match factory, and some Europeans complained a few weeks ago that the Nigerian Government allowed them to establish a match industry here but the Government has never tried to experiment on our timber. The result is that they are importing timber for matches from the United Kingdom. As circumstances would have it, one of the men asked me to come to see his plan and the things he showed me included Nigerian timber which he wanted to experiment upon to see whether it would be good or not. That is why we should talk only about what we know. We should not only accept but also examine things so that we will not come here to talk nonsense.

Another point is to urge the Minister of Lagos Affairs not to forget that we are anxious to get Lagos boundary readjusted. We should not say we want to do this because God has put this Government in our hands but we should take it back to where it was before the Action Group Government interrupted it. I am not asking for more or less but to extend it to the usual place.

I beg to support.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo) : Many Members have talked and they have asked questions on the distribution of land in Apapa, Surulere and the Island of Lagos. All I need to add is to urge the Ministry to see that all the freehold and leasehold agreements are in order and that they are strictly followed in order to bring money into the purse of the Government.

On this point, I want to say that all our Federal Ministers should be warned about the distribution and acquisition of land in Lagos. A member of the public one day asked me whether it was true that a Minister is having about five square miles of land at Apapa. I told that man that I was not aware. In any case what I want to bring out is that our Ministers should know that they are not mean people and that the eyes of the public are on them and that whatever they do in this respect will affect all of us. So, we should try to check our greediness in acquiring land.

I have some words of praise for the Minister of Lagos Affairs in the way he has made it possible for the Lagos Building Society to have grants. It really impressed me very much because the money so given and so spent is not money wasted. When foreign visitors come to Lagos we always take them to important places where there are modern buildings ; we do not take them to places where there are poor houses like Moloney Street or Isale Eko.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : Mr Chairman, I would like to help the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*), in order to make the *Hansard* look sensible when it is read anywhere. Does the hon. Member mean five square miles or five acres of land? I want to know because the whole of Apapa is not up to five square miles.

Chief Ogunleye : The Minister should have asked that question when I was on the point. I was trying to say five acres of land. I was trying to talk on the Lagos Building Society. When visitors come to this place we always take them to where there are nice, beautiful buildings. We do not take them to places where we have poor houses. This shows that we must take cognizance of modern buildings when we want to talk of how progressive a place is. Besides, the best and easy way by which people can own a house is through the Building Society. To-day, building has become an investment of capital. It is difficult for an individual to save thousands of pounds. Such lump sum could be released to anybody who wants a loan and a regular repayment be made later. In this case, the Nigerian Building Society holds an honoured place among the many avenues open to all regular savers and investors. There is also provision for saving

and investments for all citizens who desire to save money for one purpose or the other. Truly, investment made with the Society, therefore, offers an attractive return with full security on the capital. The Nigerian Building Society encourages all of us to have savings—deposit account, savings for education, for marriage or holidays and for *Ileya* or Christmas ceremony. Such a Society should be properly financed by the Government. Any heavy amount given to the Society is an investment in this country.

There is one snag in the Society, however. The fact that the activities of the Society should be limited to Lagos area alone is sufficient to require the Ministry of Lagos Affairs to warn the Directors to rescind their decisions. We do not all live in Lagos. Besides, we do not help the country when we concentrate on developing Lagos alone. As much as the Society has a customer whose source of income will make easy repayment, such a person should be considered, irrespective of where the house should be built.

Another snag is the fact that the Society has got a branch in Eastern Nigeria, whereas the West and the North have none. "What is good for the goose is also good for the gander." We do not speak of one Nigeria in this case. If we say one Nigeria it means then that all developments will be one-sided and people will not talk! I want to urge that as soon as possible, branches of the Society should be built in Western Nigeria as well as in Northern Nigeria. I want to urge too that the Government should provide sufficient funds for the Society in order that people may be able to build more houses.

One hon. Member spoke about traffic arrangement in Lagos. I want to urge the Ministry of Lagos Affairs to take particular care and see that on all important places where traffic congestion is so heavy, arrangements should be made to minimize or to reduce such congestion. The railway crossing at Oyingbo is one example. One day, I was passing from there to Apapa and it happened that the train was going to cross. We had to stay there for about 35 minutes! What surprised me was the heavy traffic and the many people who were waiting on either side of the railway crossing. It was so heavy that I became afraid that before all of us could pass

something might likely happen. Members of the public were telling me that that had been happening everyday on that spot. One of the members of the public (I do not know whether he was aware that I am a Member of Parliament or not) said to me, "Look here, gentleman, instead of spending £65,000 to stage boxing tournament in Nigeria, will it not be advisable that such money be spent on constructing a proper road in order that this traffic jam might be reduced?" I did not say anything. I think it is high time the Ministry of Lagos Affairs did something about it. The same thing happens on the railway crossing on Mushin road. I want to urge that the Ministry of Lagos Affairs should do all it can to help to improve Lagos, because it is our Federal Capital and things should be made easy and nice for almost every class of people.

Many people have spoken about the L.E.D.B. I do not want to say much here, but I think that if anything is wrong in a department, Members should get up and talk straightaway on what actually happened in the department, and not to talk on tribalistic points. For instance, in other Corporations or other Departments, when you go there you may have some people from a tribe more than others. That does not mean that we should get up on the Floor of this House and start mentioning a particular tribe. After all, we have been preaching the gospel of unity. Unity cannot come by itself alone. We must work for unity. It is for us to work for it. We can work for unity through our sayings, actions and certain things that we do not take notice of, not just coming here to say, "There you have Yorubas, there you have Ibos" It will not help us at all. If something is wrong we have ample chance of declaring directly what was wrong in that place. Therefore I want to urge that whenever we get up to talk, let us beware of the way we talk. After all, many people are listening to us in the Radio and through the Newspapers. Our commentaries are being read all over the world. It will not help us at all.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): I have to congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs on what he has done in the circumstances. I think, any one who is really versed in Lagos affairs will have nothing but praise for the present Minister.

[MR OGUNSANYA]

My learned and hon. Friend the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) said certain things about things he knows nothing about at all. I can concede to him that as an Ikorodu man in his own right, he spends part of the time in Lagos, like me, and part of the time in Ikorodu. He has talked about the L.E.D.B. I had expected a Member of Parliament of his stature to know what he was talking about before he talked.

With the permission of Mr Speaker, I would like to quote to this House a section of the Lagos Local Government Act which was passed since the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) was a Member of this honourable House.

Section 9A "the Minister may make regulations prescribing or providing for—

"(c) the establishment of a board to be known as the Municipal Transport Board for the purpose of administering the transport service by the council."

The position is that the right given by law to establish the L.M.T.S. is in the Minister and, luckily the Member for Lagos Central was a Member of this House in 1959 when that law was passed. The whole story is that in 1958, when the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) was a Member of the Lagos Town Council and the Council was being controlled by the Action Group party under Chief Adeyemi O. Lawson (who has since left them), the Action Group controlled Lagos Town Council did what was illegal. They purported to form a Board which they called the L.M.T.S. Board, which had no legal backing and which, throughout their tenure of office in the L.T.C. remained so. It is not good to come to the Floor of this House and blame the Minister for wanting to legalise what is illegal.

All actions brought against the L.M.T.S. in the Law Courts have failed because the L.M.T.S. constituted illegally by the Action Group is an entity unknown to the law. Now the present Minister, Alhaji the hon. Musa Ya'Adua, is trying to constitute the Board and, unlike one Minister in the—

Mr L. J. Dosunmu : I want my hon. Friend to be honest enough to tell the House what his party did when they were in power between 1959 and 1962.

Mr Ogunsanya : We are not in Court, we are in Parliament now. I will be very honest about all this. When we took over in 1959 October, we therefore asked for the right thing to be done.

Mr Dosunmu : What did the N.C.N.C. do ?

Mr Ogunsanya : The hon. Gentleman was not there ; he had left the Lagos Town Council. Except upon hearsay, he did not know what was happening there. The Minister is carrying on the normal enquiry to form a constitution for Government actions. For the last few weeks we have been quarrelling about a Bill upon which the people were never consulted ; that is by the way. The L.M.T.S. Board is being re-constituted by the hon. Minister under the powers conferred upon him by section 9 (a) of the law.

The Member for Lagos Central also spoke about the Education Board. Not only as an old Member of this House, but also as a senior member of the bar, the hon. Gentleman should realise that appointments under the Education (Lagos) Act are vested in the Federal Minister of Education and not in the Minister of Lagos Affairs. The real crux of the matter is that when the hon. Gentleman's party won the election last year on the issue of tribalism, they asked all the Federal Ministers to remove N.C.N.C. members on various Boards through the L.T.C. before their terms of office had expired. That party tried to remove our member in the E.C.N. Board. This member was only appointed in July 1962, for a term of three years. There is history behind that.

When we took over the Government of the Lagos Town Council in 1959 Chief A. O. Lawson was a member representing the Lagos Town Council on the E.C.N. Board. What did he do ? His tenure of office was not due to expire until 1962. We left him alone and Chief Lawson remained a member until 1962. What did the Action Group do ? They tried to make the Minister of Mines and Power give—

Mr P. E. Ekanem : May I respectfully, Mr Chairman, refer you to section 26 (2) which says :

"A member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matters that are irrelevant thereto".

We are not here to weigh the *pros* and *cons* of each Government or the activities of any party that controlled the Lagos Town Council in the past or at present. The issue is, matters affecting the Lagos Town Council now and not affecting any past or present Action Group member or any N.C.N.C. or N.P.C. member.

The Chairman : It appears to me that the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is trying to give reasons why he should praise the Minister. Maybe he has gone a long way, but that is a fact.

Mr Ogunsanya : There has been a wild allegation by the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) that the Minister of Lagos Affairs is not giving the L.T.C. controlled by the A.G. a chance and I am proving that they are the people who are wanting to continue their usual illegality and that the Minister of Lagos Affairs is merely trying to tell them that in Lagos people do not do things that way.

They are also grumbling that the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs refused to remove members of the Tafawa Balewa Square Management Committee. Why did the Member for Lagos Central say that we have not given them a chance? His boys would have told him the whole truth. They tried to do that and the Minister merely stated that these men have been appointed for a period of time. When their term of office expires they can do whatever they like. The same thing applies to the Lagos Education Board.

Now, with regard to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, some of us stand up here and talk about Lagos Affairs. We know what we are doing. The hon. Gentleman's party worked through some pro-Action Group officers in the Ministry of Health and, before the Lagos Town Council did anything, they sent to inform them that the control of the Lagos Town Council had changed, and that they must now change the Board membership. That is not the work of the officials; that is how they smuggle people illegally into the Lagos University Teaching Hospital. We have seen to that.

Now, a lot has been said about this. There is no doubt that there is a general dissatisfaction on the question of allocation of plots, but in

the main this is not the fault of the Minister. I think that if one looks into the problems clearly one will find that the facility for the assignment of plots is too wide. There are a number of Nigerians who have been given plots but I do not want to give their names; but when we are in Parliament we should be bold enough to speak the truth. Very many Nigerians have been given plots because they applied for them; but the next minute they sell the plots in the open market, whereas distinguished Nigerians like Members of Parliament and others who should have had these plots get nothing. (*Laughter*).

I said a few minutes ago that there was a Member sitting by me who has applied for a plot several times but has not got one. I do not think that that should be the position.

Mr J. D. Odebunmi (Egba North) : I think that if anybody on the Floor of this House makes a statement, that statement could be refuted. But these frontal, personal attacks cannot help us at all. I think any statement can be refuted without any frontal personal attack. It is against the Standing Orders.

The Chairman : I do not think that the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is attacking the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who, I can see, is looking very cheerful. No doubt the atmosphere has been cordial so far.

Mr Ogunsanya : Then, there is this issue of plot allocation. This is where there is something that the Government should clearly look into. I do not think there is any blame on the Minister at all.

A lot has been said about Lagosians not being given this or that. I would stand against any attempt by anybody to try to bring in tribalism. Whether a person is an Ibo or Yoruba or Hausa, anywhere at all, such a person should be considered wholly and solely on personal merits. (*Hear, hear*).

I would say that in this issue it is no use for men like my hon. Friend, the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) saying that individuals should be given preference or this or that. As far as we are concerned, we do not believe in this priority treatment, and that was why, the other day, I stood up on the Floor of this House

[MR OGUNSANYA]

to say that wherever we are in Nigeria, Nigerians should be considered as Nigerians and no more. I know it is going to take a long time to preach this doctrine against the issue of tribalism. Incidentally, whenever a man is deficient in qualification, he wants some sentimental support and so he takes to the side and talks of tribal this or that. We should not encourage such a person at all in this country.

The L.E.D.B. has been in effect the most controversial Board within this Federal structure for some time. But I think that the hon. Minister has really done a lot within a couple of years to try to do his best. I am not saying that the position is perfect. I am not saying that at all, but rather I am saying that with the co-operation of all the parties concerned here, things will be much better. It is no use everytime we start attacking the L.E.D.B. as a Board. I want to say that appointment into the L.E.D.B. is done by the Board of the L.E.D.B., and not by the Minister. It is in order for the L.E.D.B. to appoint, just as the Railway Board, the E.C.N. Board, and other Statutory Corporations, whoever the Board feels is most suitable for the functions they want him for. But whether justice is being done is another matter.

I am sure that if any Member of this Parliament has any specific instance of discrimination, and he brings it up, we will all support him—except to warn here that where personal names must come into the argument, I think it is best for us to meet the Minister in the Ministry and, usually, he will be quite willing to listen and help where help is necessary.

On the issue of contract, we believe in loyalty.

An hon. Member : Deputy Minister of Lagos Affairs.

Mr Ogunsanya : If I am assigned Deputy Minister of Lagos Affairs, I am quite sure that my hon. Friend, the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) will realise and agree with me that I have the qualifications to be so appointed.

I wish to say, by way of reminding the Minister, that the N.B.S. Contribution is well over due now. I wonder if I do not have to apply to the Ministry of Finance.

An hon. Member : What is that?

Mr Ogunsanya : It is the Nigerian Building Society which was mentioned by an hon. Member on the other side, because right now I understand through enquiries that there is a branch already in the East. That should not be closed down. I think, rather, more of this should be opened in the North and the West, so that they will be able to help our people in the East and North and West.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I am sure that after listening to the last speaker, one would give him credit as one who has spoken on a subject of which he is a master. I cannot claim to know as much as my two hon. Friends the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) and the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*), but I think, as lawyers themselves, both of them have tried in their own ways to argue their cases from different angles very efficiently, but the facts are there.

I am grateful to the last speaker for throwing light on some of the points already made by the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) and others. It is only left for me to acknowledge, on behalf of my Colleague and hon. Friend, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, the compliments which have been paid to him, most deservedly by hon. Members.

At least, hon. Members will agree that even those who disagree with some departments in the Minister's Ministry will certainly acknowledge the fact that the Minister is a gentleman of very quiet, honest and sincere disposition.

I do not know whether, if any of us is appointed Minister of Lagos Affairs, he can be as quiet as my Colleague the Minister of Lagos Affairs has been, especially for highly controversial figures like me. If I were Minister of Lagos Affairs, I think the Lagosians would have filed a Motion for me to be deported to somewhere else by now.

If I may speak on the question of allocation of plots to aliens for ninety years, as was mentioned by the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who argued against himself in one particular respect. He acknowledged the fact that the Minister was right in allocating plots to industrialists in industrial areas for the purpose of setting up industries for the benefit of our country. But my hon.

Friend refused to agree that the Minister is also right in allocating plots to these industrialists in the residential areas to enable them build houses for themselves and their workers.

You cannot eat your cake and have it. I am sure my hon. Friend will agree with me that we cannot expect industrialists to come here, spend millions of pounds in establishing industries and then begin to wait for the natives to build quarters for them. He is a native of Lagos, it does not matter whatever his sophistications are. He is still a native of Lagos, and if he is a native of Lagos, I will ask that he kindly goes to Isale Eko and see whether the houses in Isale Eko are the type of houses for industrialists to inhabit.

The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) will also agree with me that people who are industrialists, who are experts, who have the know-how, are very rare to find in the whole world, not only in Nigeria, they are very rare to find. If you get an expert from anywhere in the world he wants special taste for the type of building he would like to live in, otherwise you cannot recruit him, and it is not just any type of building. I think hon. Members will agree that it is only right and proper that certain quota of residential plots should be allocated to industrialists who are investing money here, so that they will be able to put up buildings for the experts who are going to supply the know-how.

I think that is the policy of the Government, that certain quotas are left for aliens. After all, my hon. Friend knows very well from his experience that no country can thrive without strangers, and it is only right that we must give some concessions to them. But I agree with him that we should not give them everything. There, we have to appeal to our people.

Invariably, when plots are given out to our people, as the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) has said, because they have no money to build, they have to ask people to build. Expatriates staying in those houses are not there for ninety years, they are only there for the period of time in which the rents that had been paid in advance will cover the period of sub-lease that is granted to them for the building alone. The moment the period of the time expires, naturally the building will revert to the indigenous owner of the house. I think that is also good busi-

ness since, because our people are poor, and my hon. Friend heard it when I said in my Budget Speech that the Government has taken a decision to help the indigenous people to recoup this money in good time without necessarily bearing the burden of taxation. I think that my hon. Friend will agree that that is a wise step.

The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) spoke about quota for Lagosians. This could be carried to the point of discrimination on the basis of tribalism that has been raised in this House. When people raise the issue I always feel that we should not belabour it. First, as regards the indigenous people of Lagos, barring the question of political differences, I am sure my hon. Friend will agree that the Federal Government has done a lot for Lagos and for the Lagosians as well as leaving some room for non-Lagosians. The trouble is that the group of Lagosians to which my hon. Friend *Mr Dosunmu* belongs refuse to owe allegiance to their King. They oppose Oba Adele. If the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) can go and take a chieftaincy title, whether he is a prince or not, and prostrate for Oba Adele, then they will know that he has come back home, and they will give him the title of "Omowale". The N.P.C. and N.C.N.C. Coalition Government knows no discrimination, and apart from the provisions in the Constitution for the Lagosians, we have seen to it that a lot of Board appointments, even in my own Ministry, I have consulted the political leaders—

Mr Dosunmu : On a point of order, if one only looks at a Bill the Minister of Transport, Hon. Amanze Njoku, is bringing to this House next week, it will be seen that he deliberately left out the the people of Lagos. He provided for everybody except Lagos.

The Minister of Finance : With respect to my hon. Friend's point of order, that Bill is not before the House. When the Bill comes, I think he will have ample time to discuss it.

What I want to say is that the Lagos people have always been remembered through their political parties, and I can say that in the case of my own Ministry, I appoint the Board Members in consultation with political leaders who represent Lagos.

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) also mentioned the question of petrol stations in Lagos, and one of my Colleagues and Friend is also vexed with petrol stations along Ikorodu Road. I must say this, it is absolutely impossible—I am not with him—with our democratic principles, the Minister of Lagos Affairs cannot stop somebody from selling his land to a petrol seller. If the Minister were to stop anybody from leasing his plot to any petrol seller, I am sure the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) will be the first to come here and say that the Minister is autocratic. Speaking personally for myself, I do not subscribe to the idea of putting petrol stations in every nook and corner of Lagos, but this is not a blame that can be put at the door of the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs. Let hon. Members tell their people to stop selling their land to petrol dealers.

The hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) has replied adequately to the point on the Education Committee.

As regards over-crowding in the Lands Registry, that my hon. Friend referred to, even, if the over-crowding were to exist there as he mentioned, the reasons advanced by him in support of his argument are far-fetched and unwarranted. The fact that somebody works in a congested office is not sufficient grounds to say that inefficiency is the order of the day in such an office. Naturally, there is over-crowding in several Ministries, and that is why the Government is taking steps to find more accommodation for offices. As my hon. Friend knows, the Independence Building is still in the process of being occupied and many offices have been moving in. I am sure that the Minister and his Permanent Secretary are really looking into this matter of congestion.

I think my hon. Friend the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) also replied sufficiently to the question of the L.M.T.S. I think all the legal points have been raised, but I am informed that the Minister is already looking into the matter and maybe after his return he would have finalised the question of the Constitution and perhaps reconstitute the Board.

My hon. Friend the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*) who was not sure whether he was talking of five acres or five miles square until he was reminded, was really not sure of anything he was talking about, with great respect to him. I do not know of any Minister having five square miles of land in Apapa. The whole of Apapa, perhaps, is not five miles square, so all his informants, I am sure, were either ignorant of what a square mile is or they are mis-informers perhaps briefed by the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) and his friends. The advice he has given could be a very good one. We know that Ministers are the cynosure of all eyes and that it is not necessary for us to take the lion's share. But it should be remembered that Ministers are also Nigerians and that what is sauce for the goose is also sauce for the gander, so Ministers cannot be de-Nigerianised just because they are Ministers.

My hon. Friend the Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*) also spoke about railway crossings. Railway crossings are perhaps made to stop people like himself from rushing too much for mis-information instead of getting information from the Minister of Information, hon. T. O. S. Benson. We have an adage in English that says, "More haste less speed". Therefore, if people can stop at the railway crossing, instead of crossing everywhere quickly without a second thought, it will be better for everybody. I think that railway crossings are the same in every country of the world, and I think I have the authority to speak on it, because I have been in so many parts of the world. In some places where it is possible to put overhead bridges, we shall do so, but where we cannot, it is just impossible for us to do otherwise.

I think that these are the salient points that have been made, and I must say once again that I am grateful to hon. Members for contributing to this debate in such a fair manner. I do hope that the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Lagos Affairs will draw the attention of my Colleague to the points made when his Minister returns.

Whereupon the Minister of Finance rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question now be put.

Question, That the Question now be put, put and agreed to.

£1,271,220 for Head 52—Ministry of Lagos, Affairs—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1961-62)

BILL :

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(23RD APRIL)

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

Question put and agreed to.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1962-63)

BILL :

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Question put and agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the House do now adjourn.—(THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS).

Chief D. N. Abii rose—

The Minister of Finance : On a point of Information, my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) has just drawn my attention to the point he wants to raise. He told me that the Prime Minister agreed to reply to it. But in absence of the Prime Minister he wants me to reply to it. I cannot step into the shoes of the Prime Minister, so, I cannot reply.

EMBEZZLEMENT AT MARINE DEPARTMENT,
ONITSHA

Mr C. Chiedozie (Enugu) : There is a point I wish to make and I would like the hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation to make a statement on it. It was alleged that a sum of £2,000 had been embezzled recently by a daily-paid worker in the Marine Department at Onitsha, and that he made away with this money. Now, I want the hon. Minister to make a statement on the following :

(1) Why a daily paid man should be responsible for the control of such a big amount of money ;

(2) What efforts are being made to recover the money ;

(3) The necessity of conducting a private departmental inquiry into the affairs of Onitsha Marine Department which are very irregular at the moment ; and

(4) The conditions of service of the Onitsha Marine workers which appear at the moment as not satisfactory.

Would the hon. Minister please give this honourable House his statement on the above.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I have looked into the matter raised by the hon. Member, and I have the following information to give on the matter. In the first place, it was not a daily paid man who was responsible for the cash or who had custody of the cash that got lost.

What happened was that a certain unestablished clerical assistant—I would not like to tell his name, but I could tell it in confidence if any Member wants to know the name—collected—

An hon. Member : Where is he from ?

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Well, he is from the hon. Gentleman's province if he would like to know.

As I was saying, a certain Mr J. F. Akpan who is an unestablished clerical assistant—

An hon. Member : Unestablished ?

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Yes, but not a daily paid man. He collected from the Treasury, on the 21st of March, a cheque for £300-4s-5d and had it endorsed by the Local Marine Officer on the same day.

[THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

This gentleman did not hand over the cheque to the Assistant Executive Officer as he was supposed to do, and it was the duty of the Assistant Executive Officer to have such monies deposited in the safe. This passed unnoticed. Everybody thought that the money had been passed to the Assistant Executive Officer and that it was in safe custody.

But on the second day, the same man collected a cheque for £1,639-10s-3d from the Treasury and presented it to the Local Marine Officer. He was told again to hand it over to the appropriate officer, that is the Assistant Executive Officer; but this he did not do.

The practice is that when these cheques are lodged with the Assistant Executive Officer, they are taken to the bank for encashment by the Marine Officer. The Marine Officer generally takes the Assistant Executive Officer and the clerical assistant in his car to the bank for the cashing of such cheques. But what happened on this particular occasion? The clerical assistant did not inform anybody of what he was doing. He took these cheques and rode off on his bicycle and went to the bank and had the money cashed.

As he was accosted later on, he gave the explanation that he was taking the money to the bank and that on the way, he felt that something had got missing from his pocket. He dismounted from his bicycle and searched for the cheques but could not find them. Immediately, the Local Marine Officer got in touch with the bank authorities and told them that such cheques were missing and that they should not be cashed. He wanted to stop the cheques but he was told that as the two cheques had been cashed, the cashier would be able to identify the person who presented them for cashing. Later on, the clerical assistant was identified as the person who went to the bank and had these cheques cashed.

This particular employee is now in Police custody and has been charged for theft. I think the law will have its course, so I have nothing more to say about that.

As regards all the people implicated one way or the other in this matter, a departmental inquiry has been instituted according to Government Regulations, and the results of the inquiry and recommendations will be forwarded to the Federal Public Service Commission so that they can deal with all those concerned with this matter.

The hon. Member has said that the conditions of all the members of this department at Onitsha are bad; that they are working under poor conditions. I would like to say that their conditions are no different from the conditions of employees of Government in similar jobs elsewhere in the country. They are enjoying the same conditions of service as their counterparts in Lagos, or Lokoja or Port Harcourt or other places where we have offices of the Inland Waterways Department. Therefore it would not be correct to say that they are suffering special hardships at Onitsha; and I have no information—and I do go through that area from time to time—that they feel any special dissatisfaction or any grudge against the Government in the way they are being treated. As I said, this matter is well in hand now and I think there is nothing that I can do about it until the law courts have decided the issue.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East): I wish to call the attention of hon. Members and the Minister of Commerce and Industry to a matter which I consider to be of great national consequence and which, for some time now, has greatly agitated my mind.

I am referring to the dishonest practices of traders in many of our big towns particularly—and it is painful to say—Onitsha. These malpractices range from adulteration to duping, *et cetera*.

I shall give only a few examples to illustrate my point. If you bought a tin of kerosene from Onitsha market you would, on reaching home, find that it is water mixed with kerosene in the ratio of two to one. Pretend to buy *Izal* or *Mentholatum* or *Dettol* and you will, on close examination, find that it is not what you intended to buy that you have. With a bag of genuine cement, they make four new bags whose content is made up of wood ash and chalk. With a drum of paint, they make out two, or three others of—I do not know what!

All liquid articles are mixed in a manner or proportion that defies all chemical formulæ. A cycle dealer displays his new *Raleigh* bicycles, and you feel attracted to buy one. Get home with your new cycle and ask a repairer to dismantle the vehicle. You will find that only the frame work is made up of *Raleigh* parts. All the other parts, especially those which cannot be seen through easily, are either Robin Hood or Hercules parts. This odious practice is extended to all branches of trade.

If you buy a packet of A.P.C. or M & B and put some tablets in the water you will find that they are tablets carved out of sticks of chalk. The palm wine they sell is not the product of a palm tree but a mixture of water from fermented garri and saccharine.

Hotel dealers prepare their food with dead goats and fowls for customers to buy. These Shylocks carry out their foul play even in their overseas trade. They use fictitious trade names to swindle overseas customers. These malpractices of these dupes have been known so widely overseas that—

Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban): I am a Member for Onitsha Urban and the hon. Member now speaking does not live in Onitsha and he does not live in the Eastern Region for that matter. I am prepared to give him expert opinion about this. It is not proper, therefore, for him to be raising such an issue on the Floor of this House.

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West): On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman speaking is from Onitsha. It is high time to correct everything known to be in bad taste.

Mr Mordi: The mal-practices of these dupes have been known so widely overseas that certain manufacturers and exporters have marked out Nigeria as one of the few countries where no C.O.D. concessions could be extended.

This state of affairs should give everyone of us cause for concern, for apart from the fact that the foods and drugs which are adulterated pre-dispose the lives of people are exposed to danger, there is also the more serious fact that the commercial integrity and the good name of this country are being sentenced to eternal death. The magnitude of this harm to this nation can only be imagined than described.

The cry of every Nigerian to-day is how to develop the country; how to develop our commerce both internally and externally; but under the present state of affairs how can we expect to achieve the development? Who will cherish to trade with a slippery and dishonest customer? I think the answer is obvious.

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu): On a point of Order, the hon. Gentleman is not asking for a statement, instead he is making a speech. I think what he is saying is irrelevant.

Mr Mordi: The impression some countries have about our traders and the country as a

whole on commercial matters is not a very enviable one. I am, therefore, calling on the Minister of Commerce and Industry to give this matter serious thought. I would suggest that he should introduce a drastic legislation in Parliament which will help to bring to an end this nefarious conduct of some of our people, together with their rape on the country's good name and integrity.

It is the right of everyone to aspire to be rich, but when this ambition becomes so inordinate and one attempts to achieve it at the expense of the country's good name, oblivious of any sense of morality, then it becomes most reprehensible. It is for this reason that I am calling on the Minister to tell this honourable House what measures he proposes to take to bring to an end this ugly situation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): Adulteration of produce intended for sale in the Federal territory is an offence under section 4, Chapter 6 of the Adulteration of Produce Act. The Regional Governments also have competence to legislate in this field.

With respect to produce for export, all Marketing Board produce are subject to inspection, such things like rubber, capsicums and chillies. Members of the Nigerian Timber Association and others who wish could have their timber inspected by the Association. In addition, the following independent bodies operating in Nigeria have as their speciality the inspection and issue of certificates of quality in respect of various commodities:

Messrs Jos Hansen and Soehne (Nigeria) Ltd., 58/59 Martins Street, Lagos.

Messrs Glyndova (Nigeria) Ltd., 60A Campbell Street, Lagos.

Messrs Nigerian General Superintendence Co. Ltd., 35/37 Martins Street, Lagos.

As a result there are now very few cases of adulteration of export commodities reported from overseas.

It is quite possible that the hon. Member's dissatisfaction stems mainly from adulteration of produce for internal consumption, in which case, as I have stated, the matter is one on which Regional Governments are competent to legislate.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at a quarter to five o'clock.

tions took place between the Nigerian Government and the French Government before the recent nuclear explosion in the Sahara.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Mr M. O. Okilo) : No, sir.

Dr Icheke

O.468. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, if he will state what action he has taken to repatriate Dr Icheke, a Nigerian medical doctor now living in the United Kingdom.

Mr Okilo : The hon. Member is referred to the answer that the Minister gave to Question No. O.188 last week on the same subject.

Mr Amadi : There appears to be a confusion. I do not understand the answers given to my questions.

The Deputy Speaker : The Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Amadi*) to ask Question No. O.463.

O.463. Mr F. A. M. Amadi asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, whether the Government will now apply any sanctions against the French Government in view of its utter disregard for the feelings and welfare of the Nigerian people.

Mr Okilo : As is well known, Nigeria has already declared its stand in respect of the events to which the hon. Member refers. Any further step can best be taken in consultation with other independent countries in Africa.

Alhaji Aminu Kano : In view of the fact that since Nigeria broke up diplomatic relations with France and in view of the fact that developments have taken place and events have taken over certain things, I wonder whether this Government is thinking in terms of re-establishing diplomatic relations with France.

EDUCATION

Schools Broadcasting

O.593. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Education, what form of co-ordination now exists for schools broadcasting.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr D. C. Ugwu) : There is, at present, no positive co-ordination of media, programmes or time in radio programmes for schools. The Eastern Nigeria programmes are however, broadcast over the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation network.

More important, however, is the fact that, at the instance of my Ministry, the Institute of Education at the University College, Ibadan, has had two meetings on which all Ministries of Education participated and considered the subject of Audio-Visual Aids and Radio Broadcasting with a view to introducing uniform school programmes through both media.

At present, there is a USAID expert advising my Ministry on Audio-Visual Aids. Arrangements are already underway for the setting up of an inter-regional committee which would effectively co-ordinate the production and utilization of school programmes. Besides, all the Ministries of Education have jointly signed an agreement with USAID which aims at improving and co-ordinating our present facilities in Audio-Visual Aids on Education.

School of African and Oriental Studies

O.595. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Education, for how long he intends to continue relationship with the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and whether he has acceptable reasons for such continuance.

Mr Ugwu : I should mention that the School of Oriental Studies in London University is principally a specialist institution and, until our own institutions of higher learning have developed full fledged faculties on African Studies, it would be unwise to limit the relationship much less discontinue it. Nor is it practicable or desirable to sever the relationship completely since cross-dissemination of ideas between the parent institution and the young faculties developing in our universities will naturally continue for a long time to come.

Mr Oronsaye : In view of the fact that not all the oriental languages learnt at the School of Oriental and African Studies is required in Nigeria, will the Minister state what prevents the few that we need from being introduced into Ibadan, Ife or Nsukka ?

(1042)

has been removed, how many Nigerian police- will be done to this effect.

(1040)

Modern Languages for Primary Schools

O.653. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider including the teaching of modern languages in curriculum of Primary Schools in Lagos.

Mr Ugwu : If the hon. Member means introducing other foreign languages into our primary schools, the answer is NO. English is at the moment being taught in addition to a main Nigerian language.

Efforts are being made to introduce into some areas a second Nigerian language in primary schools while many secondary schools offer English, French and Latin. It is not advisable to introduce two modern foreign languages into our primary schools.

Secondary Education

O.654. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Education, what percentage of Nigerian children at present receive secondary education in Lagos.

Mr Ugwu : It is not possible to provide any accurate figure as the number of Nigerian children of secondary school age in Lagos is not known owing to migration and flow of population.

New Schools

O.655. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Education, how many new schools are currently under construction in the Federal Territory.

Mr Ugwu : No new schools are currently under construction. However, a new secondary school was only recently completed at Idi Araba and is presently being used by the University of Lagos.

Building extensions to the Technical Institute, Yaba, are currently under construction, and similar extensions to King's College, Baptist Academy and St. Gregory's College have recently been completed.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance : I think it will be necessary for me to inform Members of the progress we hope to make to-day and, at the same time, to announce that there will be no night sitting to-day.

Several hon. Members : Why, why ?

The Minister of Finance : If Members have a special interest in night sittings, they had better declare it.

Hon. Members will find that we have to deal with very important Ministries to-day on the Heads of Estimates—Mines and Power, Geological Survey, Ministry of Information, Coastal Agency, Inland Waterways and Ministry of Transport and Aviation. I think that since we hope to complete our business by 6 p.m. to-night, and we still have to approve the Capital Estimates Resolutions and Customs Tariff Orders, I hope hon. Members who have contributions to make will be brief so that they can give others opportunity to speak and to enable us too to debate the Heads of Estimates properly and not to guillotine them at the eleventh moment.

I hope this appeal will be heeded by everybody so that we can make appreciable progress and give hon. Members the opportunity of discussing all the Heads that we shall deal with to-day.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : Much as we accept the points made by the Minister of Finance, I want to draw attention to the fact that he has stressed the importance of these Ministries. I do not think it will be fair to Members to rush through these Ministries simply because we want to pass them and go away. We have devoted sufficient time to the discussion on other Ministries and I think these very Ministries should receive equal treatment.

If we do not come to-night, I think we still have more days ahead of us and I do not see why we should rush through these Ministries.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I do not intend to oppose what the Leader of the House has just said, but I have a few remarks to make. I had even thought that this Parliament should not have assembled to-day. We have a very important visitor coming here and I only regret that he had not arrived at such a time as to enable him to address us in this House.

The Heads of the Estimates, as enumerated by the Leader of the House, are very important Heads.

[MR ENEH]

or £300. In some cases the electric poles which are planted along all these towns are only a yard or two from the towns, so that in the main what we are asking the Minister to do is to supply as many towns as possible with electricity.

One might say that the policy of Government in relation to the supply of electricity in some cases is to supply the urban and industrial areas. Even if it is not economical to supply rural areas with electricity the Government should subsidise the supply of electricity because after all, it is the rural people that make the whole money with which the Government is run. Without the cotton grown in the North by the rural people, the groundnuts, the palm-kernel, palm oil, cocoa and rubber, it will be impossible for this Corporation to be run and as such these people should be made to enjoy the fruits of their own labour.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East) : Mr Chairman—

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : On a point of order, I would like to direct the attention of the Chairman to the names on the Order Paper. Although some of the names on the Order Paper are being called, there is a tendency to ignore those hon. Members who wish to move to reduce the whole Head because their names appear at the bottom. Some of us have contributed to this debate only once since the Committee Stage started.

The Chairman : Order. Members who by making these interjections avail themselves of the opportunity of contributing in any manner whatsoever should not blame anyone if they have no further opportunity. May I say that it is remarkable that the hon. Member protesting has admitted having spoken at least once and there are other Members who have never had an opportunity. I would appeal to the Members on my far right in particular. You see, there are many of you who want to speak and if only one gets up and speaks for five minutes, then all of you will speak. But if you debate at length, do not blame the Chair, blame yourselves.

Mr Tokula : I thank God for giving me this opportunity to express my views to the Minister of Mines and Power and to make my

suggestions to him. I have every belief that minerals such as gold and diamond are surely available in our soil. These form a very great part of the financial background of a developing country like Nigeria. We cannot rely on the previous mineral investigations of our British masters when they were ruling us. They could tell us there were no such minerals in our soil even though there were.

I am saying with great emphasis that a careful mineral survey and research be conducted into our soil to find out the existence of these important minerals.

Electricity charges are very high in Nigeria at the present. At the end of every month people pay a very high amount of money for the electricity they consumed during the month. I am appealing to the Minister to make a cut in the rate. This will enable people who now use firewood to use electricity ; this will mean that more people will make use of electricity and more money will be derived by Government.

Recently, it was announced that a world scientific organisation was trying to devise means to develop power on or near the moon to supply electricity. I do not know whether it is true or not, nor do I know when it will take place. But whatever is the case I want the Minister of Mines and Power to take note of this new development. I am sure if power is developed on the moon our electrical equipment will all be useless. The Minister should bear this in mind and devise electrical equipment which will cost less money in the meantime.

I congratulate the Minister of Mines and Power for the good work he has done to supply and maintain electricity all over the Western and Eastern Regions and for putting Northern Region—his own Region—in complete darkness. The Minister has done nothing worthy of praise in the Northern Region with regard to electricity supply since he took office. Every year we all come here and appeal to him—

Mr E. A. Odo (Idoma West) : The hon. Member for Igala North East (*Mr Tokula*) is not telling the truth ; the Minister has been doing a lot in the Northern Region.

Mr Tokula : Every year we all come here to appeal to the Minister to supply electricity but as soon as we go back to our respective

are now going to build an ordnance factory for the manufacture of ammunitions. We should use local material. We can not, when we build a factory for the manufacture of guns, start importing materials for the making of bullets when we can get them locally.

expansion of electricity supply in Abakanki.
Sir, I beg to support.

M. Maina Waziri (Potiskum) : In congratulating the Minister of Mines and Power, I would like him to think about

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constituencies, all requests from the North are neglected. The whole of the Middle Belt in particular is in complete darkness. It is only in very few towns like Jos and Makurdi that light is supplied along the Railway stations to help passengers travelling in the night. This is not fair at all. The electricity supply at Bida and Lokoja is an apology. Only Government residential areas where Europeans stay are supplied with electricity. The entire towns are left in total darkness. The Government asks the Native Authorities or the Local Councils—

The Chairman : Order. Is hon. Tokula reading or just making references ?

Mr Tokula : Thank you Mr Chairman, I am referring to my notes.

The Chairman : Order. If you are making references, we would like to see your face more frequently.

Mr Tokula : I will let you see my face every time.

The Government asks the Native Authorities to make available large sums of money for the installation of electric poles, and definitely, Government knows that the Native Authorities or the Local Authorities are poor. They have not enough money to pay for these poles. What I am saying is that if the Minister cannot supply electricity to the main towns, he should stop supplying electricity to the areas where Europeans stay, *i.e.* the residential areas. The Government neglects the towns where the natives are living.

I would like the Minister to give very serious consideration to the demand of the people of the ancient and historic town of Lokoja for electricity. I would also demand electricity supply for the whole of Igala Division. The extension could go through Nsukka, Enugu Ezike, to Ankpa, Ayangba and Dekina or through Nsukka to Idah. The distance is very small and I do not think it will present any difficulty to the Minister of Mines and Power. It is very easy and simple to do. If he finds it difficult to extend it as a continuation of the Oji River Power Station, then he should buy small power plants or electric engines which can supply power to a town. Some of them cost only about £500 and our people are ready to supply the fuel to run it. As for the installation, if the Minister can supply us with the

engine and other equipment our people are ready to put in communal labour. It is not big towns only like Lagos, Kano, Enugu and Ibadan that need light, rural areas too need it.

I would like to suggest that a serious and detailed research into the use of coal should be undertaken so that we might know the various ways in which coal can be used. When this is done, it will help keep the mining of coal in Nigeria.

I would also point out that diesel is fast reducing the importance of coal in the country and if the condition of coal is allowed to deteriorate further, I wonder what will be the future of the coal miners in Nigeria, particularly those in Enugu. Now, there is the crying of mass unemployment in this country, and if coal is not kept going, it means that thousands of coal miners will be without job. Certainly, if the Minister during one of his tours tries to visit Enugu where the coal miners were retrenched, the jobless miners will not let him drive through the streets of Enugu in his car.

Coal has been discovered in my village, Odu in Igala Division, Kabba Province, Northern Nigeria. Experts have said that it is the extension of the coal at Enugu. I would therefore, strongly ask the Government to encourage the use of coal in many ways, so that the one discovered in my village may be mind.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Taiwo (Oyo North West) : I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Mines and Power for all that he and his Ministry have been doing to give us good power supply in the Federation. I would like also to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Minister the high cost of consumption. It is very high indeed to have electricity in the house. I think this is a great monopoly of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria and I wonder whether it is not time for us in Nigeria to think of an alternative to the E.C.N. In other countries there are. It is a sort of contract to supply power to a country and if this Corporation cannot reduce its charges, then it is high time to look into the possibility of getting other time firms that can give us power at a cheaper rate.

[MR ODEBUNMI]

available to us without this mining industry. So this industry ought to be greatly encouraged.

The oil companies help to reduce our unemployment and to increase it too in this country. For instance, we find an oil company employs labourers, chemists, geologists, and various engineers, and various safety inspectors. In addition to all this, oil companies employ plenty of clerical staff. If more attention is paid to our mining industry the rate of unemployment will be greatly reduced.

Now, I will talk briefly on tin ore. In Nigeria to-day we know the amount of iron sheet that we use for roofing. I think, if co-ordinated efforts are made between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Mines and Power, this will help us to make the maximum use of our tin ore, and we can have locally produced roofing sheets in Nigeria. We cannot imagine what a tremendous amount of money we spend every year for the foreign firms that import our roofing sheets. Almost all the villages that used ordinary grass or thatch roofing before are now changing at a very fast rate to zinc sheets. It will be money well spent if our Government can set aside an appreciable sum of money for the manufacture of tin sheets.

I now come to coal. What can we do to increase the output of coal production? Are we to continue to use to a greater extent the old method of pickers and shovels? Why can we not import a great deal of Ogres or giant drills which, if well set, could drill as far inside as 100 feet and turn out up to about 20 tons of coal *per* hour? If we can get quite a lot of these instruments we shall be able to get an appreciable quantity of coal with less labour and less loss of life. If we also have many industries coming out of this coal mining, we shall be able to absorb the labourers or miners who are displaced.

The next point is safety in mining. Mining has always been a hazardous occupation. The chief dangers are caving, floods, gas and fire. Many hazards have been avoided by means of modern mining methods. Modern mining methods and mining laws serve as safety regulations and they have made the conditions very favourable to the miners.

What are the by-products that could be obtained from this coal mining? One hon.

Member had spoken at length on this, and I would only like our Government to please pay special attention to this and send out some experts to explore the possibility of finding out these by-products and give out scholarships to boys to make research into the various types of by-products.

It is said that we can get about 200,000 by-products from coal alone. If we can find out all these by-products, the country will be well placed. We have heard that almost everything could be made out of coal by-product, from domestic utensils to the parts being used in our cars. For person's use we can get face powder, toilet materials and even tooth paste from the by-product of coal. We can also get medicine like antiseptic, and even quinine, people say, can be got from coal by-product. In the kitchen also we can get ammonia, baking-powder and all sorts of things. For recreation and sport we can get billiard balls, photo developers and all sorts of chemicals. For home and furnishing we can get dishes and table wears from the by-products of coal, and for wearing apparels we get belts and buttons, and even spectacle frames can be got out of coal by-products, and for farming and gardening we can get all sorts of things. For transportation—and I am sure this will be very useful to the Minister of Transport—we can get batteries and lubricants. Therefore, considering the importance of coal, I think it is necessary that the heads of the following Ministries should get together: the Ministries of Mines and Power, the Finance (to supply the money), Commerce and Industry and Economic Development. If all the Ministers in these Ministries put their heads together and have a drive towards the production of lots of amenities, the country will be richly blessed.

Finally, I want to speak about electricity. The main power that runs through Lagos to Ewekoro Cement Factory is excessively too high, and I think some tempers ought to be brought along the way to be able to make it useful to the villages along the way to Ewekoro.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I have to state that in order to lessen the high cost of rentage and cost of living in Urban towns like Lagos, Port Harcourt and others like that, this Ministry should see to it that electricity is provided for many growing towns and villages

of this country. We all know that no industry or factory can be established in any place without the aid of electricity. If industries and other amenities are provided for all the towns and villages in this country, people from the provinces will stop coming to congest the urban towns and to raise the cost of living which we are crying against. It is shameful to know that many important areas like the Mid-West have not been considered fit for electricity since the expatriates left the management of this country in our hands.

During the colonial days, it was only Warri and Benin, honestly speaking, which were given electricity. Sapele was supplied with electricity by A.T.P. Limited and Burutu was supplied by the U.A.C. Ltd.

I will now quote from the *Hansard* of 11th April, 1963 to show hon. Members what plan the Minister has for this area. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I quote—

"The E.C.N. therefore as part of its programme has already initiated action and contracts already awarded for the construction of this transmission line system which will link Lagos-Benin, Aba-Omitsha and Ughelli-Benin. It is anticipated that by 1964 these new transmission line systems will be in operation."

I am appealing to the Minister to see to it that this line is extended from Benin to Asaba, and he should also construct another line from Ughelli through Eku, Obiaruku, Agbor to Auchi in the Mid-West area.

Other important growing towns throughout the Federation should also be supplied with electric light so as to make it possible to establish industries all over the country and congestion can thereby be reduced in many urban towns.

It is understood that there is abundance of coal deposit at Idumuje Ugboko, Obamkpa and Issele-Azagba areas in Asaba Division. I am therefore appealing to the Minister to send his team of geologists to investigate this area and also look up other minerals in the country, because if the maximum use of minerals is made, we will be economically self-supporting.

With these few comments, I support the Head.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): This Minister deserves congratulation, except for one defect. I come from Kano and the

people there have asked me to tell this House through the Minister that they are not satisfied with the way and manner their electricity supply is cut at regular intervals and quite unnecessarily without a word of explanation.

During the month of Ramadan, somebody goes into the fast, and just before he breaks the fast they cut the light without notice, and the cuts go on until about 12 noon or 1 a.m., and when he is about to go to sleep then the light comes on. Hon. Members will all agree with me that it is then useless, absolutely useless. I had a quarrel with the Minister in his house and he was telling me that he was living in the place before. I told him that he is now living in Lagos and that I had just come from Kano, so I know better.

I am asking the Federal Minister to remember that we had this light before this E.C.N. came into existence. It was not the E.C.N. who gave us the light, it was the Kano N.A. and we were persuaded to surrender it, which we reluctantly did, and now we are worse off.

The Minister of Mines and Power: Is the N.A. prepared to take it back now?

Alhaji Bello Dandago: The Minister is asking me whether the N.A. is prepared to take it back. I say no. As gentlemen, we have already given the thing, we will not take it back. All that I am asking is for the Minister to see to it that if the implement is out of date or due to inefficiency or whatever is the cause, he should look into it and remedy the situation. I do not want to remind him that he comes from Kano; all the same, it is a Federal matter.

It has been the constant practice of the E.C.N. in Kano not to disconnect the light of defaulters without notice just about near a certain public holiday which will last three days, so that there will be a black out during the holidays. They could have avoided this if they had reminded the Minister, but this they do not normally do. The relationship between the E.C.N. and the public in Kano is below expectation.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): For the first time, I have to thank the hon. Minister of Mines and Power. For the past three years, I think this is my first time of thanking any Minister under the Federal Government. May I say that if the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport were to be like

[MR BROWN]

the Minister of Mines and Power, there would have been no censure motion on the Floor of this House.

The Chairman : Order ! Would the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) please make his points. Comparative study of Ministers is something we have got no time for to-day. Time is very short.

Mr Brown : The Minister of Mines and Power has been good enough in supplying the people of the old Calabar Province for the first time with an amenity from the Federal Government source. All I need from the Minister now is that he promised me last year that electricity in Ikot Ekpene and Uyo will be commissioned early in 1963. We are almost going to the end of April now, and I do not know whether May or June shall still be regarded as early part of 1963.

I want to assure him that there is an industry now proposed to be established in Uyo, and what is holding us back is the commissioning of electricity in that place. As soon as the Minister is able to help us to commission the electricity supply for the people of that area to enable the industry to be established as soon as possible, we shall be very grateful to him.

Sometime last year, I filed a Question on the Floor of this House which the Minister of Mines and Power gave a reply to. He said that some time ago a licence was issued to the Shell Company for the exploration of oil throughout the whole of Calabar Province. A report was made by the Shell Company later on that there was no oil found in the area explored by them, but they refused to surrender the licence issued to them by the Minister of Mines and Power to enable us to invite other oil dealers into the area.

I want the Minister to invite the General Manager of the Shell Company and ask him to surrender the licence issued to him. Since they found no oil, we are prepared to negotiate through the Minister for any other oil company to come to that area. There is no reason why they should withhold the licence issued to them when they are not prepared to come back to the area to carry out the oil exploration.

I assure you, Sir, that according to statistics there was oil found in that area in a commercial quantity, but they suddenly escaped and ran down to Port Harcourt and concentrated there with no hope of coming back to our area.

If they do not want to come back, we need our land. They have acquired very mighty areas of land there which we should have been using for farming or for building houses, but they do not want anybody to go into the area, and they told us that no oil was found. Ask them to surrender the licence, destroy it, and let them leave the area for us so that we can invite other people to come, or we make use of the land for other purposes.

I want to know from the Minister whether there is any need for getting a licence to run a private electricity supply. If so, I would very much like to know. I do not know the E.C.N. regulations: I suppose the Minister will know. We have initiated a private electricity in my constituency which we hope to open in May. I know, probably, for the next twenty-five years the E.C.N. shall not be willing to come into the area, so if the Minister will be kind enough to issue us with a licence if need be (I do not know if that is possible) we shall be very grateful. I do not want to bother the Minister so much in asking him to bring electricity from Uyo twenty miles away to my constituency; I have taken upon myself to install electricity in my constituency for my people so as to encourage industry in Nigeria, and to help the Minister also as he was advised by the Prime Minister to encourage industry. I am encouraging his own Ministry by supplying my people with light, so I would not bother the Minister again. All I need from the Minister is a statement as to whether it will be possible to issue us with a licence to install our own private electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): For obvious reasons, I would like to start by replying to the remarks made by the hon. Member for Gwarzo East (Alhaji Bello Dandago) who comes from the same place as I. Incidentally, hon. Members do know that I too come from Kano, so, I know a little bit about Kano.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): On a point of order, there are many of us who would have asked the Minister some questions about places where the geological survey failed to mark out samples and minerals in a particular area, but we were not allowed to speak.

The Chairman : I do not think the Chief needs any further opportunity to speak.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I would like to say this on the Floor of the House. I do realize that Kano is an industrial centre and has always been a commercial town. Industries are springing up like mushroom in Kano now and the population is growing very rapidly. I have always taken these facts into consideration, and it is for this reason that I have caused a special plant big enough to supply the increasing demand for electricity in Kano to be installed in the area. The cuts that are now happening and which the hon. Member has said are frequent, are the result of, I think, the work that is going on in replacing some of the wiring in the city as well as in other parts of the country. But we are now in a position to say that the plant we have at Chalawa Power Station is capable of supplying the demand for Kano and any increasing demand that may likely come in the future. It is a pity that the hon. Member lives in the rural area, although he comes from the city, and that is why he has not noticed the change that has taken place quite recently.

I do appreciate the suggestions that have been made by hon. Members, and I am very grateful for them. I have noticed that most of the hon. Members that have spoken are anxious to get electricity supply in their respective constituencies. I do not blame them at all. At this stage of our economic development, it is absolutely essential that we supply power. Power is an essential ingredient in the industrialisation of this country; we are doing everything possible, therefore, to supply this necessary ingredient so that we may help in our own way to expedite the industrialisation of this country. But it should be realized that we have got limited funds. The E.C.N. cannot have enough money to supply all the electricity needs of the whole country, so what we normally do is this. If we are satisfied that an area is economically viable or can economically support an electricity supply, we supply that particular area from our own funds. Where we feel that it cannot be economical to supply that area, we ask the Regional Government concerned to give us an interest-free loan for a number of years and then we supply an amenity undertaking. We are also introducing what we call a rural electricity undertaking as a sort of experiment.

If it succeeds, it is our intention to supply rural areas like Dambatta, Warugo and such other places with such undertaking.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : On a point of order, I would like the Minister to start that scheme with Orlu Division.

The Chairman : That is a point of request and not a point of order.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I would like to say that the request is noted.

Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts (Calabar) : On a point of order, I want to request the hon. Minister to supply to Akpabuyo in Calabar area.

The Chairman : Order, order ! Members who put in a quick word through points of order, I am sure, will not grumble if they do not catch the Speaker's eye.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I will also go further to say that it will be extremely difficult for me with the limited time available to name all the towns that will be supplied with electricity in our next economic programme. This much I will say. What we normally do is to ask the Regional Governments to submit lists of names of towns that they would like to be supplied with electricity and then we carry out survey to see whether it is economically possible and feasible to do so. Then we submit our report, and having done that, the Regional Government will lend us money interest-free and we supply this area with power. When we have finished this exercise, it is my intention to come to the Floor of this House this year and announce the names of the towns that we have selected that will be electrified during our next economic programme.

But even where towns have been suggested to the Regional Governments or to my Ministry, we must first of all satisfy ourselves that it is economically possible and feasible and viable to do so because hon. Members will agree with me that with the limited funds that we have available, we cannot just supply any town with electricity. We must satisfy ourselves that those towns that we supply with electricity do deserve such a supply.

An hon. Member : On a point of order, many of us here do not go back to the House of Assembly in our Regions. How do we make suggestions to our Regional Governments ?

The Chairman : That is a question. I think I must refer Members again to Standing Order 27 which deals with point of order. It is not an opportunity for making brief speeches.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I am really surprised that there are certain hon. Members who do not realise that they can approach any Government, any Local Authority, any Organisation on behalf of their constituency if they really want some amenities for such constituency.

Mention has been made of mineral survey in this country. The success of any economic planning and, therefore, economic development depends on the availability of the data on minerals and mineral deposits in the country. It is for this reason, therefore, that we are making efforts in my Ministry to survey as much as we can the whole country. To this effect, also, we have already got expert advice from various countries. I am not confining myself to, say, Great Britain in this mineral survey or to Canada or the United States of America. I am getting technical advice from not only Great Britain but also from Canada, Italy and other parts of the world. It is my intention therefore to use all the experts that I can lay hands on in order to carry out the mineral survey of this country, for I realise that the success of our economic planning, and hence our economic development, depends on the availability of the mineral data that we have in this country. So, we are doing this.

Mention has been made about the iron ore deposit in Enugu in respect of the establishment of iron and steel industry in that area. It is not for me to say where the industry is going to be sited, and I would like to make this quite clear on the Floor of this House that when I discover a mineral, my work is finished. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to encourage industrialists or other people who are interested to set up the industry.

An hon. Member : I think it is the Minister of Mines and Power's responsibility.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It is not. If the hon. Member knows what the division of the responsibilities are, he will agree with me that this is so.

But I would like to say this. The Iron and Steel Industry in particular has given me particular interest because for some reasons the initiation of the establishment of the Iron and Steel Industry started from my Ministry. It was at a certain stage that the Ministry handed it over to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and that is why I am in a position to give hon. Members some information about the establishment of the Industry.

We have realised that the establishment of Iron and Steel Industry comes next to the Niger Dam Project in our Economic Programme. It has been accorded one of the highest priorities in our Economic Programme. For this reason we feel that there should be no politics at all. We must be guided therefore by the advice of our experts. It is for this reason that we have invited some experts to tell us after having considered all the facts concerning the various deposits, coal, iron ore and such other things, where it will be most economically suitable to site the industry.

This report is yet to be submitted to the Government. But when the Report is submitted to the Government, Government is going to take a decision based on the Report of those experts and under no circumstances shall we play politics with this most important industry which affects the economy of the country.

As you will notice, Mr Chairman, I do not want to go point by point as made by Members because I think that most of the points that have been made are similar to one another. There is one particular point that was made by the hon. Member for Izi South (*Mr Ikeh*) concerning lead and zinc deposit. It is true that in 1960 I made a statement on the Floor of this House and I said that money was coming and it might be possible to start the lead and zinc deposit mines in Abakaliki again. But he too mentioned that loan was expected from a firm. This firm declined to give this loan because it lost interest as a result of the price of lead and zinc in the world market which was then going down. Naturally, anybody that wants to invest his money in any industry must be satisfied that he is going to

The Minister should see to all these things.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

12.05. p.m.

An hon. Member : Ask them.

Mr Oronsaye : It is the Minister who will explain. These two questions must be answered by Franco Oluhake and others.

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get the money back. They were under the impression when they first came and saw me that it would be all right and that the price for lead and zinc in the world market was good. But later on before they made this investment they discovered that the price was going down and so they could not do anything about it.

The hon. Member will bear me out that I myself went to his own area and visited those mines and discussed the matter with some of the Members coming from the same area.

We are still looking for people who are interested in this and we will interest those that can come and put in money, but this depends on the price of this particular community in the world market.

Mr Chairman, let me say this. I will be doing injustice to my conscience if I do not say that the rate of electricity here is high. I agree. Some time ago I said in this House that we were exploring the possibility of the advisability of reducing the cost of electricity. Now we are trying to do that. But it must be realised that with this heavy demand coming every time and with industries springing up everyday it will be extremely difficult for us to do anything that will retard the progress of the E.C.N. in supplying areas with electricity. If we reduce the rate at this material time it will not enable the E.C.N. to go ahead with its own programme. However, we are looking into the whole thing to see if there is a way out of it. But I do not want to commit myself because this is a very delicate matter, but I can assure hon. Members that I will look into the whole thing.

Mr Chairman, I am really very grateful to all hon. Members that have made contributions all of which are very sensible and constructive and I do assure them that I will look into them when I go back.

The Deputy Chairman : Order. May I appeal to hon. Members. I appreciate there are many Members who still want to speak but I feel like appealing to you. I wish to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that we still have the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, Coastal Agency, Inland Waterways, Ministry of Information. In addition we have two Motions on the Capital Estimates. We have already spent almost an hour and a half on this Head so I do implore Members realise this.

£236,090 for Head 53—*Ministry of Mines and Power—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 54—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

£129,420 for Head 54—*Geological Survey—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

HEAD 55—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Question proposed, that £1,065,720 for Head 55—Ministry of Transport and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.

The Deputy Chairman : May I make one explanation on this Head. I think we have three Heads coming under this Ministry—55, 56 and 57—and I do wish that Members will speak generally on the three Heads so that we can dispose of them at the same time.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma (Hadejia North) : I rise to speak in support of Head 55—Ministry of Transport and Aviation.

As Members are well aware, transport is the life-blood of any nation. I want to congratulate the Minister for the work he has done in the past.

People are supposed to learn from advice and so I want to offer him some advice. I will start with the Shipping Line under him. I want to know why he always buys old and second-hand ships. Recently, one was converted into scrap after a short use. Who were the valuers? Who made Nigeria lose so much money? Ministers should be ready to account for every penny of public money spent.

Secondly, during the recent Dock Workers strike, there were strong rumours that Ministers' wives were shareholders in the Dock Workers business. We want to have a definite reply to this statement. Why does not the Government recruit labour direct? Why does the Government handover the salaries of workers to people, who in turn must make their profits before they pay the workers? Is it not profiteering at the expense of the people? Let us get this thing straight. Let the Government pay the salaries direct to the workers. I want to hear a statement in this House on the question of salaries of Dock Workers.

My next point is on the Aviation Training School. All the aircraft meant to be used for training are out of service. For the past six months there has been a Training School for

[MR ORONSAYE]

the necessity for international route development. Most of the things I said clustered around this. It is interesting to find that what is said in the 1962-68 Development Programme precisely is what I said then. I invite the attention of hon. Members to paragraphs 116 to 124 pages 80 to 81 of the Development Programme 1962-68. The point I am making here is that the hope expressed in the part I have quoted is very remote and is conditional on good adjustments and resultant efficiency, that is, it is dependent on good adjustment and efficiency. This efficiency is not likely due to upset factors generated by operations within the Corporation itself.

It is for the purpose of efficiency that we get up in this House to speak, so that there will be optimum Labour, optimum capital, both liquid and solid. We want optimum in everything so that production will be efficient. The point I want to make here is without prejudice to anybody. I would like to say that the present Chairman is doing his very best, he is working very hard but he has got to look very carefully especially into appointments. Appointments in this Corporation have turned the name from the Nigeria Airways to the Mbaïse Air Lines. That is what—

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North): On a point of order, there is no such thing as Mbaïse Airways. The hon. Member should not impute motives.

Mr Oronsaye: I have already stated that I will not impute motives but I will explain what I mean by Mbaïse Air Lines. A few weeks ago, 46 people were appointed into the Sales and Traffic and Cargo Sections as Clerks. Thirty-four of these people were from Mbaïse and Umuahia, one from Onitsha, one from the Mid-West, one from Lagos, two from Calabar and seven from the Yoruba West.

An hon. Member: What of the North?

Mr Oronsaye: None came from the North. If out of 46, 34 are from Mbaïse it means that the Nigeria Airways is becoming Mbaïse Air Lines.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): On a point of order, I think the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) is really misleading the House. It is no use coming to this honourable House with fictitious figures. There is nothing like Mbaïse Air Lines and the information he is giving to the House is false.

Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban): Mbaïse is quite a distance from Umuahia. Mbaïse is in Owerri Division and Umuahia is quite a different Province. If the hon. Member for Benin East wants to continue on this allegation he should tell us how many from Mbaïse and how many from Umuahia and not just bundle them together.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): The hon. Member for Benin East has not been able to tell us how many people applied from each of these places he has mentioned.

Mr Oronsaye: If hon. Members will listen, these are not fictitious figures.

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu): On a point of order, the objection we are taking is that people should not come to the Floor of this House to make fictitious accusations. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order. I do not think this is the first time that allegations or accusations have been made in this House but I think this is a Parliament, it is very much of a game of give and take. When we start peddling Regional chauvinism from any Side it has no end. That is why the Chair is always anxious to refrain hon. Members from making accusations anyhow.

Mr Oronsaye: The appointment of the Passenger Manager for the Lagos Sales Office was most irregularly done. An Mbaïse man was catapulted from the junior grade to (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: Order. Much as the Chair has already ruled that when Members start giving they must be prepared to take, I do not think we should push it to the extent of causing a general disorder. Therefore, will the hon. Member speak on the Head of Estimates and please leave clannishness and be brief with his points.

Mr Oronsaye: While wishing to respect the ruling—

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): On a point of order, I think if things of this nature are being practised it is good for an hon. Member of this House to bring it to the Floor of this House. After all, we have been saying that there is too much Northernisation and the

Let me deal with the Railway Corporation first. People are complaining too much that the whole railway system is unsatisfactory, and I quite agree with them for this reason. It is my humble view that there is an urgent

stations and steal passengers' money and properties.

6. That some stations are too congested and out of date. I have in mind the Kano Railway Station which was built in 1914.

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Northern elements have taken it, so we should be able to take it also when it comes to our turn. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : May I say again that the Chair is not against people bringing facts they know on the Floor of this House. One thing the Chair is anxious to avoid is using it as occasion for mischief making. Definitely legitimate facts stated on the Floor of this House can hardly be objected to. All I am saying is that before now allegations have been made and they have led to quite active reactions on either Side, and I do not think we should go beyond the points of what has already been obtaining here.

Mr Oronsaye : I thank you very much for the ruling and also for your fairness. It is not my intention and people who know me know that I do not impute motives, but I hate injustice. If the Airline exists for the whole country and a man who is in authority there uses his power to the gain of his town and to the disadvantage of others, I think this is injustice on the whole country.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : On a point of information, the Chairman of the Airways is from the Mid-West, and not from Mbaise.

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member speaking has rightly channelled his last remark by merely saying that if one is from a particular section of the country and tries to use his influence to the disadvantage of others, that is not fair. I think that solves the issue, and I do not think we should go beyond that at this stage.

Mr Oronsaye : I was not referring to the Chairman when I was speaking. I was referring to Mr P. S. E. Ezenwa and Mr S. A. O. Achilefu. These are the two people who do this thing in the Airways, and they are causing a lot of trouble as a result of what they do there.

The Chairman : Order, order! I do not think that it is proper that the hon. Gentleman should lose his temper to the extent of shouting on the Chair, because under the Standing Orders, when an hon. Member is speaking on the Floor of this House, he is addressing the Chair. No matter how irritated or annoyed an hon. Member may be, if he

shouts while speaking he is in effect shouting at the Chair, which is most improper and unbecoming.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : I am rising on a point of order, which is clearly this. As one from where the Airways is based, I feel the hon. Gentleman is perfectly entitled to say what he considers his grievance. But however badly some civil servants may be doing, their names should not be mentioned and attacked on the Floor of this House because they have no opportunity to defend themselves here.

The Chairman : I think that the point of order of the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is quite in order. After all, there has been a lot of protests in the past when such attacks have been made but nobody objected to issues being discussed on principle.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of order, at this stage, I think it will rather embarrass the Minister if the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) should continue the speech in this manner. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman : Order, order! Hon. Gentlemen, do not let us let order turn into disorder. I think what the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister has just said does not come under a point of order, and certainly there is no point of direction in our Standing Orders.

Mr Oronsaye : I have to go a little further.

Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down!

Mr Mbah rose—

The Chairman : Order, order! This single speech has taken us nearly 25 minutes. I am not saying who is responsible for it, but let hon. Members who are eager to speak note the amount of time being wasted.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : What I want to say is that despite the Chairman's repeated ruling on this issue, the hon. Gentleman continues to make reckless attacks on the officials of the Airlines.

The Chairman : I think it is up to the Chair to insist that its rulings be upheld.

[CHIEF OGUNLEYE]

minimise the traffic jam at Oyingbo and Mushin. I will be glad if he can make such a statement about it in the House this morning.

A lot has been said about the Railway Corporation. I want to say that almost everyday, people are seeking employment under the Corporation—

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin East) : The hon. Gentleman has no experience about railway. His constituency has no railway station at all. He should make speeches about things he is conversant with.

Chief Ogunleye : People always go to the Railway Corporation for employment. I just want to appeal to that Corporation, simply for the unity and welfare of the country, that, as much as possible, consideration should be given to people, irrespective of their tribe. That point is very important.

Another point that I want to touch is that when I was making my speech about this same Corporation during my contribution to the debate on the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne, I expressed the view that it was high time that railway fares were reviewed and, if possible, reduced, in order to attract more people to travel by trains. I was not able to get a satisfactory answer to my request, but I shall be grateful if the Minister will make a definite statement this time.

I now want to mention some shortcomings in the Traffic Section of the Nigerian Railways. There is now no discipline among the staff in that section. To make my point clearer, I shall cite an example. In the trains it is the usual practice for the traffic clerks to go round to check whether correct tickets have been bought and in some cases to take care of passengers and their luggages. But at present, instead of these clerks concentrating on their job, they employ their official time romancing. (Laughter). They are always found sitting beside beautiful ladies and having lengthy discussions.

Sometime ago, I was travelling by train and I happened to see one of these traffic clerks sitting by a lady, and whilst they were engaged in deep discussion a very big packet fell from the rack and there was considerable damage to its contents. From this incident, it will be seen that had the clerk not been unmindful of his duty, and had he seen to it that loads

were properly packed, the packet could not have fallen from the rack. I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister to see to it that as much as possible proper discipline should be enforced.

We are fully aware of Nigeria's Six-Year Development Plan, and it is my submission that it will be most unfair if my Division, which has a representation of nine in Parliament, fails to get adequate share of amenities. It is for this reason that I am calling on the Federal Government to extend its activity to Oshun Division, and to put in more light. I think it will not be out of place to say that we have not got even roads being maintained by the Federal Government in my Division. I have always said in the past that roads connecting two Regions should, at least, be taken over by the Federal Government. Such roads like the Ede-Ogbomoshon-Ilorin ought—

The Chairman : The hon. Gentleman is certainly being terribly irrelevant. We are discussing the railways.

Chief Ogunleye : I am indeed sorry. I shall now put an end to that and go straight to another point, which is about the aerodrome at Ido-Oshun. I want to say that the aerodrome is anything but admirable, and I should like to appeal to the Minister to effect some repairs to put it in good shape, especially when it is realised that it is the only aerodrome that we have in that Division.

It will interest the House to know that passengers even from Ife, Oshogbo and Ogbomoshon hesitate to take their planes at this airport, instead they prefer to travel to as far as Ibadan to embark a plane. I think that if something is done to the aerodrome, passengers will be lured in great number to take off from that airport instead of at any other aerodrome.

I beg to support.

12.45 p.m.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu North) : In supporting this Head for the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, I would like to make one or two points.

The first concerns the chartering of plane for pilgrims to Mecca. In the past, as it is at present, the United Arab and the Sabina Airlines have held the monopoly of conveying these pilgrims to Mecca. I believe that if

this action is stopped and the Nigeria Airways is made to fly these passengers, more revenue will surely come to us. I implore the Minister to consider this suggestion seriously.

The next point is about the V.I.P. plane. The "Fokker Friendship" plane is being flown by two Nigerian captains, but the V.I.P. plane which flies the Prime Minister and some other very important persons is still being taken care of by an expatriate pilot officer. It beats me why our leaders have so much faith and confidence in the expatriates than in Nigerians.

Another point is about the Flying School. Not very long ago, the Flying School, with the sole assistance of one instructor, was able to train about five Nigerians, but at the moment, with some three instructors, the School has only turned out three trainees. I think this state of things is very shameful and disgraceful, and it only goes to emphasises that the three instructors are not measuring up to the standards expected of them.

I want to discuss now the condition of our trained-Nigerian pilot officers. When these boys complete their course of training they find it difficult to get fixed up in a job. I do not know who is responsible for this. I do not know whether something is wrong in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation or in the Ministry of Education.

Recently, about four Nigerians returned to this country after the successful completion of their training course overseas. On their arrival, they went to the Ministry of Education to ask for employment and they were told that the Ministry had nothing to do with them, and that their responsibility rested with the award of scholarships. From the Ministry of Education they went to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation for job, and they were again told that they had no authority to employ them. But, fortunately, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Aviation, came to their rescue and gave prompt instruction that they be employed.

The point I am making is that Nigeria spent about £5,000 to get these men trained, and there is no reason why they should not be properly employed after qualifying. Besides, they should also be provided with adequate accommodation. It seems absurd to me that these men were granted car advances but nothing was done to provide them with suitable

accommodation. What will a man do with a car if he has no place to put his head? I cannot see the wisdom in this action.

On the Floor of this House accusations have been levelled against the Minister of Transport and Aviation, but it seems to me that he does not take account of them. I want to emphasise this point, that the Minister should institute a commission of enquiry to investigate the whole irregularities of the Nigeria Airways Corporation. I want to say that if the Minister feels that he is unable to carry on the responsibilities devolving on him, he should take leave of the Prime Minister and resign his job.

Alhaji Zubairu Omar (Nassarawa): I hope to be brief in my remarks on this Head. I support the Head and in doing so I would like to make a request through you, Mr Chairman, to the Minister of Transport to see that the Nigerian Railway Corporation should supply Gudi station with a waiting room, passengers' plat-form and a rest house.

Gudi railway station is the most important railway station between Kafanchan and Makurdi because it serves the following towns—Keffi, Nassarawa, Wamba, Akwanga and the rest of the surrounding towns and villages. At present, all export crops are from the above-mentioned areas to the Gudi railway station for raling.

Both limited and local trains arrive at Gudi late at night. Passengers are always stranded between the station and the towns, especially civil servants going on transfer with their families. I hope the Minister will do something forthwith about my request.

I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East): I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. I am happy to congratulate the Minister of Transport and Aviation for all he has so far done.

May I humbly bring to the notice of the Minister the importance of a railway line which we have repeatedly wanted to run from the Western Region to the Eastern Region of the Federation of Nigeria. This will have the effect of making journeys from the East to the West and *vice versa* shorter and convenient. The railway line will pay its way because the areas through which the

[MR ELEKE]

railway line will serve are thickly populated and cargo is abundant. Everything that makes for a successful railway line is available and I hope the Minister will make it a point of duty to pursue this project.

The time has really come when the Federal Government should take over many of the Regional roads which are really very important.

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : On a point of order, I want to say that the question of roads is under the Ministry of Works and Surveys, and the speech the hon. Member is making is addressed to the Minister of Transport.

The Chairman : May I humbly say that Members on my far right should not be terribly disturbed when it looks as if more Members are being called from other Benches. If all these interruptions lead us into a series of confusion and waste of time, Members should not blame the Chair.

The Member for Okigwi South East (*Mr Eleke*), I thought, was referring to his notes, but we have seen his face frequently enough. Besides, he was trying to raise a point about roads, and I would like to inform him that the issue of roads is not within the Ministry of Transport.

Mr Eleke : I am happy to accept your ruling, Mr Chairman. I want to make one other point. Air fares in Nigeria appear to be too high. The result is that many people who would like to travel by air are forced to make use of other slower means of travelling. I appeal to the Federal Government to reduce the fares in order to bring it to the reach of every average citizen in the country who may need the services of the Nigeria Airways.

I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : I support this Head. Various people have spoken, congratulating the Minister of Transport. I associate myself with them in congratulating the Minister and, at the same time, I would like to make a few remarks about the Inland Waterways.

The escravos bar project which is going on at Okitipupa along the delta area is commendable. I would appeal to the Minister to see that after the completion of this gigantic

project, the rail track connecting Ondo to Okitipupa be converted to a permanent rail road so that the evacuation of crops in that area will be facilitated.

This rail road will be from Ondo to Oluagbo in Okitipupa Division. The line, if built, will be economical and viable. It will quicken the evacuation of palm produce from Igbogini, Irele, Aiye, Shagomi (my home town) and Okitipupa to township to Lagos here for export.

Under the present Six-Year Development Programme, I humbly appeal to the Minister to do something so that after the completion of the escravos bar project, the rail track will be fully utilised by the people of Ondo Province.

Secondly, I have to congratulate the Minister for increasing the number of boats used by the Inland Waterways. The Minister's efforts in increasing the boats is commendable. I would appeal to the Minister to do something to widen the creeks in Okitipupa Division.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igalla North West) : I rise to support this Head and in doing so, I have first to ask the Minister to say whether the rumour going on now that the dock-yard which the Inland Waterways had created in Lokoja and the Headquarters of the Inland Waterways are to be transferred to Lagos is a fact. If this is true, I would appeal to the Minister not to do so because transferring the Headquarters of the Inland Waterways from Lokoja to Lagos will be an injustice to the people of Kabba Province.

It appears that the views of the representatives of the people of this area in this House are disregarded and the people are slighted. We are more than seven Members from Kabba Province in this House and the Minister should take note that a Province which provides about seven Members in this House is an important one. I want the Minister to tell us in this House what other Federal Government amenity is provided for the people of Kabba Province other than this dock-yard and the Headquarters of the Inland Waterways cited in Lokoja which the Federal Government is proposing now to transfer to Lagos. I am seriously appealing to the Minister to make sure that this proposal is stopped forthwith.

I would also appeal to the Minister—

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : On a point of order, it is now one o'clock and, according to the Standing Orders, it is time for the sitting to be suspended.

The Chairman : I am not aware that it is one o'clock.

Mr Yacim : If the Minister would heed the appeal that this transfer should not go on, I would make a humble appeal through the Chair to the Minister that the engine of the boat provided for the services in this dock, carrying cars and lorries from Lokoja to Sintaku should be thoroughly examined by the Minister himself.

The distance served by this boat is very short but due to failures of the engines, people intending to cross wait on both sides of the river for more than 2½ hours. After the boat had left Lokoja, in spite of the short distance, the boat would not arrive at the opposite side until all the food that passengers had eaten had been digested and they began to feel hungry again.

The Chairman : Order ! It is now 1 o'clock and sitting is suspended till 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

Mr Yacim : What I was saying when the House was suspended was to make a strong appeal to the Minister and Members of the Board not to transfer the headquarters of the Inland Waterways from Lokoja to Lagos. This will actually cause more unemployment in Kabba Province, and such unemployment problem is what Nigeria is facing to-day.

Now, in addition, I would invite the attention of the Minister to send a working team to survey the navigability of the river from Lokoja to Sintaku where a boat ferries motor vehicles and as a result wastes the time of passengers due to lack of easy river passage.

The same thing applies to Idah and Agenebode. These two important towns have an important market where, if you agree with me, Mr Chairman, you will find most of the produce and foodstuff with which Nigeria is being fed. This market is very important to people in other areas who are traders, because we are more interested in farming, though our farms are not like those cultivated by Yorubas for cash crops. We cultivate mainly food crops

and these are not easily transported from our towns to other parts of the country like the Western Region or Lagos.

If this river is surveyed for navigability Members of Parliament and traders travelling from that side will travel from Idah to Lagos through Agenebode, which is an easy route, and it will be less expensive for Government when paying fares of people from Idah to Agenebode, which is now a distance of 158 miles. So, I appeal to the Minister to send a working team to Lokoja and Idah to survey the river for navigability from Lokoja to Sintaku as soon as possible.

On the question of transferring the headquarters of the Inland Waterways from Lokoja to Lagos, I would like to point out that this will cause more unemployment in that area. I would like to give an example of the consequence which such a transfer had caused in the past. We may remember that some years ago the Inland Waterways transferred their offices from Forcados to Warri. If anybody who had been in Forcados before the transfer now visits the place the person will find that the town looks very disgraceful. No town will survive economically if it lacks jobs. The little which we have got is this headquarters of the Inland Waterways. If it is transferred from us our future will be like that of Forcados.

I want to say that we do not come to this House to make a noise in order to get our needs. All we wish is for all these things to be done. If they are done they are not mainly to my benefit. In fact, they are not only to the benefit of the people and the generations of the areas concerned but also to the benefit of the country as a whole.

It was surprising this morning to note that an hon. Member, who is a competent debater, was told that his speech was irrelevant and he did not accept it. The whole House told him that he was out of order, but still he persisted. Although this is not part of my contribution, yet I beg to digress a bit. I will not mention the name of the hon. Member concerned.

I humbly appeal to the Minister to see that a proper river navigation survey is carried out to connect Lokoja and the other part of Kabba province. We do not want our people to say that they have sent seven Members to Parliament on the platform of the N.P.C., and that the Members have not done any useful service.

[MR YACIM]

We do not want the N.P.C. to be defeated in Kabba Province. If you send a child to the market to buy some goods for you, you must give him sufficient money.

The Chairman : Order ! If the hon. Gentleman has exhausted his points, he should wind up.

Mr Yacim : In winding up, I appeal to the Minister to give this serious consideration and send a team to carry out a proper river navigation survey to connect these towns—Lokoja to Sintaku, Idah to Agenebode.

I support.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : First of all, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation for his services to the country.

This year the expenditure of his Ministry has gone up to £1,065,720 as against £940,150 last year. That is an indication that this is a very important Ministry. The Ministry of Transport has been doing quite a lot in the Airways, in the Shipping Line and in the Railways. The only unfortunate thing about the Ministry is that the work of this Ministry is not given publicity. I know the Minister is a silent worker, but he should try to publicise his activities so that people will know what has been going on.

To substantiate this, we used to have before what is called DC3 Aircraft which could fly up to a maximum of ten thousand feet above sea level. But with the introduction of Fokker Friendship Aircraft now, that has been doubled. The Fokker can fly up to twenty thousand feet, and of course, it has more amenities and more seats than the DC3 Aircraft. We are also grateful that the criticisms on the Ministry about appointment of Air Hostesses have somehow diminished. But that does not mean that everything is quite in order because last time the Minister was travelling to Egypt and, coincidentally, we had to travel together. We made some observations when we were in Egypt. He saw the Hostesses there. They were quite lanky and very beautiful girls. I think he is a man of taste and I need not tell him what he should do about these appointments. I will

only remind him that nothing but the best is good for the Airline. These Hostesses are ambassadors in their own way.

I would like to talk about the qualification required to be appointed an Air Hostess. I understand that formerly Class Four was the minimum requirement for appointment. Now it has been lowered. I think we should bear one thing in mind and that is, that these Air Hostesses have to deal with international visitors who use our Airline. They should be able to express themselves in English language, and at least to understand what people are saying. This is really important.

This morning, we were treated to what I might call a reckless comment on the administration of the Nigeria Airways Corporation. I am aware that last year, there was a lot of squabbles in the Airways Corporation. These have subsided now due to the co-operation of some people who are really there to work, particularly since the appointment of a new Chairman and a new Secretary.

Incidentally, the new Secretary took up his appointment not quite a year ago. I think that we have seen quite a lot of improvement. The question of appointments and the ugly news about the Corporation took place ever before he came in to help to clear the mess. He is a man of high integrity, a Lawyer who left his lucrative employment to help clear the mess in the Airways. To-day, one Member got up on the Floor of this House and made scandalous allegations against the gentleman. The gentleman I am referring to is Mr B. S. E. Nzenwa, who one hon. Member had attacked recklessly this morning trying to interfere with his well-known integrity. Here is a man who has just come to help and instead of giving him a free hand with the Minister and the Chairman to clean the Airways—

The Chairman : Order ! I do appreciate that the name of that gentleman was mentioned critically on the Floor of this House this morning, but I think the Chair did rule that it was out of order to debate a person not in this House in such terms as would prejudice his position. I think that to start mentioning his name again may very likely call for a reply and that will again reopen the whole issue.

Mr Mbah : I accept your ruling, Mr Chairman. I just want to let the Minister of Transport know the serious allegation that has been made against the Corporation and the Secretary in particular. We would like the Minister to make a statement to clarify the situation, otherwise our hearts are heavy on that particular allegation.

The other point I want to make is that there are certain people in the administration of the Airways—mischievous officers—who are supplying false information in order to ruin the Airline. The Minister should do something about that. People cannot go about to give malicious information to ruin the Airways and also against people who are trying to serve the country.

I would also like the Minister to make a statement on the allegation that about forty Mbaise people were employed as against other tribes in the country. We want that to be clarified by the Minister. If it is found to be false then the hon. Member who made the allegation should be ashamed of himself.

The other point is about the training of pilots. At the moment, we have only six pilots. That is not enough. Although provision has been made for thirty-two pilots-in-training, efforts should be made to step up the training of pilots so that before long our Aircrafts may be completely manned by Nigerian pilots. This training must be very rigorous because of certain incidents in air travel during the past few years. No one would like to toy with one's life merely because one wants to patronize one's airline. We should also make sure that the pilots are well paid.

The next thing will be the rebuilding of the Ikeja Airport. The present Ikeja Airport is a disgrace to this country. Something has to be done in order to improve the airport. We want something like the Kano Airport.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : On a point of information, I vehemently protest against the statement.

Mr Mbah : What I am saying is that while there is an improvement in that of Kano, we also want to see an improvement in the Ikeja Airport. I hope this is acceptable.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : If my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) would like me to interpret his whims

I would say that what he has in his mind is an airport for Owerri and for Orlu and not the question of Ikeja airport.

Mr Mbah : I am coming to that. The hon. Gentleman is anticipating me. I understand that a temporary terminal is likely to cost £60,000. I do not see how we shall have a temporary one just like the case of building a stadium. We have been rebuilding our stadium every year. In any case, I want to see improvements, since nothing is permanent.

With regard to the Shipping Lines, we are grateful for the progress so far made. We have seen that new ships are bought and Nigerian names are given to these ships. However, I would like to point out that in giving names, we should also remember not only the living but also the dead. In this regard, I have in mind people like Herbert Macaulay, Mbonu Ojike, Adegoke Adelabu, A. C. Nwapa and a host of others who have rendered yeomen services to this country. In trying to immortalise the names of the living, we should also try to perpetuate the memory of these Nigerians who have given us useful services.

Now, I come to the question of Owerri. In 1926 there was an engineering and traffic survey made by the Government between Umukoroshe and Owerri and during 1928-1929 another traffic surveys between Umukoroshe, Owerri and Awka were made and reference was made to previous surveys of Owerri. Up till now the reports of these surveys have been with the Government. The idea of the survey was to extend railway lines to Owerri and in fact to have the Owerri-Port Harcourt-Onitsha junction near the Holy Ghost College as the terminus, but up till to-day these reports have been shelved by the Government.

However, the other day, a Motion was passed on the Floor of this House, calling for a further extension of railway lines in the Eastern Region. In this respect, I would ask that since the question of extending railway lines to Owerri started in 1920s, it is only too fair that Owerri should be given priority when extending the railway lines in the Eastern Region. Nobody quarrels with the extension of railway lines or with the improvements being made in the Northern Region because we all know that the Northern Region has little or no access to the sea and as such we must not blame them. We should give them that concession. But now

[MR MBAH]

I think it is high time we thought of places that had been forgotten for quite a long time—Owerri in particular.

If the old surveys are no longer dependable, I appeal to the Minister to order a fresh survey forthwith. Probably, I think that the Minister is afraid of being accused of nepotism or trying to look after his own area. But at the same time if he tries to save others, he should try to save himself as well. We are told that democracy starts from the stomach. He should have something encouraging to tell the Owerri people about the proposed railway lines since 1920s. I want an assurance from him on this issue.

Geographically, Owerri is well placed in the Eastern Region but our only regret is the inability of the Government to extend adequately its services to Owerri. When this extension is made it will go from Owerri to Orlu and Awka and all other places.

The Chairman : I think we appreciate that Standing Orders provides for speaking for thirty minutes, but in the name of those who are eager to speak, please, be more brief. The hon. Member now speaking has spoken for fifteen minutes and he has made so far the third longest speech to-day.

Mr Mbah : I had better cut my speech short. Now, I will have to point out that the air strip at Owerri is now being used for plantation purposes. I saw some women planting cassava there and would like the Minister to tell us about plans to open an airport at Owerri.

Finally, this morning somebody drew attention to the friction between Biney and his workers and also the rumours circulating that an attempt is being made to deprive him of his contract. All I want to say is that I know that right here in the House, I speak with authority on labour matters. I have had representations from ex-Biney workers and I have also had representations from those who are working right there with him now. Furthermore, we have also heard from some labour unions there and also from Biney Public Relations Department. In this connection, may I appeal to the Minister not to deal with this on gossips, and hearsay. If conditions are bad, then the Minister of Labour has a duty to step in and reconcile the two parties. We cannot play politics with the Ports. The

important thing is whether the contractor is efficient and whether he is a good employer where workers are concerned. Again, is Biney one of the worst employers or one of the best employers?

Some hon. Members : He is one of the best employers.

Mr Mbah : If Members say that he is one of the best employers, then the Minister should not be guided by sentiments. If there is any dispute let it be settled. I do not want us to victimize some one who has been with us since 1911, and who started with canoe to load and off load cargo and who has contributed to the economic development of this country simply because of gossips going around.

There are also rumours which sought to associate the Minister with certain ventures. I know the Minister will be the last man to allow his name to be dragged in the mud. I would ask the Minister to investigate these things very carefully. We have heard yesterday the source from which the last dock workers' strike was financed. Now, one of the unions in the dock that was accused of financing the strike has turned round even to accuse Biney.

Minister of State (Hon. Mbazulike Amechi) : Both the Prime Minister and the Speaker have appealed to this House about making some very bad references to Ministers. The hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) has just said that there are rumours that the Ministers are associated with certain ventures. I do not like this type of thing. If he heard anything, let him say it here. It is not good saying something and after it has been recorded in the *Hansard*, it gives outsiders all sorts of impressions.

Mr Mbah : What I am saying is that I do not believe people who go round spreading false rumours about Ministers or anybody else. I made the point that these people who are spreading this news have not got any facts and that if they have got the facts they should go to the Minister and discuss with him. Furthermore if the workers have grievances, the Minister of Labour should look into it. We should like to see the workers back at work, but at the same time, we cannot afford to take sides without investigation and therefore Mr Biney should continue with his contract.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku)
rose—

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): On a point of order, I have got many other important points to make before the Minister of Transport and Aviation begins to give his reply. If the Minister can just wait a little bit and let two or three Members speak then he could reply very effectively.

3.30 p.m.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I am glad to have this opportunity to explain some of the points raised by hon. Members in their speeches, and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this debate.

I remember that before we rose for lunch an hon. Member wanted to raise a point of order and thought the Minister was being embarrassed. Well, I say I have not been embarrassed at all because I have nothing at all to hide, and my ministerial conduct is open to investigation at any time. (*Hear, hear*).

I would like to say first of all in answer to the points raised by the hon. Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Mohamradu Gauyanma*) about the Nigerian National Line, that this company started with a capital of £2 million, and this £2 million could buy just one new ship. So, like all businessmen, the Nigerian National Line had to buy some second-hand ships. Now we own five second-hand ships and they are doing very well indeed.

We have now got also two new ships—the *Nnamdi Azikiwe*, and the *Ahmadu Bello*. It is only prudent on the part of the company that they should cut their coat according to their cloth. We have five second-hand ships each of which has got a life span of about twelve years. None of them is yet ready to be scrapped, and they are all doing very well so far.

As regards the other point made by the hon. Gentleman about contracts, I am glad to have this opportunity of saying a few words about this because I gather that there have been some gossips, and rumours and whispers. Hon. Members may be interested to know that at the Apapa Quays (the Apapa Wharf) there are three contractors: W. H. Biney and Co. Ltd., who operate in eight sheds—numbers one to eight; S. B. Bakare and Brothers who operate in shed number nine—only one shed; and Alhaji

Mohamradu Bonbagu. He has two warehouses. In the Customs Quays, there is the Stevedoring (Nigeria) Limited.

An hon. Member: Who are the directors?

The Minister of Transport: I do not have the names of the directors, but as far as I remember, they are people like—I better not give names here. What I have to say is that the directors are people from the Western Region and the Federal Territory. Then we have S. D. Akare and Sons, I think he is from Ibadan; and S. B. Bakare.

There are six contracting firms doing business at the Customs Quays at Apapa, and none of them is related to the Minister. You see, it is very distressing to hear about Ministers doing this and that; their wives, brothers, *et cetera*, having things. These are the six contractors operating, and besides, these there are nineteen registered Stevedoring companies. Recently I gather that there is a stevedoring company operating in Port Harcourt which wants to be registered here and the members of that company include people from the North, the East, the West and people from Lagos. Personally, I do not see any reason why any group of people who want to register as stevedoring contractors should not be allowed to do so, just because perhaps, one of them happens to be a relative of the Minister.

I would like to say that I have no interest in any stevedoring contracting business, and I have no intention of connecting myself or my wife or my children with that. When I leave this place I will go back to my law. Those who know me well know that I am a very good lawyer indeed.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): The hon. Minister will surely continue with his ministerial appointment because his knowledge of law might have become rusty now. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Transport: I appreciate the point made by my hon. Friend the Member for Gwarzo East. You see, Sir, as a lawyer practising at the Bar, I was interpreting the law. I have not lost contact with the law because during the last ten years, I have been a maker of the law. I am still connected with the law.

Now, one other point was made by this gentleman, about the Flying Training School. I want to say that one of my immediate tasks

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when Civil Aviation was removed from Communications and put in my Ministry in 1960 was to make sure that the Flying Training School was revived. It was in fact revived, and we equipped the school with aircraft for training, and I saw to it that Nigerian boys were selected.

The training is still going on, and as a matter of fact, one of the early trainees during the training was awarded a scholarship by the B.O.A.C., and he has gone to the U.K., finished his course there and has returned.

Last year the second batch of trainees was taken in and training is going on. The point I want to make here is that when the West African Airways Corporation was in charge of Civil Aviation in Nigeria and other English speaking West African countries we had only two pilots—over so many years. But now, within about eight years we shall be able to produce over fifteen pilots under this scheme.

An hon. Member : It is not enough.

The Minister of Transport : Yes, but we cannot rush something like the training of pilots because I am sure my hon. Friend and colleague, the Minister of Finance will be the last man to entrust himself to somebody who is not well trained.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I want to be recruited as a pilot.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : On a point of order, I have to say that the Minister of Finance has spoken from a strange seat and unless he is—

The Minister of Finance : This is still N.C.N.C.

Mr S. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance cannot be recruited as a pilot because those people who make the selection would not generally take people above thirteen stones or sixteen stones. (Laughter).

The Minister of Transport : I now come to the points made by the hon. Member for Opobo North (*Mr Udo-Inyang*), and I would like to say that I have noted those points. It is interesting really to see that those of us who are your humble servants by virtue of our being Ministers are sometimes accused of thinking too much of our constituencies and areas, and at times we are accused of forgetting them

completely. It is interesting, anyway, that the hon. Member has reminded me that I come from the East and has advised me not to forget the East. But I would like to say that in carrying out Government policies we look upon the whole country as one. We always think of one Nigeria, and the reason why the Railway system is being extended in the North is that traffic surveys have proved that these extensions are viable and will make for greater prosperity, not only for the North but for the whole of Nigeria.

I have noted the other points which he made about the plight of workers, but I think the plight of workers in the Government Coastal Agency is just as good as it is in any other section of Government service.

I have also noted the point made about the Rest House at Sapele and I am quite surprised to hear that toilet facilities have not been provided. The hon. Member will be quite pleased to hear that plans are being made for the improvement of navigation on the Cross River, and the first thing we are doing is to see that the hydrological survey is conducted along the cross of that river.

I now come to the points made by the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*). I know that we all respect the hon. Member because he is a very painstaking man and he does a lot of researches, but I would like to say that when he does his own research and produces the information, then his information is accurate. But I am afraid that on this particular occasion he did not do any research. He depended on other people to give him all sorts of information, and I am afraid that the information they gave him is not correct. For instance, on the recent appointments into the Nigeria Airways, the figures are as follows. I am sorry to mention this, but I just have to.

People from Calabar province 6 ; Mid-West 9 ; Yoruba areas 12 ; Mbaise 3 ; Bende area 5 ; Northern Nigeria 5 ; Okigwe, Orlu, Onitsha, Owerri 6.

From this it is quite clear that the information which the hon. Member had is not reliable, and I am quite sure that if the hon. Member had known the facts he would not have made those allegations. And what is more, appointment into various offices and posts in the Nigeria Airways is done by a special committee, plus the General Manager, the Secretary and all the heads of the Departments concerned.

I would like to say that the Secretary (I would not mention his name) was not in Lagos when all these appointments were made. As I said, I am quite sure that the hon. Member for Benin East would not have made those allegations if he knew that they were not true.

Talking about discrimination and tribalism, I had an occasion sometime ago to give a directive that there should be no discrimination or tribalism in the Airways, and I am quite satisfied that the Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of that company are abiding by my directive.

I want to say that I am not aware of any conflict between the Europeans and the Nigerian pilots. What happens is that when new aircraft are obtained the pilots have to take a special course for familiarisation purposes; they make themselves familiar with the new aircraft. Now, some expatriate pilots have taken this course and 2 Nigerian pilots have also taken the course. I am not aware that there is any plan or any intrigue to stop Nigerians from flying the Fokka Friendships.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igalá North East): On a point of order, I think the Minister should try to be as brief as possible because so many other Members are willing to make more comments on his Ministry.

The Chairman: That is none of the hon. Member's business.

The Minister of Transport: I came in quite early because after hearing me some of the Members may not find it necessary to speak again.

I want to thank my hon. Friend, the Chief Whip for the N.P.C. (*Alhaji Muhammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) for what he said. I want to assure him that we are doing our best to recruit as many Northerners as possible into the Nigerian Railways. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of the Railway Corporation now is a Northerner, and we had to make special efforts to recruit a Northerner to that post. He was seconded to the Railways from where he was working and he is now the Secretary to the Corporation. Not only that, special efforts are also being made to attract Northerners in the various middle schools in the North to take Railway as a career, and Railway officials go from time to time to the various middle schools in the North to try and get the students interested in Railways.

I have noted what hon. Members said about delays to passenger trains, but I must say that sometimes these delays cannot be prevented. We are doing our best to stop gambling and thefts on the trains, and here again, I would like to appeal to hon. Members particularly those from the North to help me and the Railway Corporation in combating this menace of gambling and thefts on the train.

An hon. Member: What about beggars?

The Minister of Transport: On the question of beggars, I must say that I am sure that hon. Members know that some of us who come from the Southern part of the country will not allow our relations to go out to beg. I would like every Nigerian to be broad-minded enough to extend helping hands to their relations so that they do not go about harassing other people begging for alms.

I now come to the point raised by the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo (*Chief Ogunleye*). The hon. Gentleman appealed to me about traffic congestion in Lagos. I am afraid that I am not responsible for that. It is a matter for the Traffic Police, and the Ministry of Works and Surveys which construct the roads.

About the Railways, this will depend on the amount of patronage the Nigerians give to the Railways. As I said, in India, over a million people travel by rail every day; all their trains are full but here it is not the same. There is keen competition from motor traffic especially over long distances. That is what we do not like. But for short distances, I think motor transport should have its due of the traffic.

This Gentleman also spoke about railway servants, train guards and traffic officers not doing their duty but having chats with beautiful girls. I wonder what my hon. Friend was doing when the servants were having these chats. However, we will take note of this, and I hope that the railway servants are not the only offenders on this score.

The Minister of Finance: It will be interesting to know what my hon. Friend wants to do with the girls. Is he going to stop them from being passengers on the trains?

The Minister of Transport: I was particularly interested about the remarks made by the hon. Member for Biu North (*M. Sule Abba Biu*) about pilgrimage flights. I was

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very happy to hear him suggest that instead of this service being rendered by Sabena and U.A.A. (the United Arab Airways) Nigeria Airways as a national airline should take over. I am very grateful to him for making this suggestion. Most of these pilgrims come from the North and I am very happy to hear an hon. Member make this suggestion. I am quite sure that Nigerian Airways will take note of this.

As a matter of fact Nigerian Airways has even tried this year to come into some agreement with the Nigerians who are conducting these pilgrimage flights. What happens is that we have three Nigerian companies who charter aircraft from Sabena Airways or some other airline and they operate the flights. But we hope the time will come when Nigerian Airways as a national airline will be solely responsible for these flights.

On V.I.P. flights, this Gentleman also suggested that Nigerian pilots should be used, not expatriates, to convey such very important people like the Prime Minister, or other senior Ministers and even the Governor-General, or the Minister of Finance. When it comes to air traffic the rule is that there is no national boundary. What matters is to have pilots who are efficient, well trained and reliable. We are doing our best to give Nigerians as much training and experience as possible but until we get enough Nigerians I think it will be only fair that we should continue with our expatriates. After all civil aviation is something international; it is not really a national affair only.

He also said that certain trained pilots could not find jobs. I would like him to send these pilots to me because we are very keen on getting Nigerians who are trained as pilots. We are trying to get as many as possible.

The hon. Member for Nasarawa (*Alhaji Zubairu Omar*) wants the facilities at Gudi railway station to be improved. I have taken note of what he said.

The hon. Member for Okigwi South East (*Mr Eleke*) emphasised the construction of a railway line linking western and eastern parts of Nigeria. Recently, a Motion was passed in this House and I want to tell him that I am as much interested as he himself is in the proposal, but this will have to await the

result of the traffic and economic survey, and I am going to ask the Railway Corporation to see that this survey is conducted as soon as possible.

I want to thank the hon. Member for Okitipupa South (*Oba Oladiran*) for what he said, but I want to remind him that the temporary railway track between his place and Olugba at Ondo belongs to a private company (*Custain Ramond*), who are building the Escravos Bar Training Works. If ever a railway track is intended for that place, it will have to await the usual survey by the Railway Corporation. I want to assure him that my Ministry will continue to improve the Inland Waterways in his area by clearing the snags along the waterways, but only along those waterways that are Federal waterways.

The hon. Member for Igala North West (*Mr Yacim*) talked first about the transfer of the dockyard from Lokoja to Lagos. I want to assure him that the dockyard at Lokoja is not being transferred to Lagos. The dockyard is there and all the officers, marine engineers and marine officers, will be left at Lokoja. But what we have done is to bring the Director of Inland Waterways to Lagos. He is in charge of the administration and it is much better that he should stay in Lagos so that he may be near his Minister to advise the Minister and the Ministry when necessary. I want to assure the hon. Gentleman, however, that the work the Inland Waterways Department is doing at Lokoja will not suffer in any way by the removal of the Director.

I have taken special note of what the hon. Member said about the ferry crossing at Lokoja and will try to do something about it.

The hon. Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) spoke about a lot of things. I want to thank him for what he said but he reminded me about air hostesses of the other airlines, such as the United Arab Airlines and so on. I want to assure him that my Minister of State (*Hon. Mbazulike Amechi*) who is now specially charged with responsibility for Civil Aviation is going to look into this matter.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): It seems the girls would be happier with the hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation than with the Minister of State (*Hon. Mbazulike Amechi*)!

The Chairman : Order, order. That is either a point of information or a point of instruction. But certainly that is not a point of

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I have to congratulate the Minister of Information on the little he has done so far. I have one point

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The Minister of Transport : I have so much pre-occupation that I have no time to give to girls !

An hon. Member : I like that !

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : We want him to repeat that.

An hon. Member : There is no need.

The Minister of Transport : Thank you, there is no need.

Now, about Ikeja Airport, hon. Members are aware that there is a plan to build a first class terminal building at Ikeja which will cost over £2 million. But we are, meanwhile, providing some temporary accommodation.

I have also taken note of what Mr Mbah said about immortalising the dead as well as the living. But I think that the names we have so far chosen are very good indeed.

About railway extension to Owerri and other places, well, that is covered by the general proposal that there should be a traffic survey which may lead to the extension of railways from the West through the Mid-West to the East, and I can assure him that in this survey Owerri will not be left out. The air strip at Owerri belongs to the Shell BP. I have had a look at it, it is situated in such a place that one end of it runs into a valley and it cannot be extended. So at the moment I am considering taking over some of the air strips owned by Shell BP and the one at Owerri is one of these. If Government decides later to take over some of these and the one the Shell BP have at Owerri is not well situated, well another site will be found. But I do not say now that there is going to be one at Owerri. I say that it is going to be one of those to be considered by the Government.

Finally, about Biney and Company, I do not want to say anything more about them. I want to assure hon. Members that by my very nature and training I try to be a very fair-minded man. If I had not been so, perhaps, Biney and Company would not still be working now at Apapa. Biney controls over 75 per cent of the work at Apapa. We have not tried in any way to victimise him, and when the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) raised the point the other day, I said that there was no question of victimising Biney and

Company. But this, of course, does not mean that the Nigerian Ports Authority cannot consider Nigerian indigenous companies that are also capable of doing the work at Apapa. So, if anybody thinks that by going round and circulating papers he is going to stop us from helping Nigerians, I think that person is making a mistake.

The Minister of Finance (Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

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

The Chairman : Order ! I am inclined to allow a few more speeches. But may I say that while on the Table here, we keep certain records. I like to say that on this Head we have had 11 speeches. Two people alone from one side took 43 minutes ; four from one side took 24 minutes, and two from one side took 18 minutes.

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : I realise that this is a Committee Stage, and I am going to be very brief in making only one point. There is no doubt that the Minister of Transport and Aviation is doing very well, and I support this Head. But there is one big question which I am putting before the Minister. This is in respect of the extension of Apapa Wharf which is blocking the way to Badagry.

The Minister of Transport : There is an old question standing in the name of the hon. Member. This is anticipation.

The Chairman : Would the hon. Member please desist from that line of argument.

Mr Senu-Oke : I bring this matter because we have many fishermen in Badagry Division. We have so many out-board engines plying between the river joining the Lagoon and Lagos, and at the moment the extension of Apapa Wharf is blocking the passage which the fishermen from Badagry are using. I have got this on authority, and I wish to mention it to the Minister on the Floor of this House because the extension of the Wharf takes place almost every year. We do not know exactly whether this Lagoon will be completely cut off to block the international waterway from

[MR ELENWA]

copies of our *Hansards* regularly. In the mornings hon. Members are always anxious to examine their pigeon-holes, pick up their copies of the *Hansard* and make necessary corrections to the speeches they had made the previous day.

I also want to talk briefly on the National Press. I am of the opinion that the National Press is trying its best, but more efforts should be made to see that whenever Parliament is sitting, at least a page or two should be devoted to publicising the proceedings of Parliament and, if possible, another page should be used for displaying photographs of parliamentarians. Whenever we are at home we see the *Morning Post* carrying nothing other than pictures of Ministers. I, therefore, suggest that whenever we come here, a section of the newspaper should be devoted entirely to publicising our activities for as long as we remain here—maybe a fortnight or a month.

The last point that I want to touch is about the conditions of service of the workers in the National Press. It is understood that whenever those workers go on leave they are responsible for defraying the expenses incurred to and from their homes. This is not what obtains in the other Ministries, and if the allegation is correct, the Minister of Information should take note and remedy it as soon as possible.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) : First of all, I have to congratulate the Printing Division of this Ministry for printing our *Hansard* and for making it possible for us to receive copies every morning. For this good job, they have my warmest congratulations. I know, however, that sometimes it is not possible to have our *Hansard* the next day owing to pressure of work or as a result of night sittings, but, nevertheless, I think they are doing their utmost to satisfy Members of this Parliament.

The main thing that I have to say concerns the Television Service. For some time past, there have been criticisms against the Television Service. I think some sort of improvement should be made now that this Service has come to stay. Nowadays, what the Lagos viewers see on the screen is not very gratifying. For instance, most of the films shown are imported films and no emphasis is laid at all on

indigenous festivals or anything like that. At present, we have the same thing being repeated often and again. Viewers see nothing other than the 20th Century Films—"Ben Casey", "Adventures in Paradise" and so on—but we have never seen anything like the "Olumo Festival" in Abeokuta, the "Oke Ibadan Festival" in Ibadan or the "Oshun Festival". These things are never screened. The Television Service in Lagos belongs to Nigeria and should project Nigeria as much as possible. We do not want to see those white faces any more. We want to see something about Nigeria. We have seen enough of foreign films and people are getting fed up with them. There must be a change.

Every Tuesday, we have the Bobby Fenson Show. This too should be improved. It is getting dull and monotonous. Sometimes too, we have on the screen the Nigeria Police and, perhaps as a result of criticisms we now have one Moses Olaiya and Chris Ajilo as some of the artistes. But what about the famous Victor Olaiya? I think he too should be given a chance on the Television. We also want to see artistes like Roy Chicago, I. K. Dairo and other Nigerian artistes. The Television is not made for Bobby Benson alone. We do not want to see him alone. Other Nigerian artistes should be invited and, if possible, a contract should be signed with them to let them perform on the screen. The whole thing should not be one-sided. We want to see the masqueraders, the *Agemo* dancers from Ijebu, the *Apiti* dancers from Ibadan and Oshun Divisions, the acrobatic dancers from Ilorin in the North, the snake charmers also from the North, and the *Aguleri* dancers from the East. The Nigerian Television Service should be made national; it should not be confined only to Lagos and stuffed with these imported films from abroad.

I will also advise that whenever we have our Nigerian festivals going on anywhere in the country, this particular unit of the Ministry of Information should send out its cameramen to cover the occasion and thereby project Nigeria to the outside world. After all, it is not only Nigerians who view the television. There are other people in this country who are non-Nigerians. When these people see Nigerian films they will be able to say something about them when they return to their countries, and also teach their people about what is happening in Nigeria.

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[Appropriation (1963-64)]

25 APRIL 1963

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One other point is that it is only in Lagos here that one can view this television which is operated in Lagos, whereas the people of Lagos can see what is going on in the Western Nigeria Television Service. This television, as I said earlier on, is a Nigerian Television Service, a national property for that matter, and it should be extended to all the other Regions. If the people can stay here and know what is happening in the Regions, there is no reason why the people in the other Regions should not see what is happening in Lagos. Efforts should be made to have a type of transmitter, like the one which is at present being used at Abafon, so that the people of Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna, in fact, any place where there is a television station, can see what is happening in Lagos. The television station in Lagos belongs to Nigeria and is, therefore, national.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gaiyamma (Hadejia North): I rise to support the expenditure under Head 46—Ministry of Information. The services of this Ministry, coupled with the vigilance and alertness of the officers in executing Government business, are evident signs of progress on which the Ministry has to be congratulated.

I have to make a few observations about our conduct of affairs. One of my observations is to clarify my remark on this Ministry following a debate on Adjournment initiated by the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) on the 9th of April, 1963, on the Floor of this House. On that occasion, I said that where there is smoke there must be fire. I refer hon. Members to the *Hansard* of 9th April, 1963, page 78. On Saturday the 6th of April, 1963—and here again, I refer hon. Members to page 6 of the *Hansard* of that day—I also commented on the exploitation of public money by the Ministry of Information. The point that I want to make is that by engaging one Jim Larkin on a heavy contract that cost the Government of this Federation a lot of money, this Ministry is definitely wasting our money on external publicity. Rumours have it that a high commission was paid by this Publicity Agent to the people with whom he negotiated for the contract.

The next point I want to speak on is the External Broadcasting Section of the N.B.C. known as "The Voice of Nigeria." I am glad to hear that the Ministry of Information has now purchased a piece of land for the transmitter of the External Broadcasting Section of the N.B.C. at Ikorodu. We want to know where the land is situated at Ikorodu. I am also interested to know who the real owner of the land is. Who was the intermediary between the owner of the piece of land and the Government? Who received the money for the land? Was it the owner of the land or the broker who acted as an intermediary between the Government and the owner of the piece of land? Also I want to know whether the land was offered to the Government by an individual or by a family. Rumours have it that there was a scandal in the sale of this land.

Another important point I want to comment on is our intelligence service. Up till now Nigeria has not got its own intelligence service. We still retain Britons for our intelligence service. This is bad and insecure. Do we have to rely on Britain for our intelligence service? We must ask ourselves whether we are secure by leaving our intelligence service in the hands of Britons. I am saying this because it is difficult to believe that the British people like to see a united Africa.

On the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation may I make an observation. I observe that in the Ghana Broadcasting System the gentleman running the commentary holds a Ph.D. degree in African History. I feel it would be a very good thing if the N.B.C. could also get qualified Nigerians to come and help in its own commentaries. Without accusing anybody, rumours have it that it is very difficult to secure employment in the N.B.C. There are also reports that there is favouritism in the matter of employment in the N.B.C. Not long ago, this House amended the N.B.C. Act and gave the Minister powers over staff matters. I feel that it is time we controlled our ambition and worked in co-operation for the common good of the Federation of Nigeria. All we are interested in is that the Ministry of Information should serve our common purpose. If we can build up a good information service it will help us in our economic growth.

[MR UDO-INYANG]

and Commonwealth Relations. Just this week when the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information answered a Parliamentary Question he said that it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Information to send out information to our embassies and high commissions overseas. Every hon. Member who was observant must have noticed that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations shook his head in disapproval. This means that even up till now he does not agree that this is the responsibility of the Ministry of Information. This quarrel will go on to our detriment. If the quarrel were confined within Nigeria we could take it as a domestic strife which is sometimes inevitable. But it is now something that is showing us in the worst light in the outside world. However, I am not making this appeal to the Minister of Information because he is personally involved in the quarrel. I am merely making the appeal to the other Ministers and I do wish that they will bring this matter to the Prime Minister to see that it is settled.

An hon. Member who has just spoken said that it is a waste of money to establish the Eastern Nigeria Broadcasting Service, the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service and the Northern Nigeria Broadcasting Service. I very much disagree with him.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is misquoting me. I said the Television Service and not the Broadcasting Service.

Mr Udo-Inyang: I am grateful to the hon. Member for Aba Urban. I entirely agree with him if he was speaking in respect of television services. It is a sheer waste of money to have any television service in this country at this time. In some advanced countries they concentrate in providing their people with the bare necessities of life. In Ireland, for example, although I do not know what is happening there now, as late as 1957 there was no television at all. What they did first was to provide electricity to the people including those in the rural areas. They saw that everyone had something to eat; something to wear; that everyone had shelter, and that workers were well paid. So, I must say that having television in this country at this stage of our economic development is a sheer waste of money. And I further

agree with the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) that it is even more wasteful to have these services in the Regions.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

4.50 p.m.

Mr J. O. Ede (Idoma North): I rise to say that I do not grudge this Ministry for the amount of £2,656,100 which it is going to spend on the services of the nation. But what I hate is the discriminatory attitude of this Ministry towards publicity in so far as it concerns the Northern Region.

A person listening to the N.B.C. will notice rightaway that the interest of the Southern region is uppermost in the minds of the management of this Ministry which comprises mostly of Ibos and the Yorubas of the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group. Every layman from the N.C.N.C. bench in this House advocates the unity of this country when he has his feet deep in all causes of disunity in the country. The National Press like the N.B.C. consists of the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group elements and has not the interest of publicising Northern Region but will indiscriminately publicise nonentities of Southern origin.

Several Members: Is the hon. Member a Northerner?

Mr Ede: Yes, I am a pure Northerner. This attitude of the Southern N.B.C. and the National Press towards the North is a move calculated to cause disunity and rancour in the country. I am sure the Minister in charge is aware of all these irregularities. If the N.B.C. and the National Press are actually national, the interest of each region, irrespective of party affiliation, should be well represented.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

J. K. de Omomadia (Urhobo East): I thank the Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak. The first thing I would like to mention is the attitude of the Government Printer in giving out jobs to printer outside the Ministry and I would like to know if the Minister will tell the House on what basis these jobs are given out. How are these jobs distributed? Is it ever taken into consideration whether or not first class jobs would be produced?

In the second place, I want to know if the department is coping with the volume of work now done there.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I want the hon. Member to tell the Parliament whether he is a printer and if he is asking for jobs.

Mr Omomadia : I am a printer. I have in mind the delay we often experience in getting our *Hansard*. I think hon. Members will agree with me that there is some delay in getting the *Hansard*.

There is also the need to mention that great caution should be taken by this department to see that proofs are well read and that types used in printing these jobs are clear. And first class jobs should be produced. Jobs should be given only to outside printers who have the requisite experience and can use the best materials to produce the work.

There is something more I like to know about this department. A Nigerian had been acting as Government Printer. I want to know why he was not promoted to the post of Government Printer. This man had been acting in this capacity and somebody who came there a few months ago was promoted above him. The man promoted worked for a few months, went on leave, got another job and left the department. Up till now, the man is acting in that post. He has been acting for the past two years and has not been promoted.

The other point I would like to mention is about the N.B.C. men trained in the United Kingdom as permanent tutors in the N.B.C. training school. These men are meant to be permanent staff of that school, and after training them, they are transferred to other divisions. I would like to say that some African countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia have, in the past, sent their men to be trained in the N.B.C. training school. It will be disappointing, after promises have been given to these countries, to find that these promises are not fulfilled because these trained staff are not available to give effective training in the N.B.C. training school. This school should be manned by these trained permanent staff so that the purpose for which the school was established could be fulfilled.

The N.B.C. training school should be well equipped and should offer more training facilities in tropical equipment not obtainable in the schools abroad. If the N.B.C. school

is permanently staffed, the school will assist several African countries and will be able to help to project Nigeria.

Another point I would like to mention is the N.B.C. news net-work. It is agreed that it is very necessary to have female workers in this department, but I would like to say that it is not always satisfactory to hear these female announcers read news. I think they will better serve such as announcers and in other sections of the department. It is always disappointing to hear some of these ladies read news, and this reminds me that they sometimes so Europeanise their voices that the news becomes unpleasant to listen to. Members will agree with me that when men read the news they hear the news very clearly. Hon. Members will agree with me that if our ladies are going to adopt the Europeanised way of speaking over the news network, the best thing is to give them other jobs in the Programmes Section of the N.B.C.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : The first hon. Gentleman who spoke on this Head remarked that all speeches made by Members on the Floor of this House should be broadcast. That is not possible. The N.B.C. staff who is assigned to cover the proceedings of this House is always in attendance from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, and it is quite impossible in twenty minutes for the N.B.C. to broadcast all that had transpired. I think that the staff who is detailed to report on this House deserves the praise of hon. Members for the work he is doing.

The hon. Gentleman also referred to the delay in the publication of the *Hansard*. It was only on one occasion—and that was yesterday—that the *Hansard* was late in coming. Hon. Members will realise that at night when they are having their relaxation, the staff of the Printing Division stay on throughout the night to ensure that the report is ready on time. The staff are doing their best and they merit our praise.

Reference was also made to the staff of the *Morning Post* and *Sunday Post*. I think they are doing their utmost, and I am sure hon. Members would like them to publish only what is of interest to this nation.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): On a point of order, I want to mention the fact that the N.B.C. reporter covering this House is doing a nice job, but he should be given sufficient time to enable him mention the names of Members during his broadcast. The idea of mentioning just "hon. Members" makes nonsense of the whole business. It should be realised that every constituency is anxious to hear what its representative has said.

The Minister of Information : The Member for Oshun North East (*Mr Olaore*) referred to the Nigerian Television Service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): I observe that the Mace is not properly placed. I think the Serjeant-at-Arms should be asked to put it in its correct position.

The Chairman : Will the Serjeant-at-Arms please make sure that it is well placed.

The Minister of Information : I want to assure the hon. Member for Oshun North East that the Nigerian Television Service broadcasts forty *per cent* live programmes and sixty *per cent* filmed programmes. There is no other Television organisation in Nigeria that does likewise.

The hon. Gentleman also referred to the entertainment provided by Bobby Benson. I want to inform him that the programme is a perfect one of which I am particularly proud. Bobby Benson is the doyen of Nigerian musicians in this country and he is an expert in his own right. It may interest the Member to know that he trained almost the other musicians whom he had mentioned. As I said earlier, he is doing his job well and hon. Members may like to know that even the Western Television Service is asking him to come and join them.

He also asked that we should extend the N.T.S. to Ibadan. I want to inform him that there is a plan afoot for the relay, and I am sure that before Parliament reassembles next August, the work will have been completed.

Another hon. Gentleman wanted the N.B.C. to broadcast their programme also in Efik and Edo. I would like to tell him that Edo is one of the vernacular languages in use in the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation in the West, and Efik is also in use in the Eastern N.B.C.

The Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Monguno*) and another hon. Gentleman referred to the distribution of the Six-Year Development Plan. I would like to assure the two hon. Gentlemen that my Ministry's duty is to send these publications abroad, and it is the duty of the officers there to make sure that they are widely distributed. But if this had not been done, we shall look into it.

The Member for Kaga Marghi also said that the N.B.C. should engage people of the calibre of Abba Zoro in its News Division. I would like to say that the N.B.C. has a training school where these men are trained, but what happens is that on completion of their training, most of them are lured to the Regional broadcasting corporations, and it should be noted that even Abba Zoro is at present on the staff of the Northern Nigeria Broadcasting Service. If the hon. Member will kindly bring him back, I can assure him we are prepared to take him.

The hon. Member for Kaga Marghi also made mention of the External Broadcasting Division of the N.B.C., that its programmes were not being heard throughout the world. The hon. Gentleman should rest assured that when the new station is completed, Nigeria will be heard all over the world.

The Member for Ahoada West (*Mr Elenwa*) asked that events of national interest should be filmed and shown throughout the country. We have many such films and cinema vans. As I said on the Floor of this House earlier, hon. Members are at liberty to apply for these cinema vans to show films in their constituencies. I might mention that the Film Unit take on their own to circulate these films, but if anyone wants films to be shown in his constituency, he is free to call on the staff of the Film Unit and they will ensure that the request is met.

The Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Gauyamma*) referred to the appointment of Jim Larkin. I want to say that this gentleman was engaged for only three months by the Nigerian Government. A new man, I understand, has been engaged at present, but I have not had the opportunity of meeting him yet.

He also referred to the transmitting station at Ikorodu Beach. In my speech, I made it quite clear that the transmitters were to be installed at Ikeja, but the Ministry of Transport and Aviation opposed the installation at

shogunle or Ikeja because, according to them, it would affect aviation and air traffic. Those who are familiar with the history of Nigeria will know that right from Broad Street, the District Officer then used to control the old colony of Badagry, Epe, Ikorodu and Ikeja. From Lagos to Ikorodu Beach is only six miles across the lagoon and this is the nearest distance to Lagos.

Even when the Cable and Wireless were in difficulty of getting a suitable site for the installation of their transmitters about six years ago, they were compelled to go to Ikorodu. The Cable and Wireless have now been reborn into a new Company known as NECOM which is within the portfolio of the Ministry of Communications. So that point is now cleared.

The hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) also referred to the N.B.C. transmitter in the Eastern Region. I am happy that that transmitter was installed during the time that the hon. Member was a member of the Board of N.B.C. A survey is being made at present to install a new transmitter of 250 kilowatt short-wave in all the Regional capitals—Kaduna, Enugu and Ibadan. When the survey is completed, if we can get the money from the Ministry of Finance, the transmitter will be installed.

The hon. Member also referred to the question of co-operation of the Nigerian Television Service with the Regional Services. It is our hope that sooner or later we shall be able to have one central Television Service for the whole country.

The hon. Member for Ogoja East (*Mr Odey*) referred to discrimination in the Nigerian National Press. I can assure him that that is not true. There are six directors of the Nigerian National Press. Three of them are from the North, two from the East and only one from the West.

Hon. Omomodu referred—

Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East): My name is de-Omomadia and not Omomodu.

The Minister of Information: Hon. de-Omomadia referred to the question of printing jobs. The Printing Division of my Ministry was established for the purpose of printing Government jobs. We also have a printing section in the Nigerian National Press. When the Printing Division has too much to do, it

gives some of the jobs to the National Press, and as for the remaining jobs, I am sure that the people there do justice to private printers like the hon. Member. If the hon. Member has somebody in mind, he can recommend him to the Government Printer who will give him due consideration on merit.

The hon. Member also referred to a person who is at present acting as Government Printer. All I can say is that he can rest assured that the post will soon be filled, and it will be filled by a Nigerian. If the man has acted long enough for him to understand the job, he should be very hopeful.

Mr Brown: What about the other point?

The Minister of Information: Which other point?

Mr Brown: The one about the promotion of the Minister's messengers.

The Minister of Information: I think, apart from all the points I made in my Budget speech and the answers which I have given here to hon. Member's observation, I have covered enough ground. The hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) should rest assured that all the messengers in the N.B.C. will be well looked after. I think that is the point he raised.

I think we are doing our best. Publicity is a very difficult work to do. I have made it quite clear here the assignment given to me by the Federal Government. The Information Officers in my Ministry should fill the information posts in all our Missions all over the world. We are to supply the materials and the personnel. So, if the hon. Gentleman said that somebody has been shaking his head or so, that is not my concern. I have made quite clear the stand of the Government on that issue, and I do hope that it will be the duty of everybody and the officials to make sure that the Government policy laid down in this respect is carried out.

I will also make an appeal to the Press, because the newspapers have a duty to perform in the publicity of this country, either at home or abroad. I am sure that with the full co-operation of the Press, Nigeria will be well publicised abroad.

There is one more point that I have to raise. We have an Information Officer in England. For some time now, I have been

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saying on the Floor of this House that during his stay in England, he has carried out his duties satisfactorily, likewise the man that was posted to New York, before they both came home. Arrangements are being made at present to send other Information Officers to New York. I agree that there is a man there at present, but we have to find out how many people are required in New York—whether two, three or four—and we shall make sure that we send efficient Information Officers to New York and also make sure we send somebody very responsible to fill the post that is at present vacant in London.

Mr P. O. Tokula (Igala North East) : Under sub-head 37—Engineering—it appears as if there are too many engineers in the Ministry of Information, and I am often surprised to see that frequently during broadcasts there are faults or break-downs of the engines. The result of this is that usually we are cut off from the programme. I do not know why that should happen whereas already we have more than enough engineers to manage the whole affair. I think it may either be that these engineers do not put in their maximum effort or that they are inefficient or that they neglect their duty. Indeed, if these engineers cannot see to the maintenance of these engines, I think there is every need to reduce their number.

Another thing is about request programmes. Oftentimes people write, particularly from the rural areas, requesting some records to be played for the enjoyment of their friends or relations, but these requests are usually rejected. Personally, I have approached some of these people in the N.B.C. and the explanation I was given was that we should obtain certain forms from a certain magazine which is sold for 4d. I live in a remote area and this type of magazine is not available in my area. I experience difficulties in getting the forms. I am appealing to the Minister for the benefit of the people who live in the rural areas, that the N.B.C. should make it a point of duty to accept our applications on ordinary sheets of paper, instead of tying us down to buying some magazines from the N.B.C. itself before we can hear our requests broadcast.

I would seize this opportunity here to say that we are tired of foreign films on our television. All along we continue to see and hear

all this type of thing. These films are hired with a large amount of money. A lot of money is spent on them. Why not ask the other African ambassadors in Nigeria to provide us with films about their countries? They will be very glad, and, in fact, they will be happy to see that people in Nigeria would like to know more about their countries.

Some of the foreign films are raw. They display things which portray people as criminals, cow-boys, and expert murderers. All these are being shown on our television, and most of them are from Britain. I am afraid, I do not think we can continue with this type of films. These are, in fact, not what we want. We want to see people from nearby African countries like Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Congo for that matter. We would like to see them very much.

Another point is that a large amount of money is voted for overtime duty, and I am surprised to hear that only the senior section of the workers in the N.B.C. are allowed to do overtime. The commonest labourers work all day for several hours without overtime payment. I think this condition is very appalling, and I am asking the Minister in charge to try—

The Minister of Information : I would not like to interrupt the hon. Member for Igala North East (*Mr Tokula*), but if he is sure that messengers work overtime without being paid; he can, in fact, refer the matter to me, and I shall investigate it.

Mr Tokula : In fact, that is the type of thing I am saying, and I am now calling the attention of the Minister in charge to see that this actually does not happen any longer.

There is one point again. We would like more Northerners to be employed in the N.B.C. The N.B.C. is not meant for only the Southern Provinces. We should get a greater number of Northerners into the N.B.C. (*Interruption*). In the broadcasting of news, I do not think we can find any person from any other Region to be more competent than all the Northerners. The Minister himself is here, and he can bear me out very well. He knows the ability of Abba Zoro.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Igala North East (*Mr Tokula*) is tribalistic in his statement.

The Chairman : These statements referring to "North", "South", "Ibo", "Yoruba", and "Hausa" are products of people of some intellects on my far right, and I am afraid the younger Members of this House should not be blamed for picking up what they say.

Mr Tokula : Moreover, I have often, in fact, appealed to the Minister to give us a sort of television which can be operated in the rural areas. People in the rural areas are not enjoying the television service. Last year, I can remember, I appealed to the Minister of Information to try and do all he could in his Ministry to supply the rural areas with television sets which could be operated by batteries. I am still repeating my appeal this time. We all contribute to the Government funds, and, therefore, all the taxpayers, not only those in the big towns and cities but also those in the rural areas, are bound to enjoy the television service. There is no need, in fact, keeping the enjoyment here. So, I am appealing to the Minister to try and give us some television sets which can be operated by batteries.

Also, I am reminding the Minister once more about the employment of Northerners in particular in the N.B.C.

I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : I have a few things to say about this Head. I agree that the Minister of Information has improved quite a great deal, and I congratulate him very much indeed.

In the Speech from the Throne, reference was made to external broadcasting—that something is going to be done to improve it so that Nigeria may be heard all over the world. But I wish to stress that charity begins at home. In this regard, I would like to say that some of the people who read our news do not read news properly. There are some of them who beg the pardon of listeners several times and cough for one hour, and people listening to the news get disgusted. Such people should be shifted to a different section of that Ministry. Even at times, these people make efforts to speak in a way which is un-Nigerian, and then they speak bad phonetics. Such people should not be allowed to read news at all.

There is one other thing, and that is the broadcast of the news in the three main Nigerian languages. Somebody appealed to the

Minister to increase the period. If the Minister gives this some consideration, I would like him to include Afenmai language.

I want also to make reference to the account of proceedings in Parliament. The person doing it at present is efficient, but he has one difficulty, and that is that time is always against him. Now, Members wish to be heard all over their constituencies. It does not matter what they say. In fact, people want to hear what they say in the Parliament. We, therefore, want an extension of time to be given to this man to enable him to say exactly what Members say here in Parliament. What is against him at present is time. He should be given more time to be able to broadcast everybody's speech. The present way of saying that some Members contributed to certain debates and mentioning their names, I do not think is very satisfactory.

I want to say a few things about the Minister in respect of his statements over the N.B.C. network. We would like the Minister, although he is Information Minister, to be a little original in his statements. At times he repeats statements already made by the Prime Minister. We want him to be independent when making his own statements.

The other point is on the question of appointment. I think the Minister has been unfair to us in the Western Region. I appeal to him to take in more of our people in that Ministry. Those who are already well served are still complaining. The Minister has confirmed here that there are six directors, three of whom come from the North, two from the East, and one from the West. Is that not sufficient evidence to show that we are being discriminated against? And the Minister is a Westerner. I appeal to the Minister to consider appointing more people from the West.

I beg to support.

£2,787,600 for Head 46—Ministry of Information—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to tit again Tomorrow.

(House in Committee).

SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
ESTIMATES (1962-63)

HEAD 626—AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move,

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred and Sixty-nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-two Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

The Minister of Transport : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Hundred and Sixty-nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-two Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved."

HEAD 626—COMMUNICATIONS

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That the expenditure from the Development Fund of three Hundred and Forty-nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 626—Communications, be approved.

The Minister of Transport : I beg to second.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) rose—

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order, Sir, Mr Brown cannot speak from another man's seat.

Mr Brown : I am speaking here as the acting Leader of the Opposition. May I say that some of us do not understand the Bills that are being passed now. The Minister of Finance should tell us exactly what all these thousands of pounds are for.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Three Hundred and Forty-nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Third Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63, under Head 626—Communications, be approved

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

The Minister of Transport : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

The Minister of Finance : I have it on command from His Excellency to move,

That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1963, a copy of which was laid before this House on Wednesday, 17th of April, 1963, be confirmed.

The first of the amendments the Order makes is to item 4 (3) of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff to increase the minimum duty payable on footwear from 2s-6d to 3s-6d per pair. This has been done to reduce the importation of a million or more pairs of cheap canvas and rubber or plastic shoes and so not only to provide a stimulus for local manufacturers of comparable products, but also to save the spending of unnecessary foreign exchange.

The alteration to item 41 (1) (a) of the same Schedule, follows the opening of the diesel powered electricity generating station at Bukuru, and places the Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation Limited on the same footing as the other Corporations and to pay 2d per gallon instead of 1s-8d for diesel fuel used in stationary engines.

A new sub-item 45 (1) (d) of the First Schedule provides for the importation of unbleached grey baft at a low rate of Customs import duty by approved firms manufacturing printed fabrics. This concession will be withdrawn when sufficient quantities of locally manufactured unbleached grey baft are available.

Foreign biscuits are still being imported into Nigeria in large quantities. As a result local manufacturers of comparable products are finding themselves unable to meet this competition. The amendment to item 46 (1) of the First Schedule increasing the present duty on biscuits from 33½ per cent *ad valorem* to

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50 per cent *ad valorem* seeks to effect a reduction in the imports of biscuits, a saving in foreign exchange and an increase in local employment.

A considerable part of the output of a Nigerian firm of meat canners is exported to Ghana. With the setting up of a meat cannery industry in that country, these exports will cease and an alternative market must be found in Nigeria if production and employment are to continue. But severe competition is experienced in this country because of cheap importations of corned meats from overseas, particularly from South America. To protect our own industry and to reduce the present severe competition, an amendment to item 46 (12) of the First Schedule has been made, which has the effect of raising the present import duty of 25 per cent *ad valorem* on preserved meats and poultry to 50 per cent *ad valorem*.

Item 47 of the First Schedule has been amended to permit buses and coaches to be imported on payment of 5 per cent *ad valorem* duty instead of the former 25 per cent. This has been done in the interests of road safety, to encourage the use of vehicles specially designed and constructed for the carriage of passengers. Provision has also been made for the importation of parts of such vehicles at the low rate of 5 per cent to encourage local assembly.

When cheap but bulky goods are imported, a large proportion of their landed cost is accounted for by freight charges. To reduce such charges to the minimum, importers of suitcases and similar travel goods, often pack them 'nested'. That is to say they are transported packed one inside the other in descending order of size. So great has been the saving of freight charges in respect of these goods, that local manufacturers are complaining that the Nigerian made product is being undersold in local markets. To remedy this position a minimum duty of 4s per article has been imposed for all travel goods imported 'nested' and item 59 of the First Schedule has been amended accordingly.

Items 21A and 27A in the Second Schedule has been inserted to exempt from duty the basic materials of ferro alloys of manganese and silicon, and also crude flourspar, used in the making of iron and steel sheets.

To place water undertakings, irrigation schemes and the like on the same footing as industry generally, an amendment to item 36 (j) of the 2nd Schedule has been made to admit free of duty two items of heavy capital cost—lift gates and hoists—used in the construction of water barrages.

An amendment to the wording of the Second item number 67A, which exempts large section tyres and tubes used on earth-moving equipment, is necessary to conform with the customary method of measuring tyre sizes. It will also remove some administrative difficulties of interpretation.

Item 72 of the Second Schedule which exempts certain goods imported by the Catholic Relief Services has been amended to remove ambiguity. A new item 73 has been added to the 2nd Schedule to exempt goods imported by the Church World Service for the poor and needy and for the official use of the Nigeria Representative.

Because formerly all tin and tin ore was exported the contribution to the International Tin Research Institute required from producers was collected in the form of an export duty. Some tin is now used in Nigeria and an export duty is no longer a satisfactory means of collecting the contributions for research purposes. Item 19 of the Third Schedule has, therefore, been revoked and contributions to the International Tin Research Institute will be paid, in future, as provided in the Regulations made under the Tin Act, 1963.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation :

I beg to second.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : I have a short note to make namely, that Members of this House should be at liberty to suggest some of the local industries which should be added to this list. It is a good thing to exempt our own products in Nigeria, but it is still possible for certain expatriate firms operating in Nigeria to import many things which they require in the nature of their business abroad and bring them into the country without the necessary payment of duty which will make a number of those items to compete in prices with locally produced products.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA*Friday, 26th April, 1963**The House met at 9 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL
SELECT COMMITTEES

Business Committee

Mr Speaker : I have to inform the House that the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma*) reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55(1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the *Order Paper* for Tuesday, 30th April, 1963 :—

- (1) Economic Development of Nigeria No. 37 in the Order Book ;
- (2) National Service No. 15 in the Order Book ;
- (3) Heads of African States Conference in Addis Ababa No. 3 in the Order Book ;
- (4) Marriage Act No. 61 in the Order Book ;
- (5) Revision of Nigerian Constitution No. 67 in the Order Book ;
- (6) Ban on nuclear weapons No. 86 in the Order Book ;

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL
(SEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY) : CONSIDERED
IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 59.—AUDIT

Question proposed, That £99,400 for Head 30—Audit—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I have very little to say on this Head in praise of the Audit Department. I have read very carefully the last Audit Report and also the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. It is difficult to imagine why Government money should be going the way it is going and, but for the Audit Department, a lot would have gone undiscovered.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our out-going Public Accounts Committee members for their vigilance. I

have read very carefully the evidence of various Heads of Departments or Ministries and also the evidence of the Director of Federal Audit. Although this Director is an expatriate, I think he is an exception and hope he will be spared to serve as a watchdog for the Ministries, Corporations and Departments, especially self-accounting departments.

I discovered in the Estimates very few increases. All I wish to say is that the amount of work which devolves on that Department is great and, therefore, the Department needs expansion. We want more training courses for the auditors and their assistants. We want more avenues for training in the universities here in the country and abroad. Any man, be he an alien, be he a Russian, except a South African, who is competent in the Public Service of this country and subject to the authority of the Government of this country and works for the interest of this country should be retained until a Nigerian of the same calibre is found. I have often said, as a Member of the Opposition, that I stand to support wholeheartedly this Head of the Audit.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I happened to be a member of the Public Accounts Committee of last year and, in fact, I have to pay my regard to the Director of Federal Audit for the amount of work he has done in that Department. In fact, some of these Ministries find it very difficult to co-operate with this man. At times, he issues circulars to Ministries giving them the policy of the Government for these Ministries to carry out. These Ministries at times dilly-dally and he has to write several letters. As a matter of fact, some of these things come to the notice of the members of the Public Accounts Committee. At times a warning would be given in the Public Accounts Committee for these Ministries to submit their accounts or any other thing they have to submit and some of them feel very reluctant. Although this man is an expatriate, he is one of the expatriates we would like to remain because he is very sincere and hard working.

I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : I rise to support the hon. Member who spoke before me in paying tribute to whom it is due.

(1090)

to the Minister to protect the interests of indigenous manufacturers I wish he would try to bring once more into law the relaxing of the duty on fuel and also such other things like

recommendations regarding increased status for officers in charge of Provincial Broadcasting Stations. These proposals will be considered by the Board at their next meeting.

(1088)

At the same time, I have to say something about the accounting systems of the various Ministries in this Federal Government. I observe that it is difficult to get qualified accountants and I was told that the Ministry of Establishments even arranges with mercantile firms to train accountants. I would suggest that all efforts should be made to recruit and post qualified accountants to these various departments so as to avoid the unscrupulous accounting systems which operate in these various departments.

The Accountant-General of this Federal Government is doing a lot of work. I was also a member of the Public Accounts Committee and under the various Heads we were able with him to detect some of those outstanding irregularities. This is commendable, and I would urge that such an expatriate be encouraged to do much arduous work in this country.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. I fully agree with the statements already made by the two hon. Members who have just spoken. In addition, I would like to add that we have often stressed the necessity for the integration of the Ministries and, that being the case, in the interest of economy I strongly advocate the abolition of internal audit in the various Ministries. They could keep some accountants (perhaps in this case there is something in a name), whose duty it is to scrutinise the expenditure and revenue of the various Ministries, but the work of auditing should be left strictly to the Audit Department which is one of the extra-Ministerial Heads. If this is done, the conflict that has been described this morning by members or ex-members of the Public Accounts Committee would be reduced to the barest minimum.

There is, to my knowledge, some amount of defiance of the Audit Department by some Ministries and this type of thing is one of the things that discourages members of the Audit Department. On one occasion, I did ask a question whose fate was most unfortunate in that the reply was neither forthcoming nor did it get into the *Order Book*. I asked: Why is it that there seems to be some complaint that members of this Department do not seem to like to stay for very long? I happened to know some of them who were once in the Audit Department. They did some mathematics

and accounting in the universities but, on joining the Department, they could not stay very long and the complaint seems to be that there is not sufficient—

An hon. Member : Inducement !

Mr Oronsaye : Well, if the hon. Member likes to call it inducement. There is no sufficient encouragement for them in their tours. The Audit Department has to send people out to audit accounts of people and it is on record that people whose accounts are to be audited are not likely to be very friendly, especially if they have very many things to hide. Therefore, it is not expected that these people would be hospitable and, as a result, it is necessary that almost every person who comes up to the grade of Executive Officer in this Department should have some means of transport so that if where he is going to inspect some accounts is a bit remote he can go there and get back on his own transport. This is one of the difficulties that confronts these people.

If internal auditing is discouraged in the various departments and the Audit Department is put solely in charge of audit, I think most of the anomalies that exist in these Ministries will disappear.

£99,400 for Head 59—Audit—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 60.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question proposed, That £25,710 for Head 60—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izi South): I remember some time ago last year we had an Electoral Regulation Bill. At that time, the Minister of Internal Affairs said that the intention of that Bill was to bring all the existing Regulations together and that in course of time a new Bill would be presented to this Parliament to regularise certain issues and also put the Federal Electoral Regulations in harmony with other Electoral Regulations existing in the Federation.

For instance in the last Bill brought to this House there was a provision that if anybody would protest against somebody's name in the Electoral List he would first of all deposit a sum of £10, and as for the person wishing to contest an election it would be only £25, whereas in the Regions, for persons wishing to stand for

Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East) : First of all, Sir, I would like to express my dissatisfaction with the Speaker's uniform. In 1960, after attaining independence, we emphasized the importance of Africanizing our institutions, and I pointed out that the Speaker's uniform is un-African and un-Nigerian. It is, if I may say so, a magician's dress. It is British and has no connection with our tradition, our culture, or our history. We should design our own dress.

The Chairman will bear me out that two years ago there was a Committee set up, made up of the Whips, the Clerk of the House, and the Speaker himself, to design a robe which will befit the Speaker of this honourable House. We designed one, and how it has happened that the same imported dress was adopted, I do not know.

You cannot imagine how much we all feel embarrassed when the Speaker enters this House with this dress like somebody put in a drum—in a big sac. For goodness sake, next year or next sitting, please I request that the Speaker come into this House in a better dress, which will look Nigerian, which looks African, and let us forget all about this imported dress from Britain.

An hon. Member : Have we got a standard dress for the whole of the country ?

Alhaji Aminu Kano : Yes we have.

Secondly, I know everybody here is eagerly wishing that this country becomes a Republic. This Mace which we have here is foreign. It originated from the times when the King of England would send somebody to go to Parliament with a stick. We have not sent anybody with a stick here in this country.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : I wish to inform the hon. Member that—

Alhaji Aminu Kano : Sir, that is a point of information, and I do not think that at this moment I need any information from him.

The Chairman : Is the hon. Member for Awka Central. (*Mr Muojeke*) raising a point of order ? If so, what order ?

Mr Muojeke : Yes, Sir, Order 26. The Mace is important for the Parliament.

Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down !

The Chairman : Order ! Order !

Alhaji Aminu Kano : The desire of the people of Nigeria is that we should Nigerianise and Africanise many of our institutions. I am sure that the hon. the Prime Minister will soon make a statement as to when this country will be declared a Republic and many of these unnecessary and imported remnants of the colonial powers will be discarded in this country.

The Chairman : Order ! I think that the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) does not realise that this Mace is useful for those who are restless and do not follow the rule of the House. I think it is a heavy club for punishing them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) : The language the Chairman is using is also foreign.

Alhaji Aminu Kano : I do not want to take the Chairman to task about the language he is speaking because we are still in the process of eliminating foreign elements from this country, so that even in future one of the Nigerian languages should be the language of this Parliament.

Last year I made a plea on behalf of the so-called Hall Porters. I think that the designation Hall Porter is not conducive to this Parliament, and that they should be called Security men and not Porters. A porter in the Nigerian context is a labourer who carries loads for money. These porters are not labourers; they are the security men of this Parliament. They do not like to be called porters; they resent it, and if I am appointed here to work as a porter I would not like to be called a porter. Therefore, these people should be recognised as security men, they should be given a uniform that befits their work and they should be given a new name instead of being called porters.

An hon. Member : What do they want; the name or the salary ?

Alhaji Aminu Kano : They want both.

It is our wish that when we build the new Parliament, the front of the Parliament should be decorated with the statues of the leaders of this

... (Orlu North): I should first of all like to associate my views with that of my hon. Friend on the other Side (*Mr M. C. K. Obi*) when he praised the Speaker. I think that the Speaker is a great credit to this country. We are so proud because we have

the hats. When we have any free time, we sleep or simply go into the town to greet our friends; but we want something like recreational facilities. Some of us play *Ludo* and some of us play tennis and so on. There is enough ground for that. Another

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[Appropriation (1963-64)

26 APRIL 1963

Bill : Committee]

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country who have fought for and won independence for us, and who have contributed to the cultural development, and educational improvement of this country. Although we have erected the statue of Her Majesty the Queen in front of this Parliament, when the new Parliament comes into being that part of our Parliament should bear the statues of the people who have fought for our independence. I will now refer to what has happened in Enugu. There is the statue of Dr Azikiwe in front of the Eastern House Assembly now and the people in the West are now building the statue of Chief Awolowo in Ibadan, and it may be that the Northern Government will think of Sir Ahamadu's statue in Kaduna.

The Minister of Finance : Is the hon. Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) sure of the one of Ibadan ?

Alhaji Aminu Kano : If Chief Awolowo goes wrong after independence it does not mean that we should forget the good work he has done for this country. I think—

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : On a point of order, I would like to ask from *Alhaji Aminu Kano*, which part of Chief Awolowo's career we shall remember ?

Alhaji Aminu Kano : The hon. Chief Whip, the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) knows better which side.

I think that the sooner we give the significance of our tradition to this Parliament the better.

I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : It will not be too much if every year Members come to this House and speak in praise of the Speaker and his Deputy as well as the staff of this Parliament whenever the Head for Parliament is being debated. I therefore stand to congratulate the Speaker, his deputy and the entire staff of this Parliament for the efficient ways in which they have been doing their work.

In the past, people felt it was only lawyers who can be efficient Speakers. I think we now agree that that is not so.

An hon. Member : Who said so ?

Mr Obi : I think some Members said so in 1960, but they have been proved wrong.

I disagree with the hon. Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) on the question of the Speaker's dress and the other things he referred to in the Parliament. In the past people were not ruled by Parliaments. It was just a question of one powerful man in the community standing up to dictate to people. He was the only person who could rule, but now, we have a very large body of persons gathered together who are the law makers of the country. We have drawn our own system of Government from the British people and it is what obtains in their Parliament that is obtaining here. I do not agree that the Speaker's dress and the Mace be changed because they are foreign. It is when we agree to change our system of Government that I can agree that these things should be changed.

I have a few things to say on the question of Committees which can be discussed under this Head. We have various Committees of Parliament, and I wonder why people should be appointed to serve on a committee if that committee will not meet. People are just put on committees for formality's sake. If all these committees will not hold meetings, the best thing is to amend our Standing Orders and scrap all the committees.

There is one committee which we call the Public Petitions Committee of which I am the Chairman. This committee has never held any meeting since the beginning of this Parliament. Another one is the Public Accounts Committee. The members of this committee are not paid their sitting allowances if they meet when the House is in session, whereas other committee members are paid even when the House is in session. I feel these people should be paid.

There is also the Business Committee of the House. The members of this committee too are not paid their allowances when the House is in session. The members of this committee meet from time to time to discuss the business of the House for the week and also the Motions which come to the House for debate. The members of these committees should be paid their allowances.

There is another provision under this Head for Commissions of Inquiry. I think it was due to the fact that this money was provided

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Now, this brings me to the very controversial point made by my respected Friend and Colleague the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*)—

Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East) : May I say that my official name is Mallam and not Alhaji.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Mallam Aminu Kano is a Nigerian and his native name is Mallam Aminu Kano but his foreign appellation is Alhaji Aminu Kano. One can only become an Alhaji when one goes out of the borders of Nigeria to Mecca. My hon. Friend for Kano East has left Nigeria for Mecca and has been honoured with the title of Alhaji. I therefore purposely called him an Alhaji because he is still having that foreign appellation.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : If, by going outside the borders of Nigeria makes one to be an Alhaji, does it mean then that the Leader of this House is an Alhaji ?

The Chairman : This is a question.

The Minister of Finance : And this is not question time.

My hon. Friends spoke about the Speaker's robes. I quite agree that the Speaker's robes are foreign. But we can only replace anything foreign with something equally good or better. But I understand that my hon. Friend the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) said that a Committee was set up to design something. I am sure that my hon. Friend may be a good political designer but surely if it comes to designing robes he is a hundred miles away.

I am informed that the hon. Member and his Committee designed such a robe that can only be worn by a clown. Much as we have things foreign and we want to get something for ourselves we must take our time and see that we design something that befits the dignity of our Speaker. All hon. Members will agree with me that our Speaker, apart from being an able Speaker, is a fine young man. Is he not ? It will be insulting to the Speaker's personality and his position, just because we want to Nigerianise everything, to design the dress of a clown which does not belong to the Hausas or the Fulanis or the Yorubas or the Ibos or even the Itsekiris for that matter and allow the Speaker to wear it. So while the advice

given by my hon. Friend is well taken we have to make use of what we have now until we are able to design something that will be acceptable to the generality of our people.

As regards the Mace, I do not really think that there is anything wrong with that. At least the hon. Member will agree that the staff of office is an acceptable symbol of authority in Nigeria. The Mace can be considered the staff of office of our respectable Speaker and therefore the emblem of authority.

Again if we could design our own ; I am sure we have people who could make a good one, but why should we ? The people who gave us the Mace have taken away many things from our country all these years. If we can get anything more from them and then make use of them here why should we reject them. Let us retain them and keep them. I wish they make more objects of gold and give to us. Have they returned to us all they have taken from us ?

Several Members : No, no.

The Minister of Finance : Now my hon. Friend also touched on the point of Hall Porters. I am sure that all hon. Members who have gone out of Nigeria will agree that hall porters are very well respected all over the world. They are very important people and it is a good name and one which people ought to be proud of. In fact there may be guards in palaces, but one finds hall porters occupying dignified positions as well. Everywhere hall porters are quite different from guards. Guards are trained people who have their machine guns or just guns. They are quite different and they are not in that category. If the people who are hall porters cannot be proud of being hall porters then let them resign and join the military service and be guards.

Quite frankly I think there is nothing derogatory in being a hall porter. One of the troubles with Nigerians is that we want to bear high-sounding names like Chief Clerks, Manager, General Manager without salary. If one calls a European a messenger and gives him the salary of a manager he will accept it.

The question of uniforms is a different matter. But I do not see why we should encourage people who think that to be a hall porter is a disgrace. Even in England and in

all parts of the world if one meets a street sweeper in his post one will find that he is proud of his position. No matter what occupation one is in, one can make good use of it. If they talk about their conditions of service, let them say so straightaway, but it is not derogatory for anybody to be called a hall porter anywhere in the world.

My hon. Friend the Member for Afenmai East, as usual, trod where Angels fear to tread. I think the reason why he is still in the Action Group, being a Mid-Westerner, is that he cannot face realities. Otherwise he should—

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai) : On a point of order, I think the Minister of Finance is commenting on me personally. I object to that. And I assure him that I can face realities as a Mid-Westerner.

The Minister of Finance : If my hon. Friend can face realities and face facts as well then he should know that people are fed up with the one policy of his party—throwing stones whereas they live in glass houses. That is one of the faults of his party. As the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) reminded you, my hon. Friend sitting beside me, and I entered the Western House of Assembly in 1952 and it was quite clear that the N.C.N.C. won the election both in Lagos and the Western Region and I was present when carpet crossing was hailed and greeted with cameras in the Legislature and the Action Group formed their Government by carpet crossing. That is why the tide is changing and the law of retributive justice is taking its turn.

Those who live by the sword shall perish by the sword. So, how can the hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) of all persons talk about carpet crossing? Even during the life of this House at one time when certain members of our great party were being tortured in the Western Region they had to cross the carpet for the sake of safety. All I want to say is that carpet crossing has been initiated by the Action Group, nurtured by the Action Group and perpetuated by the Action Group. As soon as the political party of the hon. Member for Afenmai East ceases to exist, and I think very soon, carpet crossing will also stop in Nigeria.

Mr M. C. K. Obi : What I understand then is that if the Action Group introduces some-

thing bad the party of the hon. Minister of Finance will copy it. The Action Group will not cease to exist.

The Minister of Finance : My hon. Friend also spoke about the unsatisfactory position in the flats. I think my hon. Friend for once must have been speaking the minds of hon. Members here. It is a matter for great regret that things have not changed and, I think the Clerk of Parliaments will take notice of this because I personally have many friends amongst the Legislators here. I have been to many of their homes and I think they are respectable people in their own rights. The trouble is that hon. Members cannot be a tortoise that carries its own home with it. We do not expect that hon. Members will bring their homes to Lagos. Apart from that, if hon. Members are expected to read their Bills properly and sleep well, naturally they must be given some comfort. I support the plea that the matter should be looked into. But, I do not support the views expressed by the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Ifezue*) that every hon. Member should be supplied with a television set—

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Mr E. O. Ifezue : On a point of information, I do not like to be misquoted. I said we could have two for each block of flats.

The Minister of Finance : I do not know whether hon. Members have a common hall. I would agree to this, if there were a common hall where hon. Members go for refreshment obviously a television set and a radio set could be proper for that hall. So, if a hall is provided I think it will be possible to supply a television set to a Gentleman like the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) who after he has taken his whisky—

Mr P. E. Ekanem : On a point of information, what I want to tell the hon. Minister of Finance is that I am a teetotaler.

The Minister of Finance : I think this is the biggest news of the year, that the hon. Member for Enyong South is a teetotaler. I will call for evidence from the people who who are serving drinks in the Refectory. I am sure they will support my views.

In any case, I really think that there should be a common hall where hon. Members should

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

meet. I shall ask the Clerk of the Parliaments to see that this matter is also referred to the necessary Ministry.

The Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) spoke of the salaries of the staff of Parliament. Well, I am afraid that, again, my hon. and respected Friend is out of order, in asking for an increase in salaries without the consent of the Governor-General. It should be borne in mind that the Clerk of the Parliaments and others are civil servants and they cannot have any preferential treatment over the other civil servants.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East): I humbly submit to you, Mr Speaker, that all officers of Parliament should be separated from the Civil Service of the country. We have been demanding this for the past eight or nine years now. We want the workers of this Parliament to be under a separate Department.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): What is more, other civil servants close at 2 o'clock; but when we are here the staff of Parliament work at times till after 12 midnight.

The Minister of Finance: I would plead with hon. Members not to put me in a difficult position. This argument can be pursued both ways, but I am afraid that if I argue too much on one side I will be offending the others. I have the greatest respect for the Clerk of the Parliaments and his staff, I know they are working hard. His Official Reporters for example, when Parliament is meeting, one must pity their condition. It is real hard work. I quite agree that, apart from anything else, when Parliament is meeting we have to pity these youngmen and women who work day and night; but whether that is sufficient appeal for the Public Service Commission to look specially into their case is another matter. I can only hope that—

An hon. Member: Give them allowances.

The Minister of Finance: I do not give people allowances, it is not my duty.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): We really appreciate the appeal made by the Leader of the House, that we should not put him in difficulty, but what we are saying is that since these people do overtime from time to time, if the Government cannot revise their salaries, Government should give them certain allow-

ances. I know of a Messenger of this House who was killed on the Carter Bridge when he was going home at mid-night some two years ago because he closed very late in the night. If their salaries cannot be revised more money by way of overtime or special allowances to compensate them for the extra work they do should be given to them. That is what we are saying.

The Minister of Finance: I am sure that the Chairman of the Public Service Commission will read the *Hansard*.

Chief D. N. Abii: What I want to say is that the staff of Parliament are under the Speaker. There is no question of going to the Public Service Commission, the staff of Parliament should be taken away from the civil service, that is what is done everywhere there is a Parliament.

The Minister of Finance: I do not think that the Clerk of the Parliaments will agree to this suggestion because their promotional prospects will be so limited that it will not be in their best interests to put them in an isolated camp.

Here again, I can only say that this is a matter for the Public Service Commission. I would not doubt that hon. Members would be honest in this regard. Accepting that they are so disposed, therefore, I do hope that in pleading the case of the Clerk of the Parliaments they are not thinking about themselves; that is to say in the hope that if anything is done for the workers of Parliament, the same might also be done for Members of Parliament.

Several hon. Members: No, no. We do not want anything.

The Minister of Finance: If Members do not want anything that is all right. Now, the final point that was made by the Member for Orlu North (*Mr Ifezue*) concerned medical facilities. I think that in a place like the LegCo Flats there should be first aid equipment provided, but hon. Members must not forget that they are entitled to free medical treatment while they are attending the sittings of this House.

With these few points, I beg to move, That the question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Federal Parliament Debates

2171

[Appropriation (1963-64)]

26 APRIL 1963

Bill : Committee]

2172

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.
 £673,900 for Head 62—Parliament—ordered
 to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 63—FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
 COMMISSION

£47,450 for Head 63—Federal Public Service
 Commission—ordered to stand part of the
 Schedule.

HEAD 64—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
 DEVELOPMENT FUND

Question proposed, That £4,600,000 for Head
 64—Contributions to the Development Fund—
 stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba North) : It is out
 of formality as laid down by Parliamentary
 procedure that I move a reduction of only £10
 from Head 64. There is no amount that is
 specially provided under this Head that will be
 too much because we certainly do need a great
 deal of development in the country.

The problem of development in any nation
 is a problem of vital importance. Once a
 nation feels shy of enthusiasm for development,
 once a nation fails to put her hands on the
 wheels of progress and development, and once
 a nation fails to regard progress as her motto,
 that nation will start to sink low and, perhaps,
 sink into oblivion.

The contribution from Revenue of
 £4,000,000 and the contribution from the
 Special Fund of £600,000 as provided under
 this Head will do a lot of good to Nigeria if they
 are very wisely used. We need a lot of develop-
 ment programmes in this country—road develop-
 ment, widening of our roads, construction
 of more bridges; development in the rural
 areas, the development of our water-ways,
 fisheries, geological surveys, all sorts of other
 development programmes are very necessary
 for us to undertake. But, I should like to
 request that a greater part of this £4 million be
 devoted to the development of the rural areas.
 Millions of our people in the rural areas have
 no opportunity of enjoying modern amenities.
 I feel that a special contribution should be
 made to the Regions for the purpose of the
 development of the rural areas.

I beg to support.

£4,600,000 for Head 64—Contributions to
 the Development Fund—ordered to stand part of
 the Schedule.

HEAD 65—NON-STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS
 OF REVENUE

£137,200 for Head 65—Non-Statutory
 Appropriations of Revenue—ordered to stand
 part of the Schedule.

Postponed Clause 1 as amended and Clause 2
 ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Title, as amended, ordered to be the title of the
 Bill.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : We
 are really passing this Bill. The only appeal I
 want to make is that, earlier, Members had
 criticised the idea of the Executive trying to
 usurp the duties of Parliament. I would
 appeal that this Parliament should meet more
 often than we are meeting now. If there are
 major issues affecting the nation, Parliament
 should meet. We would not like the Executive
 to usurp the functions of Parliament, if indeed
 Parliament is supreme. I think the Leader of
 the House should take note of this.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I
 would like to support the hon. Member for
 Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) over what he said.
 We have been appealing to ourselves not to be
 lengthy in our speeches, but I should like to
 say that we have been receiving letters and
 even telegrams during our sittings here in
 Lagos from our constituencies enquiring of
 what we have been doing here. For this
 reason, I would like the Leader of the House
 to take into account that we should either meet
 more often or the session should be lengthened.

I am at the same time appealing to hon.
 Members to realise that we cannot eat our
 cake and have it. If we are going to stay
 and deliver the goods, then by all means, let
 us stay and deliver the goods, but not to rush
 away before the meeting ends.

I am saying this because I have been asked
 on several occasions as to what happened on
 the day we passed a vote of confidence in the
 Federal Minister of Finance. The total
 number of Members on that day was 145
 instead of 312. I could not answer the
 question at all.

[SHETTIMA MONGUNO]

Again, much as we would like to appreciate Members contributing to the debate on the Head for Parliament, showering praises upon you, Mr Speaker, and perhaps embarrassing you to a certain extent, I would also like to point out that you should continue to be restrained, you should continue to be vigilant and at the same time continue to be considerate to Members and allow them time to make their contributions, even though they maybe making repetitions, because we cannot help repeating ourselves under certain circumstances.

Many Members will agree with me that it is derogatory to us for the Upper House or the Senate to refer to us as juniors. We have a very fine tradition in this country for respect, particularly for the elders. We are fully conscious of the fact that our Senators are elderly statesmen. Most of them are older than we are and are people with wide experience and knowledge, but at the same time, we would like to be considered as the elected representatives of this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : I am grateful to hon. Members for what they have said during the Third Reading. As a matter of fact, the Third Reading is not the time to make long speeches.

I quite agree with the demand of hon. Members for frequent sittings and for hon. Members to remain till the end of the sittings, but I think that my hon. Friend the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shetima Ali Monguno*) will agree with me that there are good reasons for some hon. Members, especially those from the North, to leave.

We hope that we will be sitting frequently. We are a young country and there are many things engaging the attention of the Government; but we do hope that the time will soon come for us to clear some of our domestic problems and enable the Government to call Parliament to sit more often.

On the whole, one would agree that the standard of debates by Parliamentarians has risen to a very high level and the spirit of comradeship in the House is quite apparent and keen. I do hope that Members will continue to be on their guard and be present in the House to contribute constructively to debates.

I wish Members well and hope that they will come back again soon.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : I want first to associate myself with the views expressed by my colleagues here that the resources at the disposal of the Government are under-utilised. I find it difficult to justify my conscience that I should be paid a salary of £1,000 or more a year and I come to Parliament here only to spend about four or five weeks for the whole year and at the same time be so handicapped that I cannot have ordinary reference materials.

No facilities exist here in Parliament for reference. There are no books in the library, no secretarial assistance and these things are a very great handicap. They make it impossible for us to really maximise our contributions to the Parliament of Nigeria.

Secondly, the Government is increasingly in the habit of assembling here on Wednesdays and rising on Mondays simply to avoid meeting on a Tuesday which is Private Members' day. Looking back on the past two or three years that we have been here, one can see that normally we assemble on Wednesdays, skipping Tuesdays, and then we rise on Mondays, skipping the following Tuesdays. This is a sort of cowardice. I do not see why the Government should be afraid of us. This is what I referred to some time ago as developing a system of anti-intellectual prejudice in Nigeria.

We have the resources to use but we do not want to use them; we simply get rid of them. This does not help anybody. I would appeal that in future we convene on Mondays and rise on Wednesdays so as to give Private Members the opportunity of ventilating their feelings.

Mr Speaker : So far all the matters raised by Members on the Third Reading are irrelevant. These are matters that should have been raised on Adjournment. I think we had better dispose of the Bill and talk of these matters during Adjournment.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

PORTS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to alter the constitution of the Nigerian Ports Authority; to provide for consultations between the Authority and persons using its facilities; to make

further provision for the giving of directions to the Authority; to require the approval of the Minister for regulations and by-laws made by the Authority; to make further provision as to Federal ports; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid be read a second time.

This is a straightforward Bill that seeks to regulate the membership and tenure of office of members of the Board of the Authority and to enhance the powers of the Minister for giving the Authority directions on matters of policy, or in making regulations on matters appearing to the Minister to be of public interest. This Bill repeals Schedule V to the Ports Act and defines further such ports as are declared under section 6 of the Ports Act.

I am sure hon. Members will agree that Government's statutory corporations cannot be run in isolation of the directives from the Minister. The position of the Ports Authority hitherto has shown that what this Bill seeks to remedy has not been the case. It is, therefore, opportune that at this stage the Minister should have a say in the running of the Ports Authority.

Section 1 of the Bill deals with the alteration of the constitution of the Ports Authority. Section 2 deals with the establishment of a consultative body; section 3 deal with the power of the Minister to give directions to the Authority, whilst section 4 deals with regulations, *et cetera*, made by the Authority to be approved by the Minister.

I think that Members will agree that if the Ports Authority were to make regulations by themselves and operate them without the authority or sanction of the Minister, it would really be taking the matter too far or giving too much powers to the Ports Authority.

The Ports Authority is a very important statutory body of the Federal Government which affects the economy of the whole country and we have to be very careful about it and scrutinise the regulations or whatever they do. I am sure that hon. Members will agree that this is a progressive Bill and that they will support it.

I beg to move.

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

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I think that the Ports Authority, right from its inception, has been so successful that any move to make it more successful is certainly very welcome.

In the history of statutory corporations in Nigeria, I think that the Ports Authority has stood its own far and above any other contemporary statutory corporation in Nigeria by being able to pay its way and yet make considerable profits.

The new office building now standing at the Marina is again concrete evidence of the successful commercial operation of the Nigeria Ports Authority. In fact it is more outstanding if any one would look back to the bits and pieces and the scattered fragments of Government Departments which have been assembled together to form the present Nigerian Ports Authority. Before the formation of the Nigerian Ports Authority stealing from the wharf used to be another legitimate line of business.

The system of control were so lax. The Ports became really no means of revenue to the Government. It was know that the Railway Organisation was so lax and so nebulous that the Ports were an embarrassing arm of the Nigerian Railway, as it then was. But with incorporation, the part of it that was in the Marines was brought in, the part of it that was in the Treasury was brought in and that of the Railway was also brought in. All these things were assembled together and I think it really takes a genius to be able to make such a great profit sense out of that confusing mass of nonsense.

I would like to say again that the building at the Marina is a credit to the good commercial sense of all parties concerned. If I may humbly say this, I think that this House agrees that the Nigerian Ports Authority may be said to be seventy-five *per cent*, if not ninety-five *per cent* Nigerianised.

The General Manager of the Nigerian Ports Authority is, I believe, due to leave Nigeria in July and his place will be taken by one Mr Joseph McEwen, who is now the Deputy General Manager. When he assumes office, he will be the Chief Executive of the Nigerian Ports Authority. I think that this will probably be the first such case with our corporations,

An hon. Member : No, it is not the first.

Mr Akwivu : In addition, the Personnel Manager is now a Nigerian. The post of Stores Manager will soon be taken by a Nigerian and the Secretary has been a Nigerian for about three or four years now. Therefore, within the Ports Authority so far, whatever complaints anybody may have, I think that the policy of Nigerianisation has proved very successful.

It is rather an unfortunate coincidence that at the time the Nigerian Ports Authority is being progressively Nigerianised, right to the top posts, we are now bringing in a Bill to make sure that the authority cannot act without the directions of the Minister. Since its inception in 1954, this law has not been there, and the Ports Authority has worked ever since without causing any embarrassment whatsoever to the Minister or the Government.

They have made their regulations which have not caused any embarrassment either, or caused any embarrassing court actions, if any at all. In every possible way, the Ports Authority has been so far a great success. (*Hear, hear*).

I would like to say that we would welcome a further explanation on the fears of the Government or the fears of the Minister of Transport which make him feel that it is very, very important now that the heads of the department are more and more becoming Nigerians, that a Bill must be introduced, making it impossible for them to act without Ministerial directives.

I think this is very important, because the Bill might, by implication, cast some aspersions on the integrity of the Nigerians. I believe that it will be in the best interests of not only the Ports Authority, but also of the nation as a whole, and all parties concerned, for this unfortunate suspicion which may be aroused by this Bill to be cleared.

I would like to mention that with the Ports Authority coming more and more under Ministerial direction we do sincerely hope that the basic essence of the Ports Authority, which is a commercial concern and which course they have justified in their Annual Returns, we do

hope that the essence of the commercial operations will not be lost, and that political considerations are not going to be given more priority than they deserve. That may well be one of the fears that could arise out of the policy of the present Bill as outlined by the hon. Minister.

Finally, a lot has been said about the Biney contract. I would like to say that Biney has been doing this job in this country for many years now. After all, it is not the only company doing a job that Nigerians can do. Therefore, I do hope that whatever might be the reasons or whatever might be the interests of any persons who suddenly have awakened to feel too sensitive about the business, they should at least try to be fair because the Syrians who are doing retail trade are still carrying on their businesses in this country. We have not pushed them out. Even more and more of them are now coming into catering, particularly, at a time we know that there are many more Nigerian caterers.

The Indians are still doing retail and wholesale trade and we have not pushed them out. So, I think that this Biney business is a matter that should be approached with caution. Whatever is to be decided must be decided with caution and with a good sense of equity. It will be unfortunate if it happens that because some individuals have an eye on getting a share of his business, they tell fantastic tales which will be a very bad reflection on the sense of justice of this country if such tales are acted upon without any sense of justice.

After all Mr Biney is responsible for the employment of very many Nigerians and I think that even if we are going to throw him out, we have to make sure that there are organisations which will employ the people to be displaced.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order, my hon. Friend has said "finally" twice and he is still going on.

Mr Akwivu : I have only used it once. It may well be that the hon. Minister of Finance, in his discussion while I am speaking heard somebody say "finally".

I would now say in conclusion, Sir,— (*Laughter*).

Several hon. Members : No more finally ?

Mr Akwivu : I will not use "finally" again. I would say in conclusion that I do congratulate the Minister who has so ably shown us that he is single-minded person, and we do plead with him that, now that this Bill is coming to vest in him the powers of political control over the N.P.A., this commercial essence should not be lost.

I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : In speaking in support of the Bill, I have a few comments to make. The Nigerian Ports Authority as a whole is an arm of the Government. Sometime ago, an hon. Member—I think it was the Member for Afenmai North West—(*Mr U. O. Ayemi*) moved a Motion that the Corporation should be looked into. It is very unfortunate that there was no time for this House to debate that particular Motion, but perhaps it has brought to mind certain of the aspects of the series of points revealed about the Ports Authority, or of the corporation as a whole. Despite the fact that the Corporation is doing good service to the nation, at the moment, it previously was a source of loss of revenue to the country.

There was a certain rumour about this corporation, that there was loss of money—many thousands of pounds—in 1961-62, and if the Minister of Transport and Aviation would like to have an insight, into it and to have absolute control over this corporation, there is nothing bad in it, so that the Government may be able to control effectively the administration of the corporation.

I am in agreement with the last speaker who said that the Biney company should not be thrown out of business. It will be an act of ingratitude if we have to treat the business of a pioneer like Biney in this way and this may earn us a bad reputation. I would therefore suggest that the matter should be handled with caution and the company should be treated fairly.

I beg to support.

Mr A. A. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : I have to mention a very serious omission in this Bill. Now, there is a provision for the appointment of 9 members ; three from the East, three from the North, three from the West, and as usual, none from Lagos. I have discussed with the

Minister and I told him that Lagos is an entity by itself. This is one Nigeria, but Lagos is no part of the West, it is not a part of the East and it is neither a part of the North.

Indeed this has often been taken up, and I find this to be a very bad omission in the Bill. I have spoken to the Minister on this and it is a pity that he is not here now, but the Leader of the House who is always stepping into people's shoes, and very efficiently too, should see to this because that is the big quarrel I have got with this Bill. If Lagos must be a part of Nigeria—

An hon. Member : But it is a part of the West.

Mr Ogunsanya : Well, I have said before that we should make it a Region but the Members were wavering and the Government has been wavering, and the hon. Members do not seem to know their minds about it. So far as this is concerned, however, no membership of the Federal Boards in Nigeria is complete without Lagos being represented. We must all take this very seriously.

I know that some Members here cannot see beyond their villages. Lagos is the Federal Capital of Nigeria and we all live in Lagos. When we make it a part of the Western Region, then it will be a part of the West. If we make it a part of the Mid-West that will be a different matter. Lagos is still an entity by itself and it must be represented on all Federal Boards and Corporations ; and one other serious thing about it is that every Region has a number of other Boards. The East has, the West and the North have, but Lagos has no other thing except these Federal Government Boards and we must give Lagos its right share—

An hon. Member : What of the L.E.D.B. ?

Mr Ogunsanya : I do not know why some people speak with some ignorance in this country. The L.E.D.B. is a Local Government Board. It is not a Federal Government Board. It is a quasi Government Board as against any other thing. We have town planning authorities all over the West, and we have similar authorities in the East and the North. That is what the L.E.D.B. is in respect of Lagos. If there had been a separate legislature quite distinct from the Federal House in Lagos the affairs of the L.E.D.B. would not come to the Federal House.

[MR OGUNSANYA]

I hope that Members in their silent moments—some of the Members anyway, not all of them—will look this up in the Constitution, and if these things are not understood they should ask some of the Members here who understand to explain to them. When Members talk on a subject they do not understand it can be annoying. The Minister must give Lagos its representation. This has been done in respect of other Boards. When the leader of the House appoints people to the committees in his Ministry, he, of course, considers Lagos. When the dynamic Minister of Mines and Power appointed people to serve on the E.C.N. Board—

An hon. Member : But that is not in the law.

Mr Ogunsanya : It is not in the law, I agree, but I think that law should be amended accordingly. I am happy that the Minister is not trying to push it through the Committee Stage now, and I implore the Leader of the House as a lover of Nigeria generally to look into these things.

Now, a lot has been said about the Biney contract and I should not say more about it. We in Nigeria have set ourselves a very big task not through lip service but we are really leading Africa. When we talk of African unity we have done very well and we should not smear our own reputation by being petty on a small matter like this. I know that Members of this House are not petty, but there are some people outside who are being unnecessarily petty.

This Biney business is part and parcel of Nigeria. It is a company registered in Nigeria and I dare say that Biney's father and himself have contributed a lot to our social life in Nigeria. We have got to think of this. I am not saying that if a man does not deserve to be awarded a contract he should be awarded. I am not saying that at all: but there should be no groundless disqualification. Let us look at it from the angle that very many years ago someone came to Nigeria to help Nigeria. Such a person should never be discriminated against, and we Nigerians have done very well in that regard and we should not now smear our outstanding position.

One other thing I want to say concerns the Nigerian Ports Authority. It is the only big Corporation in this country wherein there has never been much trouble. The workers there,

by comparison, behave much better than those in other Corporations. I know that since the Elias Commission of Inquiry the Railway Corporation has become much better than it used to be, and one may wish to congratulate the Ports Authority for what they have done so far.

However, joining forces with my hon. Friend, the Deputy Speaker (*Mr Akwivou*), it is unthinkable that when things are to be done, there are not always reasons for them. Why is it that now that we have a Nigerian as the Chairman, we should have Ministerial interference? Luckily for us the present Chairman was a Minister, he did well in school, he is unassuming and he is up to the standard required. I think that ministerial interference at this time is not good. I am not saying that Ministers are interfering as such, but putting it into the law that the Ministers should be able to do what hitherto they were not doing is not good.

I am sure that the men the Minister will appoint as Chairmen of Boards and Corporations will be men of integrity and the Minister will make his appointments in consultation with his Cabinet colleagues. I do not agree with the aspect of the Bill where the Minister will choose a man as a Chairman on the one hand and on the other he will dictate to him.

Having said all these, I beg to support.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East): I rise to thank the Minister for bringing this Bill to this House now, but I have to blame him for having brought it so late. I blame him because everybody in this country believes that all these Corporations, no matter how autonomous and efficient we may think they are, are being controlled by the Ministers who are responsible to this Parliament. As things are now, it means that the people in the Corporations have been doing what they liked and that the Ministers have had no control over them.

We do not want the Ministers to have a say only in regard to the membership of the Boards and when anything goes wrong we begin to blame the Ministers. I think the Ministers are right to bring in Bills which will give them the power to look into the membership and the control of all the Corporations. I want to say that no matter how good a man may be he should not take any appointment as a life appointment. If anybody is appointed to any

Board in this country he should serve such a Board for a period of time. He should not make it his life time's work. Some people here in this country are appointed to some Boards and they stay there for ever.

Anybody who has done his best for two tours or so, should go. Even in Parliament we come in and go. I do not think it is right to appoint some one to a post for ever. I think that is wrong.

On the question of the appointment of Members to the Board, I have heard what others have said but, in these appointments, I feel that in many of our Corporations, the appointments are not properly done. In this case the Minister has brought a Bill now to control the membership himself and he is going to make the appointments so that it will satisfy the generality of the people of this country.

I support the Bill.

The Minister of Finance : I am grateful to Members for the points they have made. The hon. Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) praised the viability of the Ports Authority and I think he is in a position to know much more about the Ports Authority than even myself. In any case I think it is a good thing for Nigeria that the Ports Authority should be creditworthy.

The second point which he made is one with which I cannot agree. He says that pilfering and smuggling within the Ports Authority area have diminished. I think the contrary is the case. If it has diminished anywhere else, I am sure at Port Harcourt, where my hon. Friend comes from, it has increased a great deal and it has now taken many forms.

Mr Akwivu : May I know if the Minister of Finance is speaking as a Minister or he is expressing his private opinion.

The Minister of Finance : I am speaking now, not even as a Minister on this particular issue, not only one representing my respected colleague, but as one that is responsible for this particular case of smuggling and pilfering in the Customs quays. So I am sure that my hon. Friend was not serious when he was saying this because, prior to the Ports Authority days, I think the pilfering was done in one or two ways only, but to-day it has increased

and taken so many forms cleverly manoeuvred by the people, and it is my view and considered opinion that it should be fought. I hope my hon. Friend will assist us in fighting this evil.

Many Members have spoken for and against the Biney Contract. I think that my hon. Friend who is directly responsible for this Bill mentioned this yesterday. It seems to me that it is such an issue that I should not touch because I do not know the facts.

An hon. Member : Clever man !

The Minister of Finance : Really ?

The final point that was made is the general control of Statutory Corporations. I am happy that my hon. Friend (*Chief Abii*) has adequately replied to the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogun-sanya*) who suggested that a Minister who answers for a Corporation in this House should not have the power to control that Corporation. I must say, with very great respect to my hon. Friend, that it is disastrous, unthinkable and unwarrantable. I think it should be borne in mind that no matter how good one is when you put a man in charge of a Statutory Corporation, one is bound to err. Ministers do err too, but Ministers have collective responsibility. So that the Minister in charge of the Ports Authority or Railways does not just issue directives every day as such. I think my hon. Friend should change his mind and I would like to persuade him to change his mind because I am sure that he knows, having appeared in one of the Commissions of Inquiry into one or two of the Statutory Corporations, what is implied and that he can testify to some of the excesses of some of our Statutory Corporations.

I am not tracing these excesses to the door of any individual, but I think it is necessary that in public life people who are responsible for Corporations or other responsibilities should be subject to some checking. Even Ministers are being checked by public opinion or by the Prime Minister or by his colleagues in the Cabinet or even by his officials who are his advisers. If a Permanent Secretary puts a very strong point into a minute to a Minister asking the Minister not to do a thing, if the Minister does it, I am sure that anybody who knows about it will brief Members of Parliament to check the Minister. We are all human beings and therefore it is quite necessary that Ministers, although they are checking others too, should be checked by their colleagues or by their advisers.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

I think that this is a really progressive Bill, and that other Ministers should think of such a Bill and bring it to the Floor of this House to control all Statutory Corporations of the Federal Government.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

PORTS BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE BODY).

Shettima Ali Monguno : I would only like to emphasise the point made by the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) on the establishment of consultative bodies. Those who are to be selected should be and must be men who are of a high calibre and who are also of integrity and in whose judgment both the Government and the members of the public have confidence.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, I wish to make use of this opportunity to explain a further point raised by the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*). The Bill provides for a number of members to be appointed by the Minister and it is true that Regions were given specific numbers, but there are other appointees representing other interests which I think may be appointed from Lagos.

I am not saying it categorically but I am quite sympathetic with the point raised by the hon. Member for Ikeja. After all, the Port is situated in Lagos and I think that Lagos deserves some consideration. I cannot, however, give an undertaking on behalf of my colleague because he may have his reasons. All I can say is that I will ask my hon. Friend not to belabour the issue because I shall draw the attention of my hon. Colleague to the points he has made.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 6—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

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

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : I just want to make one observation. In this Bill, there is a provision in Clause 1 (c) which reads :

“(c) one shall be a person appearing to the Minister to have had experience of and shown ability in the organisation of workers.”

What I want to say is this. In appointing workers' representatives, there should be consultations with the Central Labour Organisation. There should be no imposition on the part of the Minister.

The second point that I want to make is about the question of awarding contracts. In awarding contracts he should make sure that the contracts are given to people who have the materials and who can meet the reasonable claims of their employees, because we want peace in the Ports. If we engage puppet contractors who want money and would not give out the money to the people, we will be having industrial strikes and the country will be at a loss. We must make sure that we get people who are competent and experienced, with the necessary materials that can meet with the requirements of the workers.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong Soth) : For the first time, I want to disagree with my hon. Friend for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) as far as labour matter is concerned. If anybody thinks that there is a Central Labour Organisation in this country, I should be counted out. Those we have are not really Labour Central Organisation. All I want to say is this. It is correct to say, as contained in that Bill, that one of its members must have trade union background, not necessarily members from the Central Labour Organisation. Now, we have the Federal Whitley Council and representation as to who should be appointed should be sent to the Staff Side of the Federal Whitley Council, and to the Labour Organisation.

Mr Mbah : I think my good Friend the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is old enough in the Movement to know that the Whitley Council is not a trade union. It comprises all Government workers' representatives, and Whitley Council is for civil servants. It has nothing to do with other employees outside.

Mr Ekanem : What I want to say again is about the contracts in the Ports Authority.

The Minister of Finance : I am afraid that the two hon. Members are discussing the details of the Bill. They should have made these points during the Second Reading.

Mr Ekanem : I am sure the Minister of Finance does not know what I am going to say.

We must avoid the politicians. Contracts in the Ports Authority should be awarded to contractors with materials. Materials mean money. A contractor who is prepared to co-operate with his workers should be given contracts, not the shallow contractors that we have at present. They must be sympathetic with some contractors, but not with those who go out to get money and the workers suffer. Consideration should be given to some of them. Preference should be given to indigenous contractors when awarding contracts. Inexperienced contractors should not be considered. We want contractors who have got the funds and the materials to operate with.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : I have to congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill. The improvements in our ports to-day are a clear testimony of the ability of the Minister of Transport and Aviation.

Now, there is one thing that I would like to point out. Nigeria is anticipating a fourth region in the Federation. I think that provision ought to have been embodied in this Bill to make allowance for the Mid-West. In a very short time a Mid-West Region will be created, and there is no provision in this Bill to accommodate Mid-Westerners.

I also agree with what the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) said, that Lagos should be considered. The second point I should like to make is that of appointment to the Board—

Mr Ekanem : On a point of order, I see my brother sitting down there with four legs !

Mr Okoronkwo : Now that the Minister has got the power to check the affairs of the Board, I am sure that every effort should be made to stop the members of this Board from employing only their brothers and their relatives. Before the Board members are appointed, I am sure that the Minister will take into consideration the interest of Nigeria as a whole, and also to see that board members will be prevented from employing only their relatives.

I support the Bill.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : The only point that I want to make is that I disagree with the point made by my hon. Friend for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) about consulting Labour Leaders. At the moment, we do not know who of them is a free agent. The Government should take the responsibility of identifying those labour leaders who are not agent of foreign political powers.

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 EDUCATION).

STATE LOTTERY

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : It will be gratifying to suggest to the Minister of Finance that it will bring more dividends to the people of this country and stimulate the desire of the millions of our inhabitants especially those in the rural areas who have confidence in the honest work of the Federal Government, if lottery or sweepstake can be introduced, like the one introduced in Malta. Lottery is more understandable in the rural areas than a complicated football pools we have in the country. People do not know how to fill the football coupon and how to check their dividends. I will be grateful if the Minister can see the possibility of introducing the running of lottery by the Federal Government in this country.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I would like to thank the hon. Member for Asaba West (*Mr Eboigbodi*) for raising the question of a State Lottery. I am always grateful for any suggestions for increasing the revenue. However, I can assure the hon. Member that the idea of promoting a State Lottery is not a new one. To my own knowledge, it has been considered at various times for at least the past ten years.

Lotteries are a controversial subject which sometimes arouse strong feelings. Many sincere people oppose them on moral and religious grounds. I have myself an open mind on the subject in so far as such considerations are concerned.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

But our Constitution does not, in any case, give the Federal Government a free hand in the matter. The hon. Member has suggested that a State Lottery would be especially welcome in the rural areas, where people find football pool coupons difficult to understand. The Federal Parliament's legislative competence does not extend to such areas, however. Lottery is a residual subject, and any Act of Parliament establishing a lottery would apply only to the Federal Territory. This is a basic and highly relevant fact, and it means that if the Federal Government were convinced that the interests of the nation demanded the establishment of a Federal State Lottery, it would first have to secure the agreement of all the Regional Governments. That is the first point that I want to make—the lack of legislative competence to give effect to the hon. Member's proposal.

My second point is this: a form of State Lottery already exists. I refer, of course, to the Premium Bonds scheme. Here is something which extends throughout the Federation, and which can be easily understood by anyone, whether in rural or urban areas.

There are no complicated coupons, but there are big prizes to be won. And premium Bonds have a very big advantage over any Lottery, for the Premium Bond holder cannot lose his money. When you buy a lottery ticket, the money is gone, unless your ticket wins a prize. But with Premium Bonds, win or lose, your original money is safe, and you can at any time cash your Bond and get your money back.

I feel sure that the House will agree with me that it would not make sense for us to introduce a Lottery so soon after the inauguration of the Premium Bond scheme. The one would surely compete against the other. I therefore ask all hon. Members of this House, and especially those from the rural areas, to assist the National Savings Campaign by explaining the Premium Bond scheme in their constituencies, and by buying Premium Bonds themselves.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes past eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 27th April, 1963

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Finance : I beg to make the following Business Statement for next week. The following Government Business will be taken on Monday, 29th April.

The Federal Commissions Privileges and Immunities Bill will be presented. The remaining Capital Budget Resolutions not taken to-day will be completed. I hope they will all be taken to-day, if hon. Members are determined to do so and make their points with some precision so as to enable us complete the day's work.

A Resolution will also be moved for a transfer of funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Development Fund, and then the remaining stages of the Pool Betting Bill will be taken. I must say that I think the Pool Betting Bill is non-controversial and that I expect we shall finish its Committee Stage this morning.

I have just been informed that to-day is an allotted day and, as a result, the Second Reading of the Pool Betting Bill will be moved on Monday. We hope that we shall go through all the stages of the Bill on Monday.

It seems to me that, although we have decided to have a night sitting on Monday, if it is the wish of the House that night sitting may not be necessary because it is the view of the Government that the House should adjourn *sine die* on Monday, that is depending on the progress we make to-day.

Several hon. Members : We shall make progress !

The Minister of Finance : If the progress is satisfactory to-day, I think there may not even be the need for the House to sit at night on Monday. We might finish as quickly as possible and Members can have some rest and then go about their unfinished business in town.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Unavoidable Absence of Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker : The newspapers yesterday carried news that I, the day before, on Thursday, was nowhere to be found when it was time for the House to meet. The fact was that Government, instead of inviting the whole House to meet the President of Guinea, invited me to welcome him.

For the information of the press, the Standing Orders of the House make provision for the Deputy Speaker to preside in the absence of Mr Speaker, and the question of a meeting of the House being delayed by the absence of the Speaker can never arise. Indeed, Thursday was not the first occasion on which the Deputy Speaker took the Chair in my absence.

I wish the gentlemen of the press would refrain from letting their imagination run away with them. When puzzled, they should go and make enquiries from the Clerk of the Parliaments.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

POOL BETTING BILL

Bill to amend the Pool Betting Control Act of 1961 and to extend the application of the Act as amended to Northern and Eastern Nigeria respectively; and for other purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Monday, 29th April.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES
OF MOTIONS

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL
(SEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY (CONTINUED))
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

HEAD 621.—PRIMARY PRODUCTS

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 621—Primary Production—be approved.

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

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : I support the expenditure of the Head as moved by the Minister of Finance but that support is with certain reservations. Last year, I made the point in this honourable House that—

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : I do not know whether the hon. Member for Benin East has been called because he moved a reduction of the whole Head or a sub-head but, in any case, my name appeared before his for a reduction and I think I should be called before him.

The Chairman : Thank you for being so vigilant.

Mr Oronsaye : I move the reduction of the whole Head and I think I have a priority over the person who moved a reduction of a sub-Head.

Last year, I made a point that the success of Nigeria's development in general and the present 1962-68 Development Programme depends, in no small measure, on the way primary productions are handled. I definitely made this point and in support of that point, I made a number of other points.

If I may refresh the memories of hon. Members, under this Head we have Niger Dam Development Board Operations, Agriculture in all its ramifications, Forestry, Fisheries, Veterinary, Mining in so far as extractions in the primary form are concerned. All these things have to be produced in their primary stages before we can think of manufacturing, or processing or marketing them. In other words, these things that have to be produced form the base of the whole of this Development Programme. If we cannot produce these things in their primary form then the question of industrial undertakings will be a washout and so also will be the question of selling their finished products or the by-products of these resources.

This is so important, as I have said, that they form the foundation on which the whole of the Development Programme stands. If it fails, the whole scheme fails and Nigeria will be faced with a very huge national debt which, by its size and mode of operations, will be crushed. For one brief moment we should reflect, perhaps by way of necessary digression in order to explain the point ; for the importance

of the whole position the expenditure for the whole Development is set out in the Capital Estimates.

It can be found that the only hopes at present are, and I say this very advisably, Contributions from revenue—£27 million ; Capital Grants—£5,600,000 ; Internal Loans—£75 million ; External Loans—£83,167,300.

An hon. Member : What is the relevance of all this ?

Mr Oronsaye : The point I want to make, if hon. Members will only be patient as we have the whole day—(Interruptions).

Another hon. Member : Will the hon. Gentleman go straight to his point ?

Mr Oronsaye : Mr Chairman, I crave your indulgence that I should make my points in the way I have prepared them from home.

For the present financial year, the figures are—

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : On a point of order, I think that, in order to save time and having regard to what our Leader has said, it is not necessary for the hon. Member for Benin East to be repeating what has been contained in the Estimates.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : This is not 'Antiquities' and the hon Gentleman—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : What really puzzles me is that the hon. Member is preaching an economic heresy. He is saying that we have to produce the primary products before we think of marketing and the other things. His statement is economically falacious.

The Chairman : I think the Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) has started developing his argument and, being an intelligent contributor to debates, he is, I think, entitled to be heard a little bit more.

Mr Oronsaye : There seems to be an organised conspiracy to drown a voice that cannot be drowned.

The money for the whole Development Programme, as I said, is already tabled out and I should have finished with it long ago but for all these disturbances which have taken up our time. An hon. Member has said that I preached economic heresy but I do not know

how this heresy has arisen because what I have stated is that primary productions are at the base of everything. If one does not produce something and bring it out one cannot think of using them for manufacturing. I did not say anything about marketing.

It should be remembered that the Development Programme, as far as the Federal Government is concerned, is expected in 1962-68 to cost £359,384,780 and that the actual development itself is expected to cost a bit over £240 million. The balance goes to social overheads, general administration and financial obligations.

The points I am making here are as follows. Primary production, which in the Programme should cost £20,606,770 in 1962-68 and this financial year will cost £2,216,340, is the key to all the huge amounts quoted. In other words, the amount just moved by the hon. Minister of Finance is the key to all the huge figures I have mentioned and, if this small figure which was moved this morning is not spent wisely, the whole of the huge figures which hon. Members have heard will be money thrown down the drain. That is the important point.

Another point is that, as a consequence, every penny of the money spent on this Head should be investment. In other words, the money we have just heard of should be investment and being investment it should become possible to repay the huge debts. At the moment, we hope for only £190 million and unless these primary productions are developed in their proper fashion and in the way that we want, the remainder, which is a bit more than £164 million, cannot be produced.

The other day, the Minister of Economic Development complained on the Floor of this House that his difficulty was chiefly the production of capital to finance the Development. If this is the case, then the points I have made must be carefully taken into consideration. It is on account of this that I am going to x-ray the various items of expenditure under this Head.

The aim is twofold—firstly, to correct the uneconomic aspect of the expenditure, and secondly to make sure that optimum use, and I emphasise that optimum use, of all resources is made so as to bring them into full capacity, and this is very important.

If any of these expenditures under the primary production is handled in a way that will result into any part of it working below capacity, then this will be regarded as economic waste.

The first of them is the Niger Delta Development Board as it is under the Head. I am yet to know the real use of this Board. I have read all about it and I am fully convinced that no healthy reasons exist in economy for its existence. I do not want to speak with much intensity on the matter, but from the point of view of economy, I am convinced that the Niger Delta Development Board is a child of politics.

An hon. Member : What is a child of politics ?

Mr Oronsaye : The Niger Delta Development Board is what I am saying is a child of politics.

Honestly, politics should not come into the Development Programme at all. Therefore, I strongly suggest that this Board should be scrapped and its activities taken up by way of integration with the appropriate Ministry. This is a very strong suggestion which has the backing of economic analysis of to-day. The chief reason for this suggestion is that every penny spent on the Board at the moment is a painful duplication and consequently a reduction in—

An hon. Member : But they have built one mighty house at Port Harcourt.

Mr Oronsaye : What has that building got to do with the development of Nigeria ?

We have also the agricultural credit institution. A few days ago I was about to ask why it was necessary to provide only £3 million for this institution when the industrial expansion institution was provided with over £70 million. I have always made the point on the Floor of this House that the salvation of this country lies in agriculture. If we all agree that this is so, then an institution to provide for its development must be very heavily financed in such a way that every person in every village will benefit by the development. Of course this must be done with some safeguards. One of these safeguards may be in the form of not granting any loans to anybody, unless the bodies involved are co-operative societies or

[MR ORONSAYE]

persons of substance. I am fully convinced that at the moment there are many farmers who need assistance and if they get assistance, the products of their farms will form the basis of the greatest development this country can ever have.

I would have said that this Head should be increased by at least £3 million, but I know that it needs the permission of the Governor-General to say that, and I am going to seek that permission to ask that the money be increased.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Is the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) not reducing any more?

Mr Oronsaye: No.

The Federal development of Moor Plantation is the other point I want to make. I grew up to find the Moor Plantation in existence, and I must say with great emphasis that since its inception it has not produced one workable experiment for any school or farmer. It has always been what it used to be since its inception, and if there is any Member here who says that this is not so, I hope he will be able to prove himself right when it is his turn to speak. I want to inform this House that I hold a Senior Certificate in agriculture, and this certificate has been held since 1950.

An hon. Member: That certificate is too old. It is out of date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (*Mr N. A. Ezonbodor*): On a point of order, the hon. Member is too old and he does not know what is happening in the modern world. It is unfortunate that a man like him should suggest that the Niger Delta Board should be scrapped. This is wicked because he does not know what is happening.

The Chairman: That is not a point of order.

Mr Oronsaye: That is the direct opposite of events. The older one is the wiser one becomes.

The Moor Plantation should be developed in such a way that it should be able to give example to the ordinary farmer on how to cultivate one particular piece of land for many

years. The main products of this country are well known. The products are yam, cassava and other various things. The Moor Plantation should be able to show to people that they do not have to shift from one place to another. We cannot train the farmers by merely sending experts to come in their cars to speak to the people and then jump back into their cars and drive away. The only way to educate them is by cultivating one particular piece of land for many years and making it possible for the production of yams and cassava to increase in size and other respects. This is the way that the Moor Plantation should set examples to the public.

I do not want to continue because I can spend the whole of this morning talking on this Head without concluding it. I would like, however, to conclude by saying that the salvation of this country lies in this Head of the Estimates and if primary productions are faced realistically then the development of the country is assured.

I beg to support.

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central): I would try to abide by the advice of the Leader of the House, and in doing so I shall be as brief as I can.

I would like to begin my speech by opposing a remark on the summary of the speech of the last speaker, lest the Government be misled by his advice that the salvation of this country lies completely on this Head. I hold a contrary view. While I agree that primary production is a vital issue to any nation like ours at this stage of development, I also believe that concentration on primary production alone is bound to swell the economic servitude of any nation that pursues it. Therefore, in supporting the Head and opposing that particular part of his speech I would like to say that the Government, whilst taking note of the importance of primary production, should also realise that it is very essential to the life of this nation that all emphasis should not be placed on primary production alone.

Now, since I have decided to be brief I would like to go straight to a few of the points I want to make, concerning the sub-head on natural resources. That is a very important sub-head because the natural resources of this country, as we all know, have not been exploited

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at all. I would therefore appeal very strongly to the Government to take steps to make sure that we use that which God has given us freely.

This nation is very wealthy indeed. Our natural resources are inexhaustible. It is up to us to make use of those ones which will help us to build up a happy and prosperous nation. In that respect I would draw the attention of the Government to two of the fields that they could look into with a great speed. I am thinking of the iron and steel industry. This industry is very essential to any rising nation. In that respect I would very much like the Government to carry out a thorough survey of the country and make use of our natural resources in the field of iron ore.

Also, there is another point which is very important in connection with that. I hear that there is a tendency to move the iron and steel industry to certain localities irrespective of the fact that after all, industries are sited where the materials are easily available, and it is my information that in spite of the fact that we have iron at Nsude, a few miles outside Enugu, and we have coal in Enugu, yet the iron and steel industry proposed for the Eastern Region is being sited more than fifty miles away from the site. I do not know what other economic factors are involved but I think that I should bring this point to the notice of the Government so that when they come to site this iron and steel industry they will take account of the locality where the necessary products used for the industry will be found.

What I am saying is not necessarily about the location of the proposed industry either at Enugu or Onitsha, but I am saying what should be of general application to all parts of the country. I think it is not economical to move raw materials from the sites where they can be obtained to a distant place and pay the cost of transportation and other things.

Also there is one other field which I think the Government should take particular note of. If one looks round one will see that most modern buildings nowadays have quite a lot of glass doors and glass windows. In fact, we have very little of concrete walls nowadays. As far as I understand, a high percentage of this glass is imported. Yet in this country we have an abundance of raw materials for the making of glass. I mentioned earlier in this

Session that a few miles from where I live there is a hill of sand which has been examined by experts and pronounced excellent for glass industry. I am talking of a hill near Adada River in Nsukka Division.

Why should the Government not avail itself of that natural wealth in the country? After all, these minerals belong to the Government. I am not asking the Government to come and give money to my people. I want the Government to make use of that which God has given this country free instead of going to import these things from abroad, thus depleting our already very low financial resources.

What I have said about the glass industry does not necessarily apply to one locality but to many other localities. If we take up the geological map of this country we will find that limestone deposits are widespread, and yet every morning one takes up the morning papers one will find advertisements for the importation of cement. Why should we import cement whereas we have got the materials to make our own cement? I am using this argument therefore to buttress the argument that this particular primary product is something which the Government should look into, not only from the point of view of agriculture but also from the point of view of industry.

Nevertheless, in agriculture, Government should do something. If one looks into the Estimates one notices that there are three localities involved—Badeggi, Moor Plantation and Umudike. We know our country very well, and we know our people. Certainly, a farmer in the field will not travel for hundreds of miles to go and see what the Government is doing in order to benefit from the research which the Government is carrying out. It is my humble submission that these three plantations are not enough. I am not suggesting an expansion of land but I am suggesting little bits of experimental stations so that the influence of the work of the research in agriculture could be felt.

For example, Badeggi is famous for rice research but surely we have other rice planters in other parts of the country like Abakaliki and Ajomasi in Nsukka Division. Why should the Government not go to such places and establish little farms which the farmers will see and copy from? That is the best way of improving our primary products, and not

[MR AMADI]

merely by having a few people in a research station carrying out research and putting their results into files which are stored away in the shelves of the various offices and are not made use of.

Also, Sir, there is another important point. It is well known that the University of Nigeria is the God-son of the Michigan State University and the Michigan State University is a land grant University. As a result of that, the University of Nigeria has a very strong agricultural bias. Looking at the Estimates, I see nothing at all being put in for encouraging this special aspect of the educational advance in Eastern Nigeria. I think that some amount of money should also be allocated to the department of agriculture at the University of Nigeria to help them to carry on this research which will surely influence the farmers. I may inform the House that the people of the Division have given thousands of acres of Land to the University of Nigeria for agricultural development, and the University itself is putting aside thousands of pounds for agricultural expansion and experimentation. I think it is only fair that the Federal Government should come to the assistance of the University which is doing so much to promote one of the primary objectives of the Government.

In the field of forestry research, I want to mention one or two points before I finish. Nearly in the same manner as I said before, one notices that there is more than £110,000 voted for Forestry Research departmentally. Well, I do not know what results we have got from this research in the past, but I submit that it might do this country more good if a sizeable portion of this amount is given to one of our Universities to establish a Chair of Forestry. Thus we can have more concrete results from the money we spend. I do not wish to belabour that point because I know the Government knows what I mean and will certainly do that.

I think that on geological research, the time is overdue when we should have an up-to-date and comprehensive map of the geological survey of this country, surveys of our minerals and surveys of our petroleum. Many of us know that the Shell BP is doing a lot of good for us in this country, not only in respect of the duty they pay to the Federal Government but

also regarding the employment they give to our people and the opportunities they give to boys who study in their schools. In fact it is not very well known that the Shell BP has got a technical school which they fill with boys from all parts of Nigeria. I think that is a very noble piece of work. That is what we want, but that is one company, and I think that if we exploit our natural resources, we shall get more assistance from other companies who will come into the petroleum trade.

On that point Sir, the little sum of £817,000 which the Government is contributing as our share in the Oil Refinery is too small. After all oil is a very plain business and the Government should go in for a controlling share rather than a meagre sum in order to know what happens in the industry.

Finally, I think that the Government should think seriously about those primary products which will be dollar earning and which will be able to earn for this country foreign currency. I do not think it will do Nigeria a lot of good if we accept the advice of the Minister of Finance to the letter and produce things only for use in Nigeria. We should begin to think about a few things which will be used outside to earn us foreign currency. It is only by doing this that our efforts in this country will succeed.

With these few points, I beg to support.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South); I just want to make few points about these primary productions. It is time we should view agriculture in this country with more seriousness. Nigeria is an agricultural country. Although we are embarking on bold programmes for industry yet in the end we will find that we shall be able to manufacture and produce goods from our factories in such a way that we shall be competing with the other manufacturing countries of the world.

Our main economic mainstay is agriculture and I do not know the reason why, when the Constitution was drawn up and the Ministries were created, there was no Ministry of agriculture in the Federal Government. I think we should create a separate Ministry to take over agriculture, fishery and forestry because these things are very important in the life of this country.

It is actually unbecoming to find that when visitors come here we have Ministers of various subjects but there is no Minister of Agriculture. It does not portray that this country is an agricultural country at all.

It is time that the Government should embark upon bold programmes to help the regions in agriculture. It appears the Federal Government is just fighting shy of research. That will not do the ordinary farmer any good. It will be a long time to come before capable elements in this country take to agriculture. Unless capable elements take up agriculture all our research, all our development programmes and so on will not be meaningful to the ordinary farmer.

The ordinary farmer at present needs to know more about how to produce primary products from his farm, he needs to know about the use of tractors; he needs to know how to apply manure; he needs to know how to farm by rotation methods. We cannot wait by rotation methods. We cannot wait for this research work as it stands under this primary production before we can embark upon bold programme.

Therefore, I would like a Ministry of Agriculture to be created to help the Ministries of Agriculture in the Regions in order that more vigorous and bold programmes can be put into effect to help the agriculture.

I would also like to say something about what my hon. Friend the Member for Nsukka Central (*Mr Amadi*) said about the siting of the Iron and Steel Industry. I ask my hon. Friend to leave the Government to site the industry in the appropriate place. He is saying that there is plenty of iron somewhere in his home town or in the Eastern Region. I would like to remind him that there was a time when iron was discovered in large quantities in Agbaja in Kabba Province near Lokoja. The quantity of iron deposits there is enough to maintain and sustain the iron and steel industry. Also limestone has been discovered near Lokoja and there is coal right from Enugu up to the Benue Province and Kabba Province. It will be very good if the Iron and Steel Industry is sited in the heart of the country.

We are not going to prejudice the siting of the industry. We should leave it to those who are planning it and to expert report. We should

not be biased because we come from one Region and suggest that this thing should be sited in our own place.

Another point I would like to make is that agriculture is so important that a Ministry should be created because the Minister of Economic Development is already overloaded with all these things.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : I think that there is only one important point made that I should reply to. This point was made by the Member for Igala South about Agricultural Development and the responsibility which he wants the Federal Government to take. Hon. Members are aware that even in my Budget Speech I made mention of what assistance the Federal Government is giving in the development of agriculture. I think it is only right and proper that hon. Members should remember what they have heard from the Government Bench and appreciate what we are doing.

The Constitution puts the responsibility for agriculture squarely on the shoulders of Regional Governments. But in drawing up the Development Programme we decided that we should lend more hands by giving grants to the Regional Governments to enable them develop agriculture. What else do Members want us to do ?

It is not right for my hon. Friend to say that there is no Minister responsible for agriculture as such in the Federal Government. The Minister of Economic Development is responsible for agricultural research as well as for fisheries, *et cetera*. So that, in my view, is enough. If I may sound a note of warning again, hon. Members should please not emulate the Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) in contributing to the debate. If Members do so, we shall be here for another week.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : I would like to appeal to the Federal Government for concerted efforts to develop the Chad Basin which, in my opinion, if well developed, would become the glory of Nigeria. In this respect I would like to say that it is all well that agriculture is a regional affair; it is well too that the Government has been assisting the regions to develop agriculture in their

[SHETTIMA ALI MONGUNO]

respective capacities. But the development of the Chad Basin calls for a Federal effort rather than Regional and as such may I appeal to the Government to set up something similar to the Niger Delta Development Board even if it is named the Chad Basin Development Board.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): First of all I want to say that the Constitution is made for Nigeria and not Nigeria for the Constitution. Therefore if there are any signs of disequilibrium manifesting themselves in social tensions this should be ironed out right away.

I share the views of the hon. Member who said that there should be a Minister of Agriculture in the Centre with full powers. When we speak about the importance of agriculture one point comes very conspicuously to our minds, namely that unless there is an appreciable change—a revolution—in agriculture, industry is impossible. One cannot release the surplus labour for needed industrial development. The people are going to remain subsistence farmers living from hand to mouth.

Secondly unless there is a revolution in agriculture the cost of living will continue to be very high and no industry can survive where the cost of living is very high. The high cost of living will cut down profits and very few industries can survive because they cannot pay workers less than they need for £5 can equip a farmer whereas £200 can readily equip a person working in some secondary industry. That is why economists recommend everywhere that once a change starts in agriculture it does not stop there.

The colonial argument is that we make a start in agriculture and stop there, but the new approach is that agriculture and industry should go on side by side. The question is which type of agriculture and which type of industry should come first. For example, we are not talking of yams or cassava. We must diversify our economy. There are many things we now import from overseas which can be produced in this country. This need not be over-emphasised because this is not the time for such emphasis. All I want to say is that there is a sort of subtle discrimination in this country against small farmers. There are over eight million small farmers in Nigeria.

An hon. Member : More than that, about ten million.

Dr Nzeribe : If the Government can increase the *per capita* income of a farmer by 20 per cent per annum in five years his income will be doubled. And research done in this country at Moor Plantation, at Umudike and other places indicate that there are crops and methods of plantation which can even double the income of the farmer in two or three years.

For example, there are new methods of crop rotation that have just been brought into Nigeria. There are the new uses that fertilizers can be put to which will double the income of a farmer in less than two years. Why then do we neglect the over eight million farmers and speak of one or two businessmen whose job is simply the transfer of goods and merchandise from the wharf to the market? I want to say that over eight million farmers are suffering and the Regional Governments are not doing anything for them. The so-called Government Demonstration Farms are only isolated islands. The farmers have no access to them because the relationship between the farmers and the Government is very weak.

The Chairman : I would not like the Member for Orulu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) to discuss the relationship between the Regional Governments and the farmers. This is not the concern of this House.

Dr Nzeribe : I feel that Government should take a more realistic approach to this problem and be bolder. We know that there are problems involved in Agricultural Development and that is why Government is fighting shy. I feel Government should tighten up its belt and approach this matter more realistically. We all come from the rural areas.

The other point I want to make is that people try to put political feelings into the siting of industries which is purely economic. I want to submit that industries are gregarious, they move like sheep. It is cheaper to have an iron and steel industry where the "Omimi Ejo" *infra* structure external economies abound than to have them in isolated places where there are no raw materials, where there are no markets. So, I want to remind the Government to see that in siting industries economic considerations should override political. This should be borne in mind.

Finally, I want to say that when the Minister of Finance delivered his famous Budget Speech this year he mentioned that the reason why the United States of America contributed only part of the £80 million they promised was because the projects are not ready. This is very frustrating to economists because it seems the argument is based on the ancient fixed rate theory. The £80 million promised by the American Government is not a fixed amount and we cannot wait until the projects are ready. The point is that the United States Government is prepared to add more to this money if we have some projects which we can put the money in. We cannot wait until they come and tell us to put the money in the River Niger Project the money cannot be released. If we can revise our priorities from time to time it will be better.

We cannot be exact. This is wrong in economic analysis. What we have to do is to spend the money we have as fast as possible, judiciously, and then more money will come because economic growth is based on a sort of optimism. But we cannot fold our arms and say that unless the road development programme is ready we shall not ask for more money or unless the research programme at Nsukka is ready we shall not ask experts to come. What I want the Government to know is that outside world are watching us and it is what we do that they will follow.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : I had thought that I would not be tempted to speak again but the last speaker the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) has raised an economic theory which I think is absolutely wrong and unfounded.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe : On a point of order, I want to object strongly to the Minister of Finance's statement. I am an economist by profession and to say that my theory is wrong he has to prove it.

The Minister of Finance : As an academic economist I give credit to my hon. Friend, but as a practical economist I think he is one hundred miles off the mark.

Dr Nzeribe : The whole of Nigeria knows that I have acquitted myself as a practical economist. What is at Awo Omama is what I have done.

The Minister of Finance : Even, I would like to take up my hon. Friend on the academic side of economics. He knows too well as a trained economist that economics is not an exact or precise science. It is a speculative science and, therefore, in dealing with economic matters one cannot expect to be exact. And that being so, if one prepares an economic programme for people to finance he should not expect that it is going to be exact.

What the Government have done is to prepare a programme for which certain people will give them the finance. They will say—“Look, in this programme we are prepared to finance such and such but all we ask you to do is to prepare a feasibility survey of it. When you prepare a feasibility survey then we will know precisely how this Programme will go and how much we will give”.

But the hon. Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) is saying that they should give us a blank cheque for £80 million and whatever the hon. Member wants to do at Awo Omama they should give him the money to do it! Nobody will agree to do that type of thing. This is just the point I want to make.

Whereupon the Minister of Establishment (Hon. J. C. Obande) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 621—Primary Production, be approved.

HEAD 622.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, One Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

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

Mr A. Opia (Aboh) : I really feel that this Head is the live-wire of the advancement of this country. Trade and industry is a very vital part of our economic advancement and I really feel that the question of industry as it affects the country to-day should be approached very realistically. The Federal Loans Board, I think, has a very important role to play in this regard, but one would think that there are certain conditions which apply to the Loans Board which make it impossible for the purposes for which the Loans Board was set up to be achieved.

There are quite a number of industrialists in this country who, when they have actually put up industries some of which cost about £15,000 or £20,000 they have to apply to the Federal Loans Board for loans. They find it very difficult to get loans. Firstly, very drastic conditions are stipulated. In spite of the fact that an industrialist may have invested about £10,000 in the industry, he is asked again to provide properties, and he may be asking for only £5,000 or £10,000 loan. The Federal Loans Board will demand that he has to give a security of £20,000, in spite of the fact that he has invested in the industry something in the neighbourhood of £15,000 in liquid cash.

I do not think that this kind of condition for obtaining loans will do the country any good. In the first place, I think it is a good thing to ask for collaterals—security collaterals—especially when somebody requires a loan, but when one comes to a man who has already put up a very big industry on his own and after putting up this industry he requires Government assistance, then the encouragement he requires is not given to him, surely he will be frustrated. At times, by the time he obtained the loan, he would almost have lost about £2,000 in the necessary formalities. I think this is a very serious point.

But there are some who get these loans without giving any collaterals or any security at all, while others continue to find it almost impossible to get the loans. I am saying this with all sense of responsibility. I think it will not do us any good if we come to the Floor of this House and begin to side-track the truth.

There is a serious allegation about the Federal Loans Board and I feel that the time has come when this type of thing must have to be stopped. If an honest businessman puts up his industry, the Federal Department of Commerce and Industry goes to inspect that industry. After inspecting the industry and finding that the man has complied with all the conditions laid down in regard to applications for loans, the next thing they do is to come back to Lagos. Perhaps, a man who has never put up any industry at all, who has not even had the experience, he has not the material and he has not the necessary funds, but because may be he has a political inclination to a particular party or he is liked by one person or the other, he comes to Lagos and in a very short time, one finds that the man gets the loan.

I think that this is a very disgraceful thing and it does not encourage industry in this country. It does not help businessmen in a way we really want businessmen to be helped. I feel that those who are responsible for this type of thing should take it seriously and see that this type of irregularities now obtaining in the Federal Loans Board are straightaway.

I would like to see that when this takes place, actual businessmen, no matter if they put up an industry of only £5,000, should be encouraged. They have actually invested £5,000 of honest money into an industry and they should be given all possible encouragement. It is no use when they are seeking encouragement, to make it take them about twelve months to pass through the many and various formalities and, perhaps, they have to fill one form or the other and by the time they complete these formalities, they must have been frustrated and they find that the required assistance they wanted from the Federal Government is not forthcoming. Many businessmen have been ruined in this way.

Everytime, the Government promises it will have to help indigenous businessmen if they put up their own industries and as these men put up their industries, they find that they are left to go it alone. Even though they may be doing very well, they will not be encouraged, but somebody who has not even started any industry and who has not even the initial capital at all, because he has a longer leg, he has to be supported. I feel that the time has come when

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we have to look into these irregularities seriously.

I now come to oil refineries in the country. In the past, when these oil companies were going from one place to another looking for oil, the way the Shell Company of Nigeria was actually going into the rural areas to look for oil was not to the best interests of the people. And they are still doing the same thing now. I feel that they have no regard for the people at all. One will just see a team of seismic men running into the villages. They do not even go to find out who is there or who is not there. They say that they have obtained a permit from the Federal Government and all they know is that they go straight to the spot they want to do some drilling.

Sometimes when they send their people to meet the villagers, one finds that the method of approach is most disgraceful. They do not want to know whether there is a Member of the Regional Parliament or a Member of the Federal Parliament in that area or whether there is a local councillor. What they know is to go straight to the place and start drilling. I feel that this type of thing will not help these oil companies at all and it will not help the country either. I feel that if the Government wants to give prospecting licences to oil companies in Nigeria, they should do that with a special regard to the people of every village they go to drill oil.

I have another point. People who really stay in Port Harcourt will agree with me that if they go to a place like Umukoroshe they will find that it is more or less a white settlement. As one drives past the main road of Umukoroshe while going to Aba, one will agree with me that a very big acreage of land is occupied by the Shell Company of Nigeria, over 100 acres of land.

Chief D. N. Abii : What is wrong with that ?

Mr Opia : Well, I am coming to the point. Even if the hon. Gentleman has a vested interest, let him just give me time to get to the point. I know what I am talking about.

If one goes to Umukoroshe, one will just find at a glance that that place is a white settlement and nothing else. Anybody who would like to go to the Shell Club would know

what I am talking about. They only hand-pick a few Nigerians just to give the people the impression that there is no discrimination there. But I am telling you that there is discrimination in the Shell Company of Nigeria.

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : On point of order, Mr Chairman, with due respect, I want to make the hon. Gentleman speaking realise that the Shell Company of Nigeria is a different organisation from the Shell B.P., which I think he is talking about.

Secondly, he is misleading the House because as far as I know the company has got an officer whose job is to meet the people and discuss with them.

The Chairman : Order ! Actually all that is contained about oil in these Estimates we are discussing is the Federal Government's investment and I do not think we should go to those details the hon. Member is discussing.

Mr Opia : I know some hon. Members have vested interests. The point I am making is that if the Federal Government is investing some money in the Shell B.P., I do not see any reason why we should always take the background, why we should be relegated to the background in an industry such as that. I think that is a very serious point. If we have our sons and daughters working in the Shell B.P. of Nigeria, there is no reason why there should not be a quota system for the people of the country ; why they should not be given their fair position. For instance if you go to the Shell B.—

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of information, Mr Chairman, the head of Public Relations in the Shell B.P. throughout the whole of the Federation is Mr Ofonri. He is from the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia's*) part of the country and if Mr Ofonri does not want to employ his people then it is his fault. This Mr Ofonri is even responsible for engaging Europeans.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : On a point of order, I humbly wish to remind the hon. Member speaking that in the Shell Company, they have two grades : Senior and Junior. In the senior grade all Nigerians who are there mix up with their European colleagues. There is no discrimination there and I would like to say that what the hon. Member is discussing is highly irrelevant.

The Chairman : Order ! I see no point for much controversy.

Mr Opia : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I know really what is worrying my hon. Friends. They all have vested interests.

Shettima Alli Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, may I appeal to the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr A. Opia*) not to press on with this very serious allegation of discrimination. I do not think I have a vested interest, but I think that there is no discrimination; not in this country when we are black Nigerians and we also govern ourselves. May I appeal to hon. Members through you, Sir, that when such serious allegations are made, hon. Members should be prepared to substantiate them.

The Chairman : Order ! If the hon. Member, by saying that Members have vested interests, means that because the Government has invested in the industry, then everybody has a vested interest. But if it is, on the other hand, the question of developing arguments to get opportunity to air his views, I think it is merely a joke, and nobody will take this as a serious matter.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr A. Opia*) is telling the truth, and the hon. Members disturbing him do not want him to tell us the truth. They are not the Speaker and they keep on answering for the Speaker. They do not want the hon. Gentleman to tell us exactly what is going on. Really, there is discrimination in the Shell B.P.

The Chairman : That is not a point of order.

Mr Opia : While I agree with the hon. Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Alli Monguno*) I think that some of them have not visited the Shell B.P., Port Harcourt, I think we who have the privilege to know—

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : On a point of order, Mr Chairman, the point the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr A. Opia*) is referring to may be amplified because next week, the Shell B.P. has invited hon. Members to come to Port Harcourt to see things for themselves.

The Minister of Finance rose—

Mr Opia : On a point of order, Mr Chairman I have not finished my speech. I do not see the reason why the Minister should interrupt me.

The Chairman : Order ! It is only a matter of courtesy to the House that whenever an hon. Member feels that his points are controversial he should refrain from pursuing them.

Mr Opia : I will now leave the question of the Shell B.P. for another occasion.

I now come to the Nigerian Coal Corporation. We have a lot of by-products of coal which are now situated at Enugu. I feel that the fate of the Coal Corporation has been such that this Government should be able to lend a very serious help to this Corporation in order to advance the purpose for which the Corporation was set up. Every now and again, we hear of redundant workmen, complaints and troubles. I therefore feel that the trouble to-day is because Government has not been able to exploit all the avenues at its disposal to help this Corporation, and I feel that if this is done, it will go a long way in order to enhance the progress of the Coal Corporation as well as place the position of the workers on a more footing than it is to-day.

I come now to the very serious point which is in respect of the produce of the country. Nigeria is very rich in palm oil, groundnuts and some other products, and I think the time has come when we should have industries to utilise these natural products of the country to their best advantage, not only to give employment to the people by putting up factories which will have to use these products, but also it will go a long way in helping to provide materials which we often import from other countries of the world.

I have in mind the palm oil of Eastern Nigeria. Up till now, Government has not been able to find an industry to use the palm oil. What we find is that people are producing F.F.A. No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3. This is not very good. It is good to export some of these products, but the time has come when we have to make use of our local products to give employment to our people by putting up industries.

I would not like to take much of the time of this House now, but when the time comes to develop these points, I will say more.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : My hon. Friend, the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) has made many serious allegations on the Floor of this House this morning—as the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*) put it—without substantiating them, if I may say so with respect to him.

He has made suggestions on the Floor of this House that loans were given by the Federal Loans Board without the necessary security. I must say that as the Minister of Finance I am responsible for fixing the rate of interest for such loans, seeing to the security that is provided and deciding whether the security is adequate or not. In the same breadth, the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) was advocating that loans must be given to matured businessmen like himself without necessary security. I must say that anybody—

Mr A. Opia (Aboh) : On a point of information, I think that we are matured enough to tell the truth to this House. My allegations are really founded. I have not made unfounded allegations and I would like the Minister of Finance to take me seriously. I would say that he should go and investigate before telling this House that my allegations are unfounded. Furthermore, I never referred to myself as eligible.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : On a point of order, it is the duty of the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) to present his facts to the House if he has any, and the Minister will reply.

Mr Opia : I was interrupted several times when I wanted to let the cat out of the bag.

The Minister of Information : The hon. Member has got no bag where there can be any cat.

Mr Opia : I have the cat in my pocket.

The Minister of Finance : I have no reason to doubt the integrity of the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*), but I want to assure him that I am making a serious statement of fact that, as the Federal Minister of Finance responsible for deciding on the rate of interest

and the security for each loan given by the Board, I can say with all sense of responsibility that I do not know of any single loan that has been given out without the necessary security. If my hon. Friend has a cat which he is unable to let out from the bag, it may well be that that cat will for ever remain there.

Now, he also made a statement which I am sure the Chairman and the House will allow me to say a few words on, and that is the question of the oil companies entering places or lands without consulting the hon. Members or the Chiefs in the area before drilling. I know, as a matter of fact, that Regional Governments are responsible for claiming compensation on behalf of the land owners in case any such compensation is due, and I cannot really see how an oil company can go, after obtaining the prospecting licence to fish for hon. Members in each constituency to get their permission as such. But I do know that all our people are quite willing to co-operate with oil companies when they come for drilling because it is an economic proposition, and I would say that if hon. Members know of any such action then the best thing for them to do is to bring it to the notice of the Minister of Mines and Power.

The final point is that my hon. Friend made a remark which was already resented by the House that there is discrimination in the Shell B.P. camp at Umukoroshe at Port Harcourt. He and the hon. Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) should know Port Harcourt more, but as far as I know there is no discrimination in the service camp of the Shell B.P. There must be a grade for the people who are to be allocated houses if they are working in the Shell B.P. and if someone who is not in that grade wants to get a house, surely, he cannot have it. That is no discrimination. That is just a policy. If there is a company that has no such policy, then it is not a good company.

The second point is that if they have any recreational facilities there made for a certain class of employees, naturally, no matter whether one is a Minister or an hon. Member one cannot impose oneself upon the Shell B.P., and ask to be allowed to use such facilities. If one does that and they are not prepared to allow it, and if that is discrimination, then it is a good practice because the Shell B.P. recreational facilities and clubs are not meant for the gentlemen of Port Harcourt. If the gentlemen in Port Harcourt—

Mr Opia : On a point of information, I think that when I made this point I made it in respect of the members of the staff in the upper segment who are denied those facilities. I am not saying that it is for Port Harcourt people.

The Minister of Finance : If there is discrimination against the Nigerian upper segment employees of the Shell B.P. this is not the place to say it. If they have got a back-bone let them take the matter up with the necessary Authority. Either they have a Trade Union Organisation, or if they have none let them have the guts—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : On a point of information, there is a trade union there but the Nigerians who are in the upper segment feel too proud to join the trade union.

The Minister of Finance : If what the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has said is the truth, that is the more reason why the matter should not be raised here at all. If they can discriminate against the ordinary workers in Nigeria because they ride in cars and they feel that by doing so they will get promotion in Shell B.P., when the thing rebounds on them in their upper segment they should not go to the lower segment to look for assistance or succour. They should be allowed to suffer for discriminating against their own fellow Nigerians.

But all I want to say is that the facilities, as far as we in the Government can see, are there for everybody who is entitled to enjoy them.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, One Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 622—Trade and Industry, be approved.

HEAD 623.—ELECTRICITY

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : I beg to second.

Chief A. Rosiji (Egba East) : I think that we must commend the Government for the projection of the Niger Dam, but I would like to sound a note of warning in respect of this Dam. When a dam of such size is set up there is a tremendous quantity of energy stored up which, if let loose, can do a lot of damage. We know that in some countries, which have not been as lucky as we have been, dams have created a lot of havoc.

When the rainy season is longer than usual, when the rains are heavier than usual ; that is to say when nature has a freak, then the Dam is likely to overflow and do considerable damage to life and property. I am not trying to teach the engineers their work but I hope that they have put in sufficient factors of safety in this matter and that they have built a dam high and large enough to take whatever amount of water accumulates in any year when the quantity of rain is larger than usual.

Now the other thing I want touch upon is that the Niger Dam Project is a very big project and a lot of money is being spent on it—£68,140,000. I think that if this amount of money is being spent there should be enough streamlining in the Electricity Corporation so as to eliminate the spending of small sums of money on the development of electricity projects not using the Niger Dam. We know that we have gas in Afam and in Ughelli and that the Electricity Corporation may want to use these gas deposits for the generation of power. I know also that the Electricity Corporation is ordering turbine engines for the generation of power. It seems to me that there are three sources of generation now—the Niger Dam, ordinary generators and the gas generation. Now if we add all these things together they may be a waste of money. It is necessary that there should be a standby for the supply of electricity, but I think that we must not overdo it by spending money on too many things which may not be necessary.

I beg to support.

M. Maina Waziri (Potiskum) : Electricity is one of the essential materials for the development of any nation, but it seems to me that some big towns are being neglected in Nigeria,

It also seems to me that there are some small towns which are being given electricity at the expense of the big ones.

I want the Minister to be kind enough to go through the list of the towns which are big enough to have this amenity and supply such big towns before the small towns. In this regard the Minister should not leave this matter to the Regional Governments alone when considering the steps to be taken to supply electricity to the various towns. He should look through the towns to see that those which deserve it get it quicker.

I beg to support.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): Everybody knows that the supply of electricity to the rural areas and important towns in the Federation is the only way to speed up the industrialisation of the country, and we are appealing to the Minister of Mines and Power to see to it that important towns and rural areas are supplied with electricity. This would enable the industrialists to establish industries in some of these towns and villages. In fact unless arrangements are made to supply electricity to those towns and villages that are very far away from the big towns, their complaints about the establishment of industries in their various towns will not be met.

Another thing is that in my constituency in Aba Urban, there is a section of this area which is completely cut off because of railway lines; that is Eziuku Quarters. There is no electricity supply and I think the matter rests with the Federal Government. The Aba Urban District Council put up a recommendation through the Regional Government to the Federal Government to see that light is supplied to Eziuku Quarters but each time this request is made we are made to understand that, due to the railway lines, it will not be possible to supply us with electricity. This is the area where we have sufficient land, where industries can be established, but due to the fact that there are no facilities to supply them with electricity there is nothing done practically.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Federal Government to heed the request of the Aba Urban District Council through the Regional Government to see that light is supplied to Eziuku Quarters.

Another thing is the high cost of electricity in the country. Now the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is working very hard. We appreciate what the Corporation is doing, but something must be done to reduce the price of electricity. In Aba township we pay 3d per unit whereas Port Harcourt is paying 1½d per unit. The consumption at Aba is growing tremendously and this is not because we have industries that make use of electricity. I cannot understand why the E.C.N. continues to make large profits while members of the public are made to pay high electricity rates.

Now that Afam gas is in operation I think the Minister should make every effort to reduce the cost of electricity in Aba township.

I beg to support.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East): It is unfortunate that most of the Ministers are not here. I think that it is too much a task one Minister to reply to these questions because it appears that all the Heads of Expenditure will be touched.

I would like to refer very briefly to the question of the Niger Dam Project. When the scheme was launched it was to the joy of every Member of this House and even to the whole people in the country. I want to say that the rate at which we are trying to carry the Project through is rather very slow. If we spend all the money available for the plans and the six years are gone without achieving anything, it will be a very great loss to this country. We are not going to gain anything if, after six years, no work appears to have been done because what we have heard so far is that plans are in hand.

We continue to plan and the first year is already gone. We are now in the second year and perhaps in sixth year it will be plan all the time. So it is really very slow. I think the question of people crying for the supply of electricity from all corners will cease if this Niger Dam project is carried through in a very short time. It will be possible for electricity to be supplied even to other West African countries because it is going to be such a powerful station.

I was disappointed the other day when the Minister of Mines and Power told the House that the Federal Government even gets loan from the Regional Governments in order to

[MR OBI]

supply electricity to places. I was thinking that it should be the Federal Government that should give loans to the Regional Governments in order to be able to supply electricity to various places in the regions. There should be some co-ordination between the Ministry of Mines and Power and the Ministry of Economic Development. If this is not done, it will take some time before our dreams come true as far as the supply of electricity and the establishment of industries in the rural areas are concerned.

I have a case here which I want to cite. Over two years ago some very good quality lime deposits were discovered in Okpila in Afenmai Division. Up till now nothing has been done. I feel that limestone will make for the establishment of a cement industry in Okpila and the people from the North, East and West will get employment there. So, I am appealing to the Government to make sure that something is done about this.

The other section of this Ministry, Geological Survey, I would say, has out-lived its usefulness because people are tired of surveying all parts of the Federation. They even at times hold up traffic. We are tired of that business, Mr Chairman.

I want to emphasise that we can no longer afford to live on fine speeches or promises that the Government is looking into these things and as soon as practicable something will be done. The time has come for us to ask, how soon will it be practicable for the Government to do these things for people in the rural areas: the supply of electricity, the establishment of industry and things like that?

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): I want to reply to a point made by the hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr Obi*) about the Niger Dam. He said nothing is being done about the Niger Dam. The other day I told hon. Members that a Canadian expert has been appointed and that work is in progress on the site now. Construction of road, building of houses, construction of bridges are necessary. If these things are not constructed how do hon. Members expect the machinery to be used on the spot to be located there?

The hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) said that he expressed apprehension about what will happen if we have heavy rain during the year. I would like to assure him that the Government has appointed one of the best experts in the world and with his experience there will be no difficulty when the Dam is constructed.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I would like to reply to one or two points. As I came in the hon. Member for Aba was speaking about the cost of electricity in Aba. I would like to point out that the cost depends on the volume that is consumed in a particular area, so that it is no wonder that in Port Harcourt which has more and bigger industries the cost is lower. The other day for instance, the hon. Member for Owerri North East (*Chief Abii*) complained about the cost of electricity at Owerri where it is even much higher than it is at Aba—5d per unit.

The Minister has informed the Electricity Corporation that they should do their best to make the cost of electricity economic, that is, the price should not be put much higher than is really necessary. All we can do is to encourage more people to use electricity because the more people in any particular locality that use electricity the cheaper it will be.

Now I would like to refer very briefly to what the hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr Obi*) said about the loans by Regional Governments to the Electricity Corporation. I would like to say, first of all, that there are two types of undertakings. We have amenity undertakings and we have commercial undertakings. Commercial undertakings are those which the Corporation itself is anxious to run because they are considered to be commercially viable, that is, they can pay their way. The Regional Governments naturally would like certain areas, semi-rural areas and semi-urban areas to have electricity undertaking. In such cases, as we expect the Electricity Corporation to operate at a profit, the Regional Government that wants installation of electricity in such areas where it is not likely to be commercially viable is required to make money available.

As a matter of fact, years ago the Federal Government itself used to subsidize electricity. I remember in certain areas like Abakaliki we used to be called upon in this House to approve subsidies, but the Corporation is now asking

the Government to do that. It is time they operated their commercial undertakings at their own risk, and then the amenity undertakings in the smaller towns and places with less population can only be provided where the Government of the Region concerned provides the money. Sometimes they have even to give an undertaking to meet the deficit.

As regards the Geological Survey Division of the Ministry I would like hon. Members to realise that their work stops somewhere. When they do the survey and find out what sort of mineral deposits there are and map these out and circulate the information to the various Government Departments and Ministries and the public their duty is done. It is not for them to do the actual exploitation. The Minister himself made this very clear the other day.

I must disagree with the hon. Member for Afenmai (*Mr Obi*) that this Department has out-lived its usefulness. It is a very useful Department and recently hon. Members from various Sides of this House were agitating for the survey to be extended to their areas. This Department is doing its best. That is all I want to say, and I beg to move, that the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

HEAD 624—LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirteen Million, one Hundred and Eighty-Nine Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

It seems to me there is hardly any new thing that hon. Members are saying because hon. Members have discussed the Heads of the Ministries during the Second Reading and in the Committee of Supply. I am, however,

not stopping hon. Members from saying what they want to say but quite frankly we should make some progress.

I beg to move.

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

The Minister of Information : On a point of order, I would like the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) to declare his stand. Is he now in the U.P.P. or still with the A.G. ?

The Minister of Finance : I have the Governor-General's recommendation to move to include the following provision—

Sub-head 158, Bauchi-Gombe-Yola Road, Trunk A.17—£100,000.

The Chairman : Mr Ekanem—

Mr F. U. Ihe (Okigwi North East) : On a point of order, my name is on the Order Paper to move an Amendment.

The Chairman : No hon. Member has filed an Amendment on the Minister's Amendment which is what we are on now.

Mr A. A. Odurinde (Oshogbo North) : In support of the point of order raised by the hon. Minister of Information, may I refer the Chairman to Standing Order 28 (2)—

Members shall not cross the Floor of the House unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member.

The hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) is sitting in another hon. Member's seat.

The Chairman : Will the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) come to his seat please ? Actually no harm is done as long as the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) is not speaking from another Member's seat.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I am not opposing the hon. Minister of Finance's Amendment, rather I agree with him. I merely want to speak on Head 624—Land Transport System.

The Chairman : The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) may go ahead.

Mr Ekanem : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I want first of all to speak on the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road. There was a time a huge sum of money was voted by this Parlia-

(MR EKANEM)

ment and that amount was washed away by rain and another contract was awarded. We are very anxious, those of us who come from the East and who make very long journeys to this place, that by July or August or thereabouts when we come to this House, that that road be made available for our use. It will, of course, affect hon. Members by reduction in mileage allowances, but we accept it. Whether it affects our allowances or not, I think that if this road is opened it will be a credit to the Federal Government. It will also make savings by way of less mileage allowances both to hon. Members from the West, from the East and some from the North. We want to hear a statement in this House from the Minister of Finance about how soon that road will be ready for use.

Another point I want to speak on is the building of bridges. Times without number we have been complaining about some bridges along the Onitsha-Aba-Oron road. Most important of these are, first of all the bridge near Nwaigwe, that is between Odoro-Ikot and Ngwa. That bridge is a death trap. Another bridge is the one between Ukana and Ikot Ekpene. The bridge is very dangerous and many times we have accidents there.

There was a time I saw a team of surveyors surveying it and trying to make it straight, that is to by-pass the dangerous bend there. I do not know now how soon that road will be straightened with a view to improving the approach to the bridge from Aba. This road is very dangerous.

Still on bridges I will also talk on the age long appeal made to this Government about the Uya-Oron bridge. That bridge happens to be one of the worst bridges in the whole of the Eastern Region. It is a very old bridge, built by Engineers of the last century. It is the only road that links Calabar with the mainland up to the Ibo area of the Eastern Region. The bridge there is very narrow; it is very dangerous and many times we have fatal accidents there.

It was promised in this House last year that funds would be made available. It has also been repeated again in this House that the road will be built as soon as possible. This old saying of Government "as soon as possible" should please not find a place in the debates of

this House any more. Any promise by the Government with "as soon as possible" may take a hundred years to materialise. I am urging the Government not to think that this road is going to benefit the people of this area alone. It is going to benefit the whole of the Eastern Region. It is a very important commercial road and, therefore, the approach there should be constructed immediately. That should be the word—*immediately*.

Last year, I spoke about the Western Avenue. This road is not wide enough. It is an approach road to the National Stadium, either from Lagos or from Surulere. The hon. Minister of Works said in 1961 that the road was going to be widened. I came back again last year and repeated the same appeal and the Minister repeated the same reply. This year, still nothing is done to that road, no attempt whatsoever has been made and there are no signs of the road being widened. Hon. Members who are users of that road and the whole population of Lagos will bear me out that of all roads in Lagos it is on that road that we have the highest number of accidents daily. There is no day that there is no accident along Western Avenue. As I said last year the remaining area on the left side from Lagos is as wide as even two other roads. I think that immediate steps should be taken to safeguard the lives of the people there. Not only motorists and pedestrians use the road, the road is also used by herdsmen. When that road is widened efforts should be made to see that cattle are not driven along that road except they are carried by lorries as is done along other roads in Lagos.

Another road I want to talk about is in the North. If one travels from Nsukka to the North, immediately one gets to Oturkpo via Makurdi to Wamba at about a distance of about 93 miles, the road there is indeed very bad. The bridges are built only with pieces of wood from the bush. The Government should see about the replacement of bridges along that road. We want all the bridges along that road to be replaced. After all, we must protect the life of every citizen of this country.

May I digress a bit. In 1961, I said on the Floor of this House that there is a road which I think the Eastern Region Government should take up, though I am sure that the Eastern Regional Government has done a lot.

There was a Motion moved by me and supported by my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) about the road from Umuahia to Itu. During the debate on that Motion, it was amended to begin from Udo to Itu in Enyong Division.

That road had been constructed and it is well tarred, but it by-passes Enyong Division entirely. It only stops at Arochuku and then it bends off.

There is a road which this Government had promised on the Floor of this House to take up, namely, the road from Umuahia to Itu in Enyong Division. It is a road where people from Bende, from Ohafia, from Arochuku, from all areas along the Cross River would use in place of the Cross River, which is now very unnavigable. The Federal Government has very carefully by-passed that road. The construction of the road was stopped at Arochuku, it was bent there and then taken to Afikpo.

I am now forced to ask, why that was done. Is it because that road which I envisaged, on which the Motion on the Floor of this House was approved, passes through a minority area? Is it because of that? If that is the case, for goodness sake, such an attitude should stop forthwith. I repeat again that a Motion was passed on the Floor of this House for the road to be constructed from Udo in Owerri Division, to pass through Umuahia, Bende, Arochuku, Atan and then to Itu. A Motion to this effect was passed in this House. The road has now been constructed, but it has by-passed the area which I envisaged. If that is not discrimination, I want to be told what that is.

An hon. Member : On a point of order, the Standing Orders state that Members should confine themselves to the subject under discussion. There is no provision in the capital Estimates for what the hon. Member is discussing.

The Chairman : Members should confine themselves to the provisions in the Estimates.

Mr Ekanem : I must wander a little. I was trying to collect the materials.

When one goes to Nnewi either from Aba or from Onitsha, there is a bridge on that road before one gets to Ozubulu.

Mr Yacim : On a point of order, what the old man is telling us is what other Members have been saying in this House.

The Chairman : Order ! I am putting the question on the Amendment and the speech so far made by the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has no relation to the Amendment. I thought that it would be wiser to dispose of the Amendment and then speak on the Head in general.

Question, That Sub-head 158—Bauchi-Gombe -Yola Road (Trunk A (17), £100,000 be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Mr Ekanem : I do not want to go too far. All I want to say is this. I want to repeat on the Floor of this House that old age is a blessing to him that attains it. If I am old as people think I am, then I am talking with experience and, according to African tradition, I should be given more attention.

There is a bridge, as I was saying, along the Onitsha-Aba road between Nnewi and Ozubulu. No one can call that a bridge and yet it is on the Trunk A road. It is the only bridge from Onitsha to Aba which is very bad; other bridges are very good. I am drawing the attention of the Government to that bridge. It is not a very long bridge and it will not cost very much to rebuild. I want any amount which is going to be approved now to be used in replacing that bridge. Now, may I then—

The Minister of Finance : It is enough now?

Mr Ekanem : I was voted into this House to speak and I have thirty minutes to do so. (*Interruptions*). I know my hon. Friends are anxious to speak. They want me to close my speech so that they can speak. I would once again ask that immediate attention be given to (a) West Avenue road; (b) Uyo-Oron bridge; (c) all bridges on the road between Oturkpo and Jos; and (d) the bridge between Nnewi and Ozubulu.

I beg to support.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) : I shall be very brief because others are anxious to speak. I just want to repeat the very appeal I have been making in this House to the Minister of Transport about this question of the Niger bridge. It has been known so far that there is no provision for a railway track on the bridge. I

[MR MORDI]

consider this a very serious omission. If we are spending as much as £5 million to construct a bridge, I think it is very reasonable for the Government to think of allowing a railway track to pass through the bridge at the same time that the bridge is being constructed.

I do not think it is yet too late to carry out this modification. At the moment, only the pillars are coming up and I am sure that even now this very provision can still be made. I want to say that if it is going to mean increasing the cost of building this bridge, I am sure that this House will gladly approve of such an increase. I think it is going to cost this Government a bit more if this omission is allowed to remain and in 10 or 15 years hence we begin to think of constructing another bridge which will have a railway track on it. I think we can do it once and for all. I hope the Minister of Works and Surveys will take these points seriously.

I notice also that under sub-head 1 of this particular Head 624 a huge amount of £4,500,000 provision is being made for the Nigerian Railway Corporation. It is my view that as this Government is spending so much money for this Railway Corporation, it is necessary and it will be reasonable for us at the same time to ensure that enough safeguard is being made so that this money could be got back, at least, to make it possible for the Railway Corporation to run at a reasonable profit. I want to say that there is a very, very keen competition against the Railway Corporation at the moment by a chain of motor trucks between the North and the South. I think this is a very serious thing to be taken into consideration by the Government.

One might say that it is the effect of private enterprise and that by our Constitution people are free to carry out their own private enterprise. That is everyone's fundamental human right, it is true, but I think that where the interest of the majority clashes with the interest of a few people, the interest of the majority should override. So, I feel that all those who are concerned with this particular special competition with the railway transport should be advised to look for other avenues where their entrepreneurial ability can be given vent to.

I think that this is very serious because after all we should think of the majority of people in this country whose taxes are being used to give such a heavy loan (£4,500,000) to the Railway Corporation. Railway transport should not be allowed to collapse just because a few people want to become fairly rich. This then will be very notorious of the country as a whole.

The other point I want to mention is that at the moment we have a Trunk A road in the East connecting the South and the North, going through Nsukka, Oturkpo and Makurdi onwards. I think that we require a similar road in the West which will run, at least, parallel to the river. Now there is a road which has been surveyed already and it has been known to be shorter than any other distance from the South to the North in the Western side of this country. It is the road that is supposed to start from Asaba through Ubiaja. It is a very, very short road. It is less than 30 miles from Asaba to Ubiaja. Rather going round all the way from Asaba to Agbor where you have to do about 45 miles and then from Agbor to Ubiaja where you have to do again another 45 miles, that is making altogether 90 miles, there is a short cut between Asaba and Ubiaja and, in fact, that can go on straight to Okenne and Lokoja. One has to do a distance of less than 100 miles from Ikenne and Lokoja whereas if one has to go through Asaba, Benin, Owo, Lokoja road, one will have to do about 275 miles. I think that this has to be considered very seriously.

Finally, there is the question of bridges. There is a particular bridge on the Asaba-Lagos road which I consider to be very, very bad. It is the first bridge after Ilesha. I do not know how hon. Members feel when they come to that place. It is just at the neck of the curve and it is so dangerous that if two cars are coming in opposite directions and happen to meet there, no death trap could be more dangerous than that. I have to ask that either a diversion be made or that that portion of the road be straightened out a bit or that the bridge be made much wider than it is at the moment. It is a very bad bridge as it is at the moment.

Finally, I said—

Several hon. Members : How many times will you say "finally" ?

Mr Mordi : I said the other time that the bridge at the Asaba-Lagos Road between Agbor and Benin is very bad. There is no week, so far as I know, that there has not been an accident in that section of the road. Again, I want the Minister to consider very seriously the question of reconstructing that portion of the road, straightening it, thereby reducing the number of deaths on the road.

I beg to support.

Shettima Ali Monguno : Preaching and practising brevity, I would like to say just a word on sub-head 159—Beni Sheik-Maiduguri Road, Trunk Road A21.

The Minister of Works and Surveys last year drew my attention in his Ministerial Statement on the Floor of this House to the appropriation of half a million pounds for the reconstruction of this road. But this year we have for it only a hundred thousand pounds. I am not, in fact, asking for an explanation for the reduction in the amount, but we would like to appeal to the Minister to give this work a priority.

I beg to support it.

Mr T. I. Etukudo (Eket West) : It is unfortunate that some time ago this Ministry conducted a country-wide hydrological survey of all the Rivers with the exception of the Qua Iboe river in Eket. This river empties itself in the Atlantic Ocean at Ibuno and it is just about 5 miles from Eket to the sea. I should like the Minister to make a statement as to why it was not surveyed and when it will be surveyed.

It is the intention of the Federal Government to establish a second port in the Eastern Region, some time in the near future. The survey was to determine where this will be possible economically and geographically. I should like to advise the Minister that perhaps he might think of Eket as being unimportant but that something good may come out of Nazareth. The survey of this river could give a surprise, so, I very much call upon the Minister to make some arrangements to survey it.

The second point is the water ferry between Calabar and Oron. A Motion was some time ago brought to the Floor of this House calling

upon the Government to take over this particular ferry. It appears we give too much room to some of these foreign companies. The Elder Dempster has been making a lot of money in this regard. If one goes to Oron sometime in December, one will see how many cars find their way to Calabar and how much the company has actually been making. At this time when this Government wants money for development, I think that all its resources should be arrested. So, I should appeal to the Minister to think as well of taking over this ferry.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : I think that hon. Members will appreciate that the Minister of Works and Surveys is not present in the House. All I can say is that if the points that have been made by hon. Members are such that should be looked into, he will get the *Hansard* and look into them. I do not think that there is any point in belabouring issues which have been raised once on the Floor of this House during this meeting.

In answer to the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) who has now left the Chamber the fact that a Motion is passed on the Floor of this House to construct a road from one place to the other does not mean that the surveyors are going to take the track set out in the Motion even if it is not economical or if it is not possible to put it through the same place. Surely, no Minister or official is interested in knowing whether a road is to pass through a minority area or not.

The Federal Government is not a sectional Government and we are not interested in building roads through the majority areas. The country is one, it belongs to all of us and if the Federal Government is going to make any economic proposition or build roads it will build it for Nigeria and not for a section of Nigeria. I therefore move that the question be now put.

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Main question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Thirteen Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Nine Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 624—Land Transport System, be approved.

HEAD 625—WATER TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, One Hundred and Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, Head 625—Water Transport System, be approved.

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

The Chairman : Mr H. O. Chuku—

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : On a point of order, as far as the Order Paper is concerned, I am the only one who has moved anything to reduce the Head.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : On a point of order, the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*) alone has sent in over 256 Amendments. The Parliament is not his own alone.

Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende Central) : I only want to bring to the notice of the Minister of Transport the condition of Asaba and Onitsha water ways. The Minister is aware that this is a very important water way and I would like the Minister to consider the possibility of having traffic moving on Onitsha-Asaba road throughout the night. I say this because a lot of money has already been set aside for the bridging of the Niger. If this is done and transport is made to run the Onitsha-Asaba road day and night, this will bring a lot of revenue to this country.

There should be no question of this not being possible because the distance is very short and we have so many lorries travelling from Lagos to the Eastern Region which remain at Asaba or Onitsha for days if not for weeks. If this is done the number of people now working in that area will be increased and the Minister will realise a lot of revenue for the country. I do not think that there is anything that can make it impossible if the Minister wants to do it.

Another point is the point made by an hon Member during the debate on Head 624 that a road should be constructed to run from Umuahia to Arochuku and to connect Calabar.

There is another river in Ikot Okoro which is about one pole wide and I would like the Minister to consider the possibility of bridging that river so as to make it an easy passage for the people in the area. This will also help to facilitate the work of the police whom we understand the Federal Government has sent there now to chase smugglers on the road.

I said some time ago that this road should be handed over to the Federal Government so as to make it a Trunk A road. I have also said that the Federal Government should not reap where it does not sow. If this road is of any use to the Federal Government it must be taken over immediately from the Eastern Regional Government.

I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South) : Whilst speaking on this Head 625, I have to bring it to the notice of the Minister of Transport that it is most regrettable that little or no importance is attached to water transport system in almost all the parts of the Western Region, particularly, in Okitipupa Division. The House will agree with me that the Governor-General is now on a tour of parts of the Western Region and most of his journey is to be taken by land route, and in addition—

The Chairman : Order ! Standing order 26 (8) states that the Governor-General's name should not be used to lay stress on any argument.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of explanation, is it not good for an Oba of Chief Oladiran's calibre to be at home now to receive the Governor-General ?

Oba Oladiran : I want to develop my argument. The importance of water transport system in most parts of Western Nigeria cannot over-stressed. We all know that people travelling from Lagos to Warri or Sapele pass through Okitipupa before reaching Sapele in Omimi Ejo's constituency. Too much attention is being paid to that marshy area, Koko, while Okitipupa, which is a dry land, has not been given any attention. Why ?

It is high time the Minister of Transport should erect a modern store and a jetty in Igekebo. Sometime last year I made this request and the Minister doubted my statement that it is the responsibility of the Federal

Government to provide these things and since then only minor repairs have been made to the wharf. I have to inform the Minister that I am now informed that this is the Federal Government's responsibility and the Federal Government should see to it that these things are provided.

Furthermore, I would like a shelter to be built at the wharf for the people travelling who are waiting for transport.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Transport : I would like to assure the hon. Member for Bende Central (*Mr Chuku*) that my Ministry is doing its best to improve the ferry service between Asaba and Onitsha. We hope that very soon another ferry will be available there. At one time, I think it was last year, we tried night crossings but I do not think they were very successful. As he has mentioned it again I will look into the matter and see whether we can do something about it.

He mentioned a certain bridge in Eastern Nigeria which he wants built across a road which is a Regional road. I would like to explain that bridges over rivers or streams along regional roads are not Federal responsibilities. Even where there is a ferry service run by the Inland Waterways Department we do it on an agency basis for the Regional Governments because they have not got the staff to provide such services. So that is a matter which should be taken up in the Eastern Region legislature.

I would like to refer briefly to what Oba Oladiran said about Okitipupa area. I would like to say that as far as Inland Waterways activities are concerned, the people of Okitipupa should not complain. As a matter of fact, they are having more than their due share of the activities of this Department because they have got so many creeks in that area. The officials of this Department are busy clearing the snags along the waterways but they can only operate on Federal waterways. There are so many waterways in that area and I have discussed it with my colleague the Minister of Communications several times and with the Oba himself. We can only look after those which are our responsibility, we cannot afford to go beyond that.

As far as Koko is concerned, Koko is a sea port and should not be confused with smaller places like Okitipupa which may be river ports, and Koko has been approved by this Government as a Federal port and it is now being developed into a first class port, and I think it is being developed just in time before the creation of the Mid-West State.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, one Hundred and Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 625—Water Transport System, be approved.

HEAD 626—AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Sixty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

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

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : The only thing I want to talk about is one item relating to Sub-head 209—electrical equipment for Lagos Airport. The Estimate here is £109,100. All I want to say is that those concerned, the Ministry that is going to erect or that is going to buy this equipment, should utilise this money in the best way. We do not want scrapped equipment or second-hand equipment which is useless in other places. The people buying these equipment, the people concerned should go to places like Germany, Italy, America and other countries to buy us the best equipment in the market. We must not say that because the British trained us therefore we must continue to buy their scrapped equipment, things that are no longer useful in their country.

That is the note of warning I want to sound.

I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : I just want to alert the Committee on one thing which I feel is a national issue and that is the fact that the Nigeria Airways trained some Nigerian

[MR IFEZUE]

boys overseas at a cost of about £5,000 each and when these boys came home they were only allowed to be what they call "Observation Pilots". I want the Minister to investigate this. We take pleasure and pride in having our boys flying these aircraft.

I travelled in a Fokker Friendship to Ghana and I thought a Nigerian would fly me but I did not find such a thing. I think it is an important thing which the Minister himself should investigate.

Another thing is that air transport fares are very high in this country and that is why many people do not travel by air. This thing should be reduced. If we give loans to the Airways we should make sure that the interest is very low so as to allow the Airways to reduce transport fares.

We have also heard so much talk about Onitsha Airport and I thought that by this time it should be in use. I just want the Minister to quicken the work there so that we from the East can use that air strip.

I support.

The Minister of Transport : I would like to refer to what the hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) said. I want to assure him that we are going to buy the equipment from the best market. We do not tie ourselves to any particular market.

As regards our pilots, I am quite sure hon. Members will agree that their job is very specialised and that only fully qualified people, whether Nigerians or expatriates, should be used. What we normally do is this. When the pilots, Nigerians or expatriates, qualify, if there is a new aircraft to be introduced every one of them, starting from the Staff Pilot, the most senior pilot, will have to undergo what they call a "familiarisation course". In other words, they go in to the place at which the aircraft was bought and make themselves familiar with the instrument in that particular plane before they are allowed to fly it and that is exactly what we are doing.

One of the Nigerian Captains has gone through this course and the other one is doing it now. When they have familiarised themselves, then they will be given the opportunity to fly it.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Sixty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 626—Air Transport System, be approved.

HEAD 627.—COMMUNICATIONS

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Ten Thousand and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 627—Communications, be approved.

The Minister of Transport : I beg to second.

Mr D. K. Aihonsu (Egbado North) : Thank you Mr Chairman, I begin to doubt the integrity of the people who give us figures about the amount of business transacted in each of our Postal Agencies in this country because each time we ask for the amount of business transacted by these Postal Agencies we are given figures that do not exist. Here one finds conversion of Postal Agencies into Sub-Post Offices—(*Interruptions*).

I want all hon. Members in this House to sympathise with me because the Federal Government does not seem to think that my constituency is a part of Nigeria. I say this because in the whole of my constituency (I have been saying it on the Floor of this House), there is not a single Post Office, and that is the only amenity this Federal Government can provide in my constituency.

We have roads maintained by the Regional Government, we have water supply also given to us by the Regional Government, but when we come to the question of Postal Agencies, these people begin to tell us that the amount of business transacted is not enough. I want the Federal Government to think about this very seriously. There is no point for anybody to be discriminated against.

Chief Odulana : I do not want the hon. Gentleman to mislead this House that the Federal Government is discriminating. In his constituency there are two Ministers in the Western Regional Government. What have they done for him ?

Mr Aihonsu : It is unfortunate that my hon. Friend the Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) does not know the duties of Regional Governments. It is not the duty of the Western Regional Government to provide the people of Egbado North with Post Offices. When we come to the question of provision of new post offices we have a very big amount provided there about £130,000. Out of this money I am sure not a single farthing will come to Egbado Division.

I am appealing to the Federal Government to come to our aid and see that a post office is built for the people of Egbado North. The people of Egbado North do not know that the Federal Government exists at all because the Federal Government has not provided any amenity for the people of that area.

Shettima Ali Monguno : Just a word on Sub-head 125. May I take this opportunity to appeal to the Minister concerned for the expansion of the post office at Maiduguri and also to explore the possibility of building a new one there in view of the progress so far made on the Bornu Railway Extension and in view also of the increase in the population of the town of Maiduguri.

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.

Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Ten Thousand and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 627—Communications, be approved.

And being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Committee Report Progress—to sit again on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn. (THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT).

RADIO NIGERIA COMMERCIAL SERVICE

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : The point I wish to raise on the Motion for Adjournment is in respect of the Commercial Service of Radio Nigeria. May I know from the Minister of Information whether the Commercial Service of Radio Nigeria is a profitable venture? If so, will the hon. Minister tell Parliament how much money had been collected from advertisers in respect of goods advertised by the Commercial Service of Radio Nigeria, since its inception till 31st December, 1962?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun) : In reply to the first part of the question, the answer is yes. The organisation of the Commercial Service of Radio Nigeria is most successful and is definitely a profitable venture.

With regard to the second part of the question, the total revenue collected since its inception in November 1960 is £143,493, made up as follows:—

November 1960-March 1961	£21,604
April 1961-March 1962 ..	£61,522
April 1962-December 1962	£60,367

LAWS OF NIGERIA

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : I wish to raise this matter on Adjournment for the Minister of Justice to answer. I think we should consider seriously three categories of people in connection with this matter. First of all the Legislators.

The Legislators as law makers should know the law that they make. The second set of people are the leaders of the community who should also have within their reach the laws of the land so as to advise when necessary the less fortunate who do not have these laws at their disposal. Lastly, the people whose profession deals with the law, the Lawyers.

On behalf of these three categories of people I wish to appeal to the Minister of Justice to consider the advisability of reducing the price of the Laws of Nigeria even though it may not be a profit making venture because I feel that the possession of these laws will go a long way towards making the people more law abiding.

[MR AMADI]

Another point for which I would like to have an answer which is also related to the law is the case of the unfortunate people who lose their parents particularly their fathers intestate. It is common experience that very soon young boys and girls in schools have got to be turned out of school for lack of fees even though their father saved some money but deposited the money fortunately or unfortunately in the Post Office Savings Bank with the result that, because of the length of time of checking by the Administrator-General before releasing the money, such unfortunate people suffer for no fault of their own for what is supposed to be the wisdom of their fathers. I would like the Minister to make a statement on these two points.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice: It is true that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice made a promise on the Floor of this House that as soon as possible Laws of Nigeria will be supplied to hon. Members, but since then, we have discovered that there are so many changes and Amendments in various sets of the Laws of Nigeria that we consider it no longer prudent to supply hon. Members with Laws which are not up to date. So, we have made arrangements to serialise most of these laws, get them documented and we shall pass them on to hon. Members when they are ready. At the moment, I do not hold the view that it may be possible for us to give them out free of charge or to reduce the fees, but we shall do our best.

Mr F. C. Akwivu: On a point of order, would the Minister not give us what he has because amendments are never completed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice: I think it will be more appropriate to let Members know that it is going to take a very short time to be ready. I do not think it is good if we give it to-day and next month we find that almost all the provisions are obsolete. I will pass this information on to the hon. the Attorney-General.

The other point is the question of the administration of estates. As a matter of fact, members of the public are not aware of the difficulties we have in the administration of estates. In many cases, there used to be legal problems to solve about the children of deceased persons trying to fight over estates, this one saying he is the legal son of the parent and so on and so forth. The problem is always so great that it is impossible for the Administrator to get things done.

We have, however, made some provisions to make it possible for next-of-kins to be considered and I do hope that this matter will be fully considered in future.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): It does not seem that the Minister of Justice wants to circulate these laws to hon. Members. The report of the Coker Commission of Inquiry appointed by this Parliament has been published. The Minister of Justice is having some copies, but hon. Members have not any. I wonder if this Ministry is willing to give Members copies of this report appointed by this Parliament. We are entitled to copies of all reports made by Commissions of Inquiry which we have appointed in this House without our having to plead or ask for them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice: The question of Coker Commission is not the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

The Minister of Information: I would like to know when this House will consider the possibility of conferring an honorary degree of doctor of laws on my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice, in view of the fact that he is doing excellent job of work.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at six minutes to twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 29th April, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Proposal for Republic of Nigeria

The Prime Minister : I have given an undertaking to make a statement during the present sitting of Parliament on the subject of constitutional changes leading to a republican form of government in this country. I am, therefore, very glad to take this opportunity to make a statement on this very important issue. (*Hear, hear*).

In fashioning the present Constitution which came into effect on the 1st of October, 1960, the leaders of this country decided of their own volition to maintain the formal link with the Queen as Head of State. This position, it will be generally agreed, was useful in the early stages of independence and was regarded as an interim arrangement. As evidenced from the views widely expressed in this country, it is the wish of this Parliament and of the people of Nigeria that the time has come for a review of the present position in order to reflect more realistically the independence and the sovereignty of Nigeria.

I am, therefore, glad to inform this honourable House that, after consulting the Regional Governments, the Federal Government has decided to take the necessary steps in bringing about the desired changes in the Constitution to make Nigeria a Republic by October 1963. (*Applause*). Accordingly, His Excellency the Governor-General has communicated this wish of the Government and people of Nigeria to Her Majesty the Queen. At the same time, I have also informed all Heads of Governments in the Commonwealth of this decision in accordance with the usual practice within the Commonwealth.

In taking this step, our present constitutional position with the Queen will be affected. We do not intend to sever our relationship with the Commonwealth or to abandon our membership of that Free Association of Sovereign States. It is our intention to continue as a full member

of the Commonwealth and, in common with all other countries in this unique institution, to accept the Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth. We have also communicated this intention to all other Governments of the Commonwealth and I am glad to report that our proposals in this respect have met with favourable response from all quarters. (*Hear, hear*).

Hon. Members will have ample opportunity to debate whatever proposed changes we have for the republican form of government which we hope to have. The Federal Government intends to produce a White Paper to be debated not only in the Federal Parliament but also in all the Regional Legislatures. The White Paper will also form the basis of the constitutional framework. (*Applause*).

Parliamentary Delegations

The Minister of Finance : On the 2nd of April, this House formally resolved—

That in order to bring mutual understanding and co-operation with other nations, this House urges the Government to send Parliamentary delegations to Commonwealth and other countries in Asia, America and Europe.

Quite apart from the delegation which will visit Malaya in October under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I am authorised by the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister to inform Parliament that the Government intends to arrange for Parliamentary delegations to visit other countries later this year. Such arrangements cannot be made overnight but it is Government's intention to put this in hand at once so that arrangements may be concluded during the next meeting of Parliament.

To this end, I trust that Party Whips will discuss this matter with the Clerk of the Parliaments before they leave Lagos tomorrow.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRANSPORT

New Railway

O.416 Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Transport, whether he will consider advising the Railway Corporation to construct a suburban railway line from Ibadan to Ilorin to link the ancient and populous towns of Fiditi, Oyo, to serve the people of Awe, Ilora, Iseyin, Shaki, etc., and Ogbomosho—to subserve the people of Ikoyi Oko, Ejigbo, etc.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation (Mr F. E. Offor): Necessary investigations have been made by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and it has been found that the line envisaged would not be a paying concern.

Proposed Onitsha Aerodrome

O.735. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Transport, if in view of land acquisition problems, he will consider the establishment of the proposed Onitsha aerodrome at Abagana where suitable site can be freely granted by the local community.

Mr F. E. Offor : No Sir. The present site is considered the most suitable but if circumstances finally dictate the selection of another site other neighbouring areas will be considered but I regret to say that Abagana is too far away from Onitsha to warrant serious consideration for this project.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : Is the Minister aware of the fact that Ikeja is as far away from Lagos as Abagana is from Onitsha ?

Enugu-Onitsha Railway

O.736. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Transport why proposals for an Enugu-Onitsha railway was not included in the Six-Year Development Plan and if he will make a statement.

Mr Offor : A traffic and engineering survey invariably precedes any proposal to construct a railway. No such survey has yet been done in respect of the Enugu-Onitsha route and it was, therefore, not included in the Six-Year Development Plan.

Airport Land Rentals

O.737. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Transport what annual rate of rental is payable per acre for all lands acquired by the Government for airports throughout the Federation and if the same rate is paid for each area thus acquired.

Mr Offor : Airports and aerodromes are built on land acquired by the Federal Government for which no annual rental is payable. Compensation is paid to the owner of the land

at the time of acquisition at rates which vary according to the position and economic value of the land.

Oil Refinery Railway

***O.738. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** asked the Minister of Transport, what has become of the proposed railway line from Elelenwa to the oil refinery area.

Mr Offor : The Nigerian Railway Corporation has already surveyed the proposed line and has submitted its findings to the BP-Shell Petroleum Refinery Company. The decision to build the Railway line depends on advice from the Refinery that such a line is necessary.

Apapa Wharf Extension

O.739. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport, if he will make necessary arrangements to ensure that the proposed Apapa Wharf extension will not interfere with the rights of fishermen who at present make regular use of the lagoon in their small craft and canoes on their way to Badagry.

Mr Offor : The answer to this Question is not yet ready.

Shipping Line Staff

O.740. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Transport, if he will state what is the number of Nigerian and Expatriate officers respectively employed by the National Shipping Line.

Mr Offor : There are 47 Nigerian and 150 Expatriate officers at present employed by the Nigerian National Line. Of these, 9 Nigerians and 2 Expatriates are employed in Nigeria while 38 Nigerians and 148 Expatriates are employed abroad on the Company's ships and ashore.

Mr Ogbalu : Will the Minister explain why there is discrimination against Africans from other African countries in employment in the Shipping Line, bearing in mind that there are some Nigerians employed by the Black Star Line. Evidence can be led to show that some people have been discriminated against.

Mr Offor : There is nothing like discrimination in the Nigerian Shipping Line.

Further Railway Extension

O.750. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Transport, if he will advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to consider the desirability of extending the railway line from Aba or Umuahia to Oron via Ikot-Ekpene to cope with the growing trade in this area.

Mr Offor : Engineering and Traffic Surveys show that the extension sought by the hon. Member is not economically justified. Road transport is presently capable of moving all produce in this area to Port Harcourt.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS**Deported Aliens**

O.417. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many aliens have been deported from the country since Independence.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : Three aliens have been deported from Nigeria since Independence.

Enugu Warders' Quarters

O.596. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will improve the prison warders' quarters in Enugu as they are now dilapidated.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to Question No. O.557 as that answer covers this Question also.

Deported Persons

O.598. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many persons have been deported from Nigeria since 1st October, 1960 and whether he will make a statement giving the reasons which led to these deportations and the countries to which they were deported to.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : Eight persons have been deported from Nigeria since the 1st October, 1960.

Their particulars are as follows :—

1. **GHAZI JAMMAL**.—Lebanese national—Convicted on two counts of stealing—Deported to Beirut on 10th February, 1961.

2. **CHRISTIAN KENNEY**.—Ghanaian National—4 criminal Convictions in Nigeria—Deported to Ghana May 1961.

3. **JOHN ABBODU**.—Lebanese National—At present serving sentence for cheating Board of Customs. Deportation order issued.

4. **DENNIS SUGAR**.—Ethiopian National—deported to Ethiopia (Abyssinia) Undesirable character.

5. **ANNERTY ABBEY**.—Ghanaian National—Deported to Ghana following conviction for Immigration offences.

6. **FAKI BURMA**.—Camerounian—Deported to Camerouns in 1961—Undesirable character.

7. **KACHALLA ABU HAWA**.—Camerounian—Deported to Camerouns in 1961—Undesirable character.

8. **GARBA CARPENTER**.—Native of Chad Republic. Deported to Chad in 1961—Undesirable character.

Afikpo Prisons Staff

O.600. Mr N. Enwo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, why the Prison Authority allows its staff in Afikpo Division to be housed in private houses.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : A total of 71 warders lived in private quarters at Afikpo at various times from 1952-62 at a total cost of £1,448-8s-5d to Government in respect of lodging allowances. There are 18 warders living in private quarters at present.

O.601. Mr N. Enwo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will state the number of prison warders who had to live in private houses from 1952 to 1962 in Afikpo ; how much did it cost the Government by way of rents, and how many warders still live in private houses.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : A total of 71 warders lived in private quarters at Afikpo at various times from 1952 to 1962 at a total cost of £1,448-8s-5d to Government in respect of lodging allowances. There are 18 warders living in private quarters at present.

O.743. Mr N. Enwo asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether prison warders and their families at Afikpo Divisional Prison get free medical treatment like other Government officials.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : The warders pay hospital bills but by arrangement

the amounts are later refunded to them by the Ministry of Health, Enugu, which, in due course, debits the Federal Government.

Obubra Prisons Quarters

O.752. Mr U. U. Eko asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he has any plans for the improvement of the prison quarters at Obubra.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : Yes, Sir. There are plans for improvements to both prison and prison staff quarters at Obubra, from funds available under the Economic Programme.

Calabar Province Prison Population

O.754. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many male and female prisoners are in each of the following prisons: Ikot Ekpene, Abak, Uyo, Eket and Calabar.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : As at Thursday 11th April, 1963, the number of prisoners in each of the stations is as follows:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Ikot Ekpene ..	548	45
Uyo	563	43
Abak	170	—
Eket	69	6
Calabar	649	17

Ikot Ekpene Prison

O.755. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he will consider the desirability of expanding and improving the Ikot Ekpene prison to match the status of that town as the Headquarters of Annang Province.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : There is no room for further expansion of the prison. The barbed wire security fence has recently been replaced by perimeter walls. Improvements are being effected to all the Federal Prisons according to funds made available under the Economic Programme.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Trade Fair

O.658. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state what success has been achieved as a result of the International Trade Fair held in Lagos last year.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed) : The achievements of an International Trade Fair are of a long term nature and any attempt to evaluate them over a short period at best must be unsatisfactory. Even so it is generally agreed that Nigeria emerged from her first International Trade Fair better known and her Six-Year Development Plan better understood, by the most important developed countries of the world. Forty-one foreign Governments participated in it.

Since the conclusion of the Fair, my Ministry has received, and it is hoped will continue to receive, serious enquiries on investment and other possibilities that may ultimately lead to the expansion of Nigeria's trade and industry.

Trade Agreement with U.S.S.R.

O.659. Mr I. A. Brown asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will make a statement on the trade agreement signed between Nigeria and the Soviet Union.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : The trade agreement with the Soviet Union has only been initialled. It still has to be signed and ratified before it comes into effect.

However, the Minister can at this stage inform the House as he has done on previous occasions that the agreement provides for most favoured nation treatment in matters relating to trade and navigation, and also provides a framework for the expansion of trade between both countries. The agreement is expected to be signed later in the year.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : Is the "most favoured nation" clause in consonance with non-alignment?

Proposed Industries

O.603. Mr V. A. Nwaleji asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has for establishing industries during the development period and where will these industries be sited.

Alhaji Usman A Ahmed : I refer the hon. Member to columns 772/3 of the Official Report for Monday, 8th April where he will find my Minister's statement on the efforts being made to set up a number of industries categorised as being of major economic

mportance to the country. It is hoped that all the industries mentioned there will be established during the current development period.

In deciding the location of those industries, or others that may be established in future, the Minister will be guided by recommendations of the experts commissioned to undertake feasibility studies of each of the industries.

Mr Nwalieji : How does the Minister know where these industries will be sited without a comprehensive survey of the country ?

Yam Processing

O.604 Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has for establishing a yam processing factory which will enable the majority of the citizens of the country enjoy more valuable yam food.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : The Ministry has no plans for the establishment of a yam processing factory, but laboratory-scale investigations are being undertaken into the production of dried yam powder. The West African Stores Products Research Unit is also undertaking investigations into more efficient methods of storing yams.

Chocolate Industry

O.605. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what plans he has for the establishment of a chocolate industry in Nigeria.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : The Ministry has no plan for the establishment of a chocolate industry but it is known that the Western Nigeria Government have given considerable thought to the establishment of such an industry.

Other Industries

O.607. Mr J. O. Olaore asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industries were specifically initiated by the Federal Government since the launching of the Six-Year Development Programme ; where are they located and how many Nigerians are employed in each industry.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : None, Sir. As the Minister has said on many occasions this session, the Federal Government commissions feasibility studies for the establishment of industries. In this respect, great emphasis has been placed on the major projects, *e.g.*, iron and steel and fertilizer, of the Development Plan. The results of these studies will be made available to interested industrialists and agencies.

Trade Relations with the East

O.745. Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what countries in the Eastern Bloc have direct trade relations with Nigeria and in what commodities.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : Nigeria has direct trade relations with the following countries in the Eastern bloc :—Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, U.S.S.R., and Bulgaria.

Nigeria's main imports from these countries are Cotton Fabrics, Salt, Sugar, Cement, Blankets and Rugs, Household Utensils, and other manufactured goods ; exports to them consist in the main of Groundnuts, Rubber, Palm Kernels, Groundnut Oil, Raw Cocoa beans and Palm Oil.

Company Registration Office

***O.746. Mr T. I. Etukudo** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will establish a branch at Uyo of that section of his Ministry, which deals with the registration of new companies, in view of the fact that people setting up small industries have to travel to Port Harcourt and also to obtain registration.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : The Ministry has in Eastern Nigeria branch Offices at Port Harcourt, Aba, Onitsha and Calabar. The Member, the Minister hopes, is not suggesting that there should be a branch office of his Ministry in every town in Nigeria. He wishes to recall that at one time his Ministry had in Eastern Nigeria only one office—at Port Harcourt. When circumstances justified it, offices were opened in Aba, Onitsha and Calabar. This trend will continue in the future.

Iron and Steel Industry

O.756. Mr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, when the proposed Iron and Steel Industry will be established.

O.757. Mr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry where the £30 million Iron and Steel Industry will be sited.

O.780. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will make a statement on the siting of the proposed Iron Mill.

Alhaji Usman A. Ahmed : With your permission, Sir, I intend to take Questions O.756, O.757 and O.780 together. As the voluminous series of reports submitted by consultants are still being studied by the Government, it is difficult to make any statement now on when and where the proposed Iron and Steel Industry will be established.

ALLEGATION REGARDING PORTS AUTHORITY AND SHIPPING LINE

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : On the 8th of April, in the course of the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, the Member for Uyo South-West (*Mr Brown*) created quite a stir on the Floor of this House by alleging some fantastic transaction between the Nigerian National Shipping Line and the Nigerian Ports Authority in relation to a Rolls Royce car.

The hon. Member said that an official of the Nigerian National Line bought a Rolls Royce car which became unuseable after four years, that the official then sent the car on board a Nigerian National Line ship to London for repairs asking for it to be sold there. But on finding that this reconditioned Rolls Royce car could only fetch £300 in London, he demanded its reshipment to Nigeria, and then sold it to the Nigerian Ports Authority for £3,000. After three months' use by the Nigerian Ports Authority, the car became unuseable and went off the road, and—according to the hon. Member—the car was recently disposed of for only £50.

Sir, this is a story which, as the Minister responsible for the Ports Authority and the Line, I promised to investigate fully and since, if it were true, it would have portrayed irresponsibility of the greatest order. Accordingly, a

thorough inquiry into this allegation was ordered by me, and it is with very great relief that I now report to the House that I have found the hon. Member's story absolutely false and without any foundation.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : In the first place, no official of the Nigerian National Line has ever bought a Rolls Royce car and so, the story about the National Line and the car is untrue. In the second place, the Nigerian Ports Authority has never purchased a Rolls Royce car or any other car, new or second-hand, from any official of the Nigerian National Line, or even from any private person.

So, my answer is that this entire story, I am afraid, is a fabrication of the worst kind. May I therefore, seize this opportunity to appeal to the Member for Uyo South-West, to check his allegations before bringing them to the Floor of this House.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : He should apologise to this House for telling us lies.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation : Sir, we consider Members' statements on the Floor of this House as very important and they are meant to carry some weight. But this statement can only be based on facts and facts can always be ascertained in the various Ministries. I am prepared to discuss any matters concerning my Ministry with any hon. Member at any convenient time and I would appeal that such a discussion should be held before any statements like this are made.

I have discharged my obligations of investigating this allegation, and reporting to the House. The Member for Uyo South-West (*Mr Brown*) will, I hope, discharge his own obligation after hearing me, namely, to withdraw his statement and to apologise to this House.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : I must regret that the—

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, I think it is high time we revoked the Member for Uyo South West's parliamentary immunity in this House.

Mr Brown : I must regret the methods used by the Ministers in the Federal Government while carrying out investigations on

matters before this honourable House. May I say that if my hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport and Aviation is still of the opinion that my allegations are false, I will challenge him to set up a commission of enquiry and I will call those within his Ministry who gave me the information to come and give evidence on such a commission of enquiry. You will surely be—

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Public business.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) : On a point of order, I do not think that this House can just be treated in the way the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is trying to treat us. Here is some one who has made a very serious allegation and the Minister has taken the time to investigate it. The allegation has been proved to be false, and he could not get up after the explanation at least to say, "I am very sorry," if the allegation is untrue.

Several hon. Members : No, no. He has said that he still insists, and he wants a commission of enquiry. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order, order !

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

FEDERAL COMMISSIONS (PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES) BILL

Bill to provide for the immunity from civil proceedings of Members of the Judicial Service Commission and the Public Service Commission of the Federation and for the privilege of the documents of such Commissions, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This day.*

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That this House at its rising this day do adjourn till the July 31st, 1963.

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

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : This is the only occasion where I have to agree with the Minister of Finance as the Leader of this House, and at the same time congratulate the

Minister on the efficient way he has carried out the business of this session.

An hon. Member : You always agree with him.

Chief Odulana : Not that I always agree with him, but this is the right way to do it. There is no doubt that hon. Members are fully satisfied that we have had enough to do and that enough time has been given for our deliberations in this House. I therefore rise to support that this House after its sitting to-day do adjourn till 31st July, 1963.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : I rise to support the Motion and to congratulate the Minister for the announcement he has made and to say that when we come back in July we should be given a longer period in order to debate all the Motions which will come before us. During this session we have not had enough time to deal with some of the Heads and that is why we shall be sitting up till perhaps nine o'clock to night.

When we return in July, we hope we shall be able to have a longer period for our debates.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : I thank the Minister of Finance for this statement, but of course I thank the Government for the time given for our debates this time. It is about the longest sitting we have had since Parliament started. That of course reminds me of the part played by the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Awolowo and Chief Enahoro, who on the Floor of this House, advocated that we should have continuous sittings, in fact long sittings. At that time, they were being opposed by the gentlemen on the other side, the Government side.

We are happy that the Government has taken the suggestion of the Opposition, so the Government is congratulated for abiding by the wishes of the Opposition on that line. We hope that when we come here in July we shall stay longer.

The Minister of Finance : I think that sometimes one would have to ask hon. Members to be responsible in their statements. I want to say that the Government has taken no lesson at all from the Opposition as it was constituted or now that it is depleted. What we are doing is in accordance with the wish of the House in general and is in accordance with the Government's policy.

[MR AJAYI]

that does not make any difference. Therefore, I still suggest that the Federal Government should try as much as possible to consider the allocation of sites for Universities and find a site somewhere else rather than in the heart of Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : I just want to correct an idea put forward by the Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) in relation to National High Schools. He says that national high schools being established in the Regions—

An hon. Member : He did not say so.

Mr Lana : He said something about inter-Regional High Schools, they are National High Schools. The principle underlining this is a practical demonstration of the intention of the Federal Government to see that there is unity in the country (*Interruptions*).

Mr Ajayi : On a point of correction, I am not against the creation of inter-Regional High Schools. I am saying that it is no use having inter-Regional grammar schools. I said that the Government should rather concentrate on inter-Regional technical schools. That was the point I made.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : I rise to make a contribution to the subject under discussion. I think that it is time that the Federal Government should abolish Grade III Teacher Training Colleges because it is a waste of time for teachers to go in for training, say, for two years and then go out and come in again to be trained as Grade II. We have got Grade II teachers who can continue to man the schools until—

M. Abba Biu : The Member for Awka North is discussing a regional subject.

Mr Ogbalu : I am not discussing a Regional subject. In the Eastern Region for example Grade II Teacher Training Colleges are winding up. I am making my contribution to the subject of Lagos Teacher Training Colleges and I feel that it is high time we concentrated on Grade II Teacher Training Colleges. It saves more money on the part of the Government and it saves more time on the part of the teachers themselves and it accounts, on the other hand, for efficiency.

I have to welcome the work so far done in connection with the Advanced Teachers College

and I wish to say that the public is generally impressed with what has been done and we hope that more improvement will continue in that direction. Notices for admission of candidates into that College should be given wide publicity so that desirous teachers might avail themselves of the opportunity for the training. In the past many teachers have complained that they did not know when such notices were issued and their applications had to be returned to them with the excuse that they were late.

I have to say that the Federal Science School has served the needs of the country and has proved a great success and that if similar schools are established in the Regions it will go to a great extent in providing us with scientists, people with skill and aptitude for industry, so that the Six-Year Development Programme will certainly have better implementation than at the present.

I am quite aware of the fact that the Government is planning to establish inter-Regional secondary schools, but it is likely that these inter-Regional schools have to do the type of subjects which other schools are already doing, and therefore, cannot, as a matter of fact, cater for the acute scarcity of science teachers as well as scientists for industry. I think that the Minister of Education should examine the possibility of developing a high manpower level in the country in the line of science and technology.

In connection with the West African Examinations Council we have been told why the last School Certificate examination results were late. I hope however, that the Council will expand or increase the number of its examiners so that as more and more schools are being equipped and are getting ready for their School Certificate Examinations year by year, the results will no longer be delayed because this has placed many schools in very difficult positions as well as many school leavers who have to spend the whole of three to four months expecting their results, and also many employers who, because the results are not out, could not give employment to school leavers expecting results.

I am very happy too that the Federal Government is giving grants to the Northern Regional Government in order to expand its primary education programme.

This is a very positive step. What I wish to add is that the Regional Governments are finding it very difficult to cope with their own primary education. It is really nobody's fault. It is not the fault of the Regional Governments. It is because our people have a great desire for education and many of them have come forward in order to be educated, particularly children from the Regions and even here in the Federal territory.

I have to advocate that the Federal Government should give grants to the Regional Governments in order to help them to maintain their primary education scheme. It is quite true that we are unable to amend the Constitution so as to make education a Federal subject, but, as the Federal Government has been given assistance in various lines where difficulties exist and where Regional Governments are confronted with difficulties, I feel the Regional Governments will certainly welcome any amount of help given to them by the Federal Government.

I am quite aware of the fact too that we have been calling on the Federal Government to assist in this and that direction, and all the monies required have to come from the same pool, but, at the same time, it is a very important scheme. It is education that really helps people to understand the fact that we have attained independence.

The proper siting of the Inter-Regional Schools which are to be built should be such that the schools will serve one and all, not just the sons of well-to-do while children of the common people have no opportunity of attending such schools. It will be really unfortunate if there is such a line of demarcation in our educational programme. As I said some time ago, this might even lead to the establishment of secondary schools earmarked for those who have and those who have not, and, therefore by such a divergency the policy of education will certainly be affected.

I have not spoken for almost two weeks, and I hope I shall be allowed to make a little more contribution. The expansion of overseas scholarships is really more important. Very often we receive applications from our candidates overseas requesting help. They are just stranded due to no fault of theirs. There are many unforeseen events which are capable of upsetting any student abroad. So it is not

sufficient reason to say that students should not go abroad, if they have not made sufficient financial arrangements. Certain things might happen to completely overhaul or upset arrangements already made by students. I am therefore appealing to the Federal Government to come to the aid of all stranded students overseas under this expansion scheme for overseas scholarships.

Finally, the extension proposed for the museums in the country is really very welcome. What I am demanding is that there should be at least a museum in every province. A museum at Onitsha will certainly go a great extent in preserving the ancient traditions and ancient customs of the people in the suburbs. For example there are ancient monuments like fading goddesses and gods which were formerly worshipped but which have no worshippers at present and can easily find habitation in these museums.

I beg to support.

M. Abdullahi Maikano Sarkin Rafi (Rabah Wurno): I rise to support the estimates for this Head. I would like to praise the Minister of Education for the way he has discharged his duty. I hope the large amount appropriated for the current year will undoubtedly be used by the Government to get sufficient Teacher Training Colleges such as Technical Institutes and Secondary Schools in each of the Regions for the production of more brilliant, intelligent and efficient students throughout the Federation.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr V. T. Shisha (Iharev Masev): In supporting this estimate I will first of all congratulate the Federal Government for the grants made to the Regional Governments for primary education. I would like to say that the Federal Government should co-operate with the Regional Governments to see that the schools are sited in such a way that everybody should be benefited by the grants given.

I would like to speak also about the scholarship awards. Scholarship awards are rather very poor. Before one is awarded a scholarship one must be asked serious questions including where one comes from. If one comes from a place where the Government does not want one will be asked to go to one's

[MR SHISHA]

own Regional Government to get a scholarship. This is especially so if one comes from the Western Region. For instance, if a candidate comes from the Tiv Division one will be asked, what was the cause of the riot in Tiv. Division. After asking all these questions the Board will ask the candidate to go away.

I would like to say that this grant should be well spent and teachers of the Voluntary Agencies should have quarters. Many of them do not have quarters, and I think that if this money is well spent a lot of them will have quarters and will enjoy the benefits of this grant.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West) : Under this Head what I want to draw the attention of the Government to is the School for the Deaf and Dumb.

Many people have made speeches about the education of those who are trained at universities. But, as I always say on the Floor of this House, I am more interested in our internal problems. When the parents of these people who are born deaf and dumb were expecting their births they were expecting healthy children. Unfortunately, these people were born deaf and dumb and in those days we did not know how to bring them up as normal people. But now that we have got experience in their upbringing these children should be properly looked after. When trained they can still be useful to themselves and to the community.

The point I am inviting the attention of the Federal Government to is to increase the present capacity of the Deaf and Dumb School so that they can take in more than 24 children annually. If we go to the Regions we will find that there are even more than 24 deaf and dumb people in every province. At the rate of 24 deaf and dumb people in every province it would even be seen that to admit only 24 people to the Deaf and Dumb School in Lagos would not be good enough. The Government should therefore take steps to see that the intake of this School is increased from 24 to at least 50. Publicity should also be given in every Province to the existence of this school, so that at least every year three people can be admitted from every Province in Nigeria.

The last suggestion I would like to make is that it would be better if the school were

removed to the Regions because of the congestion and traffic difficulties in Lagos.

The Minister of Finance : I think that only two main points have been made in the debate and, quite frankly, I do not see why hon. Members wish to waste the time of the House on a matter that had been previously full debated.

One point that was made was about Inter-Regional Secondary Schools. I think my hon. Friend, the Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) is obviously telling us that the grapes are sour because they are not located in his constituency. I am sure that if the Federal Government were to ask that an Inter-Regional Secondary School be situated in his constituency he would be the first man to jump at it and would not come to the Floor of this House to say that he has preference.

If the Federal Government thinks that there could be some assistance to Regional Governments in establishing full-fledged secondary grammar schools with a view to raising it to the standard of that of the Kings' College in Lagos is there anything wrong in that ?

An hon. Member : The location.

The Minister of Finance : The location is a different question. It has to be somewhere in the Regions, it cannot be in the air ?

An hon. Member : In a central place !

The Minister of Finance : No place is more central than the other in any Region.

The second point my hon. friend spoke about is the high rentage in Lagos as it would affect the University of Lagos and as such he wants hostels to be built. I met him in his constituency the other day in his semi-demi College with no hostel whatsoever. I think that charity should begin at home and, the hon. Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) is talking about hostels here.

The hon. Member for Ekiti South East also said that £4 monthly is too much for a student to pay. It is cheaper to pay £4 rent than even to live in a hostel and the hon. Member knows too well that in London or other places overseas where our students still go in large numbers to study they pay as much as £4 a week minimum as rent instead of a month. So, if people want to take the advantage of good

University education in Lagos I think that the rental expenditure of £4 a month is not too much for them to pay. If my hon. Friend says that there is till scarcity of accommodation, then that is a different question, and in that regard I will only draw my hon. Friend's attention to what the Federal Government is already doing in Surulere area by providing low income houses for people to live in with all the amenities that could be considered.

I feel that one should be grateful to hon. Members for complimenting my Colleague and Friend for the good work he has done either in the field of Elementary Education or in the field of University or Technical Education. I think that he has shown the light and it is only left for people like my hon. Friend the Member for Ekiti South East (*Mr Ajayi*) to find the way.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 629—Education, be approved.

HEAD 630—HEALTH

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Seven Hundred and Five Thousand and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 630—Health, be approved.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo Central) : In speaking in support of this Head of Expenditure, I realise that one has to be very brief but some of us, particularly myself, had not the opportunity of speaking on the Appropriation Bill and not even on the Ministry of Health's Head of Estimates when it was put to the House. I will, therefore, crave the indulgence of the House to listen to me for a brief moment.

Sub-head 113—Expansion of Chemistry Division and Public Health Laboratories : This is the sub-head that I would like to speak on particularly.

Before speaking on this sub-head, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the medical scientists and the technologists of the Ministry of Health for the development and the production locally of Anti-Rabbies vaccine, small-pox vaccine and yellow-fever vaccine. I understand that these immunisation agents which are made in Nigeria are of high standard and I also understand that further expansion of laboratory facilities are going on. I wish to stress the urgency of looking for prophylactic vaccines which will combat or at least minimise the ravages of virile diseases of common and frequent occurrences in this country, namely, measles, chicken pox and mumps.

Measles and chicken pox are especially menacing, and one reads from time to time in the daily newspapers distressing reports of the death-toll amongst our children resulting from the epidemics of these diseases. We were told here that diseases do not recognise regional boundaries and that they spread from place to place. It would appear that the present vaccine being used against chicken pox is not very effective as many people, young or old and already vaccinated, are known to have a second or third attack even before the period of immunity expires. It would be necessary for the Minister to explain some of the reasons why this is so in order to restore confidence in the effectiveness of immunity from attack of chicken pox after the necessary vaccine has been given.

The next point I want to touch is about mental health. It is interesting that a mental hospital is being built in Lagos to look after the mental troubles of people. This class of people is only confined to Lagos. So, I feel that money spent on that distressing menace is money well spent and, therefore, I feel that the Government realises the present political situation of the country, how politicians in this country go about their business in a way regardless of mental and physical strains.

Also considering the number of educational institutions we have and the way our young men embrace the educational programme of the country one must feel that there is bound to be a lot of mental and nervous troubles. In this regard, I think that Dr Lambo who started a mental hospital in Abeokuta—the Aro Mental Hospital—has done a lot of work and that his activities have had international recognition.

[CHIEF S. J. MARIERE]

That being so, it is necessary to see that the Government provides enough money in this respect because this class of people are the suffering class. There are cases where they roam about and nobody cares for them. I feel that in the provinces or in the Regions there are no such facilities except the one at Aro, as I have mentioned, and I do not see why the Government should not subsidise the Aro Mental Hospital in that regard because a lot of students are patients there; in fact, about 80 per cent of the patients in that hospital are students. So, the provision here for the mental hospital in Lagos is very necessary.

The next point I want to make is about the type of illness that occurs to people called hypertension or high-blood pressure. There is a lot of education to be given by the Ministry of Health to people in order that something is done to make people be on their guard against the disease of hypertension or high-blood pressure. We have only heard in the past about anaemic people, people without blood, but in this case it is said that the blood flow is high and suddenly people collapse and die without there being any warning. The illness is sudden.

Is it because people are leading a certain way of life or that there are certain changes that have occurred in people's ways of life that the cases of hypertension are so rampant these days? I know of a Chief, only a few months ago in the morning he was quite hale and hearty, but by 9 o'clock he suddenly felt dizzy. He was very far away from the hospital and by the time he was rushed in a car all the way to the hospital, he had died. Later on, it was discovered that he died of hypertension or high-blood pressure.

I feel that something must be done about this, particularly now that the Government of the Federation, through the Minister of Health, has assured this House that already some drugs are being manufactured. I think that some research should be carried out about this hypertension that has taken a lot of lives, and is causing strokes to people and so on and so forth.

The next point is the Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospital in Lagos is a very important institution, in my own estimation, and I feel that if we are going to look after the health of children, it should not only be confined to Lagos. In this connection, I am happy that the Minister of Health has told this

House that a National Council on Health has been set up. If that is so, the health of the children of all parts of the Federation deserves to be looked after. After all, it is to the young people that the future belongs and if we want to look after their health, it should not only be confined to one particular area.

This is a time for short speeches on these Heads and I think I will not bore the House with further comments. I beg to support.

Oba S. A. Oladiran (Okitipupa South): It is gratifying to note the tremendous amount of improvements going on at the moment in the General Hospital in Lagos. This is very encouraging indeed, but one wonders that having wasted so much money on such things as buildings, the attitude of the nurses in the General Hospital is very unbecoming.

The amount allocated for these improvements, though very fabulous, is rather encouraging to the Lagos inhabitants and, of course, Members when coming to Lagos for the meetings of the House might enjoy the privilege of using the hospital. One thing is that the Ministry of Health is one of the luckiest Ministries in the Federal Government in that the Minister in charge is a doctor and, as such, he should use his rich experience as a doctor to make rapid developments in that Ministry.

Furthermore, we should be able to thank the Permanent Secretary of that Ministry because, without him, that Ministry should have become a nuisance to the Federal Government. There are always many criticisms right from the doctors to the nurses. There are times when that Ministry was almost to be monopolised (I am sorry to be tribalistic) by the Egbas. The Egba people enjoy more privileges in that Ministry than any other people. I am sorry to say this. A lot of money is being wasted in that Ministry and the attitude of the staff to the public is not encouraging.

I have to thank the Government for the establishment of a mental hospital in Lagos. I would advise that the health officers should go round and invite insane people roaming about the streets to the mental homes.

The last point I want to make is about the Children's Hospital. The other day when this hospital was opened, I was an eye-witness and I was highly impressed by what I saw in

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that hospital. I think the Federal Government should be in a position to advise the Regional Governments to implement such a scheme as the establishment of children's hospitals in the Regions.

I beg to support.

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West): Firstly, I want to underscore this matter relating to mental patients roaming about in Nigeria, particularly in the Federal Territory of Lagos. One could remember that during our Independence celebrations in 1960, this Government went out of its way to demolish buildings, build barricades and screens to hide away ugly sights.

Every time, we speak of projecting Nigeria. I do not know of any other country in the world where people who are mentally deranged are allowed to roam about the streets. Some of these people are ill-clad, some of them are stark naked, some of them have open and ugly sores and some of them are menacing to people.

I do not know whether the Minister of Internal Affairs is here, but if he is not here, I hope his Colleagues will convey to him the feelings of this House about this matter and that he should do something about it right away.

Another thing is the question of the University College Teaching Hospital at Ibadan. Time and time again, the Nigerian public—the knowledgeable Nigerian public—have expressed their concern about the likelihood of breeding another million dollar baby. This year, as I mentioned two weeks ago, the University of Ibadan graduated twelve or thirteen doctors to serve forty million people of Nigeria, and for the Six-Year Development Programme we have close to £3 million in the Capital Estimates for expansion in that school. I do not know of any University in the world where thirteen students are graduated in a year. In fact this year is a record year because hitherto less than seven had graduated.

I think that if the Minister is serious about the health of the people of Nigeria he should note that the reason why we have private practice and all these insolences and abuses and corruption in the medical profession is because the demand is more than the supply and therefore the doctor can afford to be arrogant because you cannot replace him easily.

The cure, therefore, is to produce a very large number of doctors and this can be done in Nigeria. Take for instance the Emergency Science School here in Lagos. I do not see any reason why other centres like that cannot be established and about three hundred higher school graduates put in every year. I think that in five years or so, at least 50 per cent of them may survive, and that may throw into the market in Nigeria not less than five hundred or one thousand doctors qualified every year and so, in ten years, this question of shortage of medical personnel may be minimised.

Therefore I am urging the Minister of Health to take a very serious look at the problem existing in the University of Ibadan. I do not see why money should be spent on buildings and buildings alone. Buildings alone can never make a hospital. I have said this very often here that a hospital or a school is often as good as the equipment and the staff. I do not see why we should spend about three million pounds building houses, and then train only three people. The overhead cost is too great, and Nigeria cannot afford to spend that amount of money per student.

I hope the errors committed on the U.C.I. will not be allowed to repeat themselves at the Lagos Teaching Hospital. I am very happy to know that the buildings at the moment built there are modest and that the money has not been dumped in marble floors and air conditioned rooms for students and that, if possible, there is no reason why the Government should not rent houses.

The problem is not house building, as I said before. Finally since we have limited time for this debate I do hope that this Ministry will borrow a leaf from the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education is making contributions and grants-in-aid and subventions to schools in the Regions, and I do not see any reason why the Ministry of Health should fold its arms here and talk about Lagos everytime, whereas in the provinces and Regions there are so many empty hospitals without doctors and without nurses and without medical personnel, without drugs and equipments.

I do hope that the Ministry will begin to think on a wider horizon, look at Nigeria as one entity and not confine itself to the small island of Lagos.

I beg to support.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : I rise to support this Head. In doing so I want to speak very briefly about the health centres in Lagos. It is commendable indeed that the Government has been able to provide everyone in Lagos with—

An hon. Member : Not yet. It is only a proposal.

Mr Afanideh : I want to say that whenever we come here we say that Lagos is not Nigeria. It is high time that the Government should try to extend the same provisions that it is making for Lagos to the provinces, by way of giving grants to Regional Governments so that some provisions can be extended to the people in their jurisdiction.

It is sad to see that there are certain areas in the Regions which have not been able to benefit by some kind of medical attention. But for the efforts of the mission hospitals, it would have been impossible for some people to avail themselves of medical facilities. I therefore think the sooner the Government tries to assist the Regional Governments to extend their health programmes, the better.

I associate myself with the views already expressed by my predecessors who spoke about mental hospitals. I think it is not enough to have only one mental hospital in Lagos. The sooner the Government extends it to regions the better because there are other mental cases roaming about in the Regions. Lagos is not Nigeria as a whole. There are other mental cases in the Regions and I think that to help those people to bring them to sanity it is only proper that mental hospitals be provided for the Regions, if possible, in each of the provinces.

It is the policy of this Government that there should be no segregation. Unless this Government is prepared and is ready to serve all the sections of this country I think we shall be firing a wrong shot. I have a very prominent case of a mental case in my constituency. I am expressing the views of my constituency.

That brings me to the question of the Children's Hospital. It is often said that the child is father of the man, and I hope that if we have Lagos children and we cater for their interests, it is equally important that the Regional Governments should be advised by the Federal Government to extend some facilities

to them too because other children in the other parts of Nigeria are also Nigerians. Therefore, to exclude them from some facilities will be a kind of discrimination. I think other hon. Members are very anxious to express their views, so I beg to support.

Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende Central) : I have observed that the sum of £110,000 has been set aside by the Federal Government for the future development of the Ibadan Teaching Hospital. Already another Teaching Hospital has been built in Lagos which cost quite a good sum of money. If the Federal Government is the father of this nation, I think they should consider the possibility of establishing teaching hospitals in each of the Regions.

Already there is one in Ibadan, in the Western Region, and one in Lagos for the Federal Territory. I think that there is none in the North and East. Each of these Regions should also have a Teaching Hospital. They both now have universities to which could be attached these Teaching Hospitals.

In some places there are serious cases which could not be treated in the Regions and these cases have to find their way from the Regional hospitals to the Ibadan Teaching Hospital or the Lagos Teaching Hospital. Furthermore, the specialists in the Regions' hospitals have been absorbed either by the Ibadan Teaching Hospital or the Lagos Teaching Hospital. The specialists are better paid there and as a result the Regional Government hospitals find it difficult to retain their specialists.

I do hope that the Federal Government will consider the possibility of establishing Teaching Hospitals in the Regions. After all, the money that are being spent here in Lagos comes from all over the Federation. Therefore, every Nigerian and everybody who is resident in Nigeria should benefit by this money.

As I believe that other Members would like to speak on these health centres, I would not like to spend further time speaking on it, but I would emphasise that such facilities as Mental Centres and children's Hospitals should be extended to the Regions, or the Federal Government should make money available for the Regional Governments to establish these centres themselves if the Federal Government cannot do it on its own,

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Forgive my ignorance, Sir. I am only going to ask the Minister concerned to enlighten me on how national the Mental Hospital here is in scope. Also, we have all accepted Lagos as our Federal Capital and there is no doubt about that, but certain sections of Lagos are filthy. I do not know whose responsibility it is, but if it is the responsibility of the L.E.D.B. or the L.T.C. or the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, we are only appealing to the authority concerned to do something about the filth in certain sections of Lagos.

These are all I have to say on this particular Head.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Seven Hundred and Five Thousand and Twenty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 630—Health, be approved.

HEAD 631—TOWN PLANNING

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousands, Three Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 631—Town Planning—be approved.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. Shehu Shagari) : I beg to support.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I think the importance of holiday resorts in this country can never be over-emphasised. For instance, during the Christmas, Easter and all other holidays we have in this country, we see people flocking to the Victoria Island and there is no proper arrangement for the people spending their holidays in this place.

I think the Federal Government should do something in the way of finding at least good and comfortable chairs for the people to sit upon and relax while on holidays at the Victoria Island. Any money spent in this way will be money well spent and the public will appreciate it, especially now that everybody,

men, women, boys and girls have all formed the habit of spending their holidays at the Bar Beach.

Another point I would like to make is the fourth phase of the reclamation of Victoria Island. I want to appeal to the Minister concerned that arrangements should be made to complete the fourth phase in time. When this is completed the plots should be allocated fairly. It has been brought to the notice of Parliamentarians and the people of this country that the way these plots are allocated leaves much to be desired. If the plots are to be allocated by tender let them be tendered for and if they are going to be by secret ballot then it be so allocated. We do not want the method by which names of people who have not applied or tendered for plots are being squeezed in. If it is going to be done in such a way as to exclude people who will not have money to build houses on the plots after the allocation, let it be done in that way fairly. It is no use adopting two policies at a time.

My last point is about the Nigerian Building Societies. These societies are all in Lagos here and there is none in the Eastern Region. If the Government will spend as much as £200,000 this year for the establishment of such societies in the Regions, I think it will be money well spent. When I say the Regions, I mean the East, the West and the North. If this is done, we shall all know that the money collected for the revenue is not for Lagos alone. After all, all this money spent in Lagos is collected from all parts of the Federation either by way of Income Tax, or indirect tax or any type of tax for that matter. Therefore, any money so collectively acquired should be used collectively.

Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East) : I just want to put two points forward. I would like to say that a country like Nigeria which is not yet well developed cannot afford a high expenditure on the reclamation of land when we have plenty of things to do with money. Why should we spend Government money in reclaiming land when there is the grass land of Bornu, the grassland of Sokoto? With all the huge land that we have we still continue to spend money in reclaiming land. I think this is a waste expenditure which I cannot understand.

[ALHAJI AMINU KANO]

Why should a country like Nigeria spend so many million pounds in reclaiming land? That expenditure for the reclamation of land from the sea is very unnecessary. If our development plan means austerity, is it austerity to spend millions of pounds reclaiming land? We want to spend about £2 million pounds to reclaim land from the sea when we have a lot of grass land at Bornu and Katsina. So I think that there is no need for spending this money.

Secondly, Lagos is not Nigeria. All the Government is spending on town planning is being spent for Lagos. What about Ibadan, what about Enugu and Kano, and what about the other big places? Why should the Government continue to develop Lagos alone every day? I would like some scheme whereby a little of this money can be spent in the development in other places.

I know that in the Development Plan we are going to spend about £3 million for Kano expansion, but it is not enough for a population of four million people. Why do we not take some part of this money and beautify that part of the country? We are tired of everything coming to Lagos.

I support.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): I just want to make a point on the reclamation of the Victoria Island. It is a lovely action and we all like the idea of the Government on this in that if one were at the wharf say some seven or ten years ago, one would be able to realise how much the Government has spent and done for the improvement of Lagos. But I want to mention one point by way of warning. I am quite sure that streets and good roads are going to be made when this reclamation is done and they are going to be named. I want to say that they should not be named after individuals as we have hitherto done.

That lovely road leading to the sea is named after Sir Ahmadu Bello, that is quite alright. Another road may have been named after Tafawa Balewa, Awolowo and so on, these are all right too. But we should stop at that. These new roads that will be made should be named after our constituencies. I expect that one of the roads should be named Ibarapa Road, the name of my constituency. Instead of naming it after Gbolagunte, name it after Ibarapa, instead of naming it after Ajibola

name it after Fjigbo because individuals will die away but the constituencies will not die away.

It was mentioned here the other time that, in Russia to-day, no body mentions Stalin. Sometime before Stalin was very important but just last year, anything dealing with Stalin was destroyed; but in the past they had Stalingrad and all sorts of "Grads". To-day we have Tafawa Balewa Square, Ahmadu Bello Road and so on, but tomorrow we should be able to have constituency roads. I feel that should be enough or else we shall soon begin to make everybody a god.

I am suggesting that the roads we are going to build when this reclamation is done should be named after constituencies of all the Members present here.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): Speaking about this reclamation I have to suggest that not everybody knows how far and how quickly the Sahara is approaching the northern part of Northern Nigeria. It is rapidly approaching and unless it is checked before very long we shall be swallowed up. The Sahara is approaching at such a rapid rate that the average coastal inhabitant may not be able to realise.

When we talk about the Atlantic Ocean encroaching on Lagos Island, I want to remind us that the Sahara is encroaching too on the other side. There are two oceans—the ocean of water and an ocean of sand.

So while speaking in sympathy that we should do something to stop the Atlantic Ocean which is encroaching on Lagos, at the same time I am equally interested, if not more interested, in the approach of the Sahara to the Kano boundary, Katsina and all the areas near Sokoto and urge that something should be done about this too. The hon. Minister of Internal Affairs knows this better than I do and I hope he will come to our rescue and do something to stop the Sahara's menacing advance.

In 1920 when I was younger, the former colonial Government did something along the Katsina boundary by planting some trees there. Ever since that time, nothing, or very little, has been done. I am serious that the rate at which the Sahara is approaching is making us fearful and I am asking the Federal Government to

see to it that, along with the activities to stop the Atlantic Ocean from approaching here, something is done about the Sahara now approaching the Northern Region.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo) : I am glad that some Members have spoken about the need for extending town planning activities outside Lagos. I want to stress again here that it is high time the town planning activities were spread over the Federation of Nigeria. During my last speech, when we were considering the vote for the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, I emphasised the point that Government should try as much as possible to give sufficient grants to the Lagos Building Society.

In the Capital Estimates before us, I find that only £200,000 was voted for that Society. Really, the Lagos Building Society is a means by which people can save money and save money properly. Indeed I wonder how many people can be granted loans before the sum of £200,000 is exhausted. If everybody takes, say, £3,000 to £4,000, it means that only very few people will benefit from the scheme whereas this Building Society provides a very good means for people in the Federation to do something tangible with their money.

It will be gratifying, therefore, if the Federal Government, especially the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, can find a way by which the amount may be augmented. At least a sum of £1.5 million cannot be too much for that Society.

I also want to urge that, as soon as possible, the activities of the Society should be spread over the Regions, especially in my place, for I shall be grateful if the housing scheme could be established at Ejigbo and Ede where we have plenty of land and many people are desirous of building good and modern houses.

It will thus be a pleasure if the Minister can consider this point and urge the Federal Government to increase the vote under that Head and Item.

I beg to support.

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : One hon. Member was advocating that streets should not be named any longer after individuals. He gave an example of Stalin's statues and other things being destroyed after Stalin had gone. I want to assure him that the statue or the name of his leader Chief Obafemi

Awolowo will not be destroyed and I think it remains to perpetuate his name whatever happens to him.

My hon. Friend the Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) complained bitterly about the expenditure devoted to the reclamation of land in the Victoria Island, and another Member also asked that the Federal Government should look into the encroachment of the Sahara. I want to answer the two together. Now we have got the Federal Palace Hotel there, we have got Members' flats in the Victoria Island. If these lands were not reclaimed it would have been impossible for the Federal Government to build on water. Now, Members will see why we are reclaiming these areas. The sea is fighting us and we must have to fight the sea. No doubt the sea is encroaching on the Island of Lagos and we who represent the Nigerian communities in the Federal Parliament must have to buck up and fight the sea. That is what we are doing and so far we are winning.

The Sahara is a subject to be dealt with by the Regional Government and in order to afford the Regional Government the facility and the money required to fight the encroachment of the Sahara desert, in the Development Plan Members will see that substantial amount of money will be allocated to the Regional Government for such work.

Now we are responsible for agricultural research and so on and the agriculture and forestry research section are establishing forest reserves in the Sahara. This means that they have been fighting erosion and the encroachment of the Sahara Desert. Therefore my hon. Friend should not be afraid that we are not looking after that.

These are the points made by hon. Members. I will assure them that they are well protected. Indeed money has been voted for such work and reclamation in Lagos will enable the Federal Government to provide houses for foreign Ambassadors and the various Embassies being set up here. Not only that, we will also be able to provide sufficient land for industrialists. Industrialists may site their industry in Kano or Maiduguri or Kafanchan for that matter, but Members should remember that the Headquarters will always be in Lagos and we must find sufficient land to accommodate them.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Two Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Three hundred and Ten pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 631—Town Planning, be approved.

HEAD 632—CO-OPERATIVES

Forty Thousand, Two Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 632—Co-operatives, approved.

HEAD 633—MISCELLANEOUS

Minister of State (Hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : I beg to move—

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Twenty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 633—Miscellaneous, be approved.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I beg to second.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : I want to use this opportunity to express what I have had in mind for some time now. Under Miscellaneous the Government of this country is going to sign an agreement with the Government of the Spanish territories for the exportation of man power from Nigeria to work in the plantations of that country. May I say that we must be fair to all sections of this country as far as the issue of labour force for the Spanish territories is concerned.

We have sought fairness as far the recruitment into the Army, the Police and the Civil Service is concerned. In respect of this I would admit that we from Calabar Province have been cheating other sections of this country as far as the exportation of manpower to the Spanish territories is concerned. From the new agreement to be signed may I urge the Federal Government that in future, indeed from next month, the allocation of manpower export to the Spanish territories should be made as to 50 per cent to the North, 20 per cent to the East and

20 per cent to the West and 10 per cent to the Federal territory of Lagos. Now may I say that this exportation of manpower from one particular province in the past has made us to remain permanently a minority to other sections of the people of this country.

I know many Members have been attacking us on the Floor of this House because of lack of a fair allocation of posts in the Civil Service of this country as well as in the Army. As far as this question of exportation of manpower to the Spanish territories is concerned may I say that we are not prepared to cheat our Northern brothers in this respect. I am taking this opportunity to say that as from now henceforth 50 per cent quota goes to the North, 20 per cent to the East, 20 per cent to the West and 10 per cent only to the Federal Territory. May I say that if this good offer—

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : The hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is being irrelevant because nobody sends his people there, they go there on their free will.

Mr Brown : I am saying that as far as the agreement for exporting manpower from Nigeria to the Spanish territories is being drafted and signed by the Federal Government the allocation of manpower to that country must also be shared out by the Federal Government. If we had been going down there by ourselves without being ordered to do so by the Federal Government, I am asking that there will be no need of signing an agreement with them. A Bill should be brought to the Floor of this House banning Nigerians from going there and I can instruct my people not to go there. But as far as the Federal Government is still encouraging the transportation of manpower to that territory I am saying that we must share the allocation of this manpower among all the Regions so that when Nigerians are ill-treated in that territory Members from the East, the West and the North plus Members from Calabar Province will say unanimously on the Floor of this House that the Government should do something so as to relieve their people in those territories of the persecution, prosecution and ill-treatment they have been made to suffer in the past.

If Members refuse to accept this offer may I now call on the Federal Government to abolish all treaties and agreements in respect of this exportation of manpower to that territory.

May I say that in the past we were told that Nigerians exported out from this country to Fernando Po—

The Chairman : I think the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) is grossly irrelevant. Head 633 true enough is a miscellaneous item, but if the hon. Member looks under the provisions he will certainly find nothing about Fernando Po labour. The only thing that has to do with Labour is *Labour Services, Buildings and Civil Engineering Works*.

Mr Brown : I was speaking on General Labour within the country. May I say that as far as labour within the country is concerned I would very much urge the Federal Government to do everything possible so as to encourage the use of the human labour within the country by establishing farm settlements in the Regions particularly in my own Division, Uyo Division. As a matter of fact I must confess that I have not been very happy in the past because of the waste of manpower, the human resources of this country. For instance, we in the Regions cannot benefit from the industries established by the Federal Government if industries are first of all established in the Federal Territory—

The Chairman : Again, Head 633 the relevant section is about *Labour Exchanges and Offices, Staff Quarters and Minor Works*. If the hon. Member for Uyo South West is going to discuss Labour it must be within the context of Head 633.

Mr Brown : I beg to support.

Alhaji Aminu Kano (Kano East) : Just one point about this question of control of pilgrims going to Mecca. I think that it is necessary that pressure is brought by the Prime Minister with consultation with other world Muslim Leaders about the sufferings of our pilgrims in Mecca. The Nigerian Government is spending a lot of money in seeing to it that pilgrims are happy and that there is strict control of their health, *et cetera*.

I feel that the time has come when the hon. Prime Minister, in co-operation with other world leaders like President Sekou Toure, President Abdul Nasser of Egypt, King Hussein of Jordan and all other Muslim Leaders of the world, should persuade the

Saudi Arabian Government to declare the 30 mile territory of Mecca an International Muslim Territory so that nobody will leave his country and go to a country where the rule of the day is autocracy, and where the people are subjected to autocratic Government by the Saud. If we continue to vote money here for the use of our pilgrims and subject our people to a kind of feudal system of society in a place where they worship, I think that we are not helping our people. I think the Prime Minister is in a position now to bring pressure through the other Muslim Leaders of the world.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : On a point of order, I think the hon. Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) is being irrelevant in his remarks.

The Chairman : I see here Pilgrims' Transit Camp—

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I think the hon. Member for Kano East should discuss what he is saying under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman : I think it is a border line case.

Alhaji Aminu Kano : I am speaking about the control of pilgrims—

The Minister of Internal Affairs : That is control from this end; the hon. Member has been discussing the question of diplomacy which, to me, comes under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The hon. Member for Kano East is talking about the policies of Foreign Governments which has nothing to do with pilgrims.

The Chairman : As I said before, I think it is a marginal case, if only the Alhaji would appreciate the title upon which he is speaking.

Alhaji Aminu Kano : May I say that more facilities should be given to our pilgrims in Mecca because one is impressed by what other countries do. Last year, when I was there not a single van with medical facilities was provided for the Nigerians who were there.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule) : Maybe the hon. Member for Kano East (*Alhaji Aminu Kano*) stayed in a remote area. I looked for him but I could not see him.

Alhaji Aminu Kano : I did not see any van. Many pilgrims were stranded, they wanted help and they saw nobody. I want more facilities to be provided for our pilgrims going to Mecca.

The Chairman : Shettima Ali Monguno—

The Minister of Mines and Power : The hon. Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Monguno*) is not an Alhaji.

The Chairman : I do not think there is anything either in the Estimates or a ruling from the Chair confining the debate to Alhajis.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Thank you, Mr Chairman, for saving me from the Minister of Mines and Power who, I think, should have known me better.

Just a point on sports. I think our very recent performances at Accra and Dakar are rather appalling and I think there should be an investigation into the running of soccer in this country. If the Minister finds it rather a burden and he could hardly spare the time to look into these matters they should be taken out of his hands and given to another Minister.

It is very disappointing the way soccer is organised and the way the Nigeria Football Association operates. I am suggesting in all seriousness that the Minister should look into the activities of the N.F.A. with a view to remedying the situation. I think those responsible for the selection of a national football team should look far and wide, not just confine themselves to either the East or West or both but go farther North also and select a team not necessarily eleven players representing the three Regions of Nigeria but eleven players from all over the country, the best in the whole country.

Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) : This Head of the Estimates is what I would describe as an "Extravagant Head". I say so because most of the items have been repeated under other Heads of the Estimates.

The question of the National Stadium for which the sum of £800,000 has been provided is something that requires very deep consideration. The one we had did not last for two years even though millions of pounds was spent on it. It was demolished, and now we want to put up another one and we have provided

£800,000 for that. That is one reason why I say that this Head is an "Extravagant Head". Care must be taken to see that the National Stadium we are going to put up is one that is going to remain permanent and which will benefit the dignity of this country.

I would like the Federal Government to go to Ibadan and see the Liberty Stadium ; we want something of that nature to be put up rather than building this year and the following year we demolish it and two years later we put up a fresh estimate. This is extravagance on the part of the Federal Government, and these things must stop.

The other point is that it was a very big disgrace when the Head of State of Guinea, President Sekou Toure came, the place Traditional Dances were staged was the King George V Stadium which was built years ago and which has outlived its usefulness. That place is no use, so, I am appealing to the Government to do something about this.

As for sports, I think that the time has come when we should have a Minister for Sports rather than allow the Minister of Labour's attention to be distracted by going to Fernando Po and answering Labour questions. We want a separate Minister for Sports and a separate Minister for Labour. Also, the time has come that we should have professional footballers, people who take real interest in sports, who should be paid and who should not be allowed to do any other job other than concentrate on Sports. Until that is done we will, as I said, continue to suffer very disgraceful defeats from countries like Ghana and other small countries around us.

Let the Federal Government not be extravagant, I warn.

I support.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central) : I am confining myself particularly to Sub-head 221—Labour Exchanges and Offices—for which a fat sum of £60,900 has been voted. I hope that this money will be properly made use of.

It had been my experience that neither the Federal Government nor the Regional Governments make use of the Labour Exchanges and Offices. A Labour Exchange is meant to help the Government in selecting people qualified for particular posts in which they will give the

country maximum service. The work of Labour Exchanges had been taken over by people who are interested in pushing forward their own relatives, thus practising what is called nepotism.

If Labour Offices are made use of, I think that two important things will be done. The first is that people who should not be employed will be told to go home and they will do that. When we are computing figures of unemployment here, we often forget that there are some people who are unemployable, but they invade offices asking to be made this or that. Labour Offices should use the yard-stick of telling people the qualifications require for particular appointments so that anybody not measuring up to expectation will not come to worry them.

The second is that those who are employed will know that justice is done and maintained. If a man is employed because he has a relative behind him, he will be happy I know, but he will be unhappy when he knows that somebody more qualified than himself remains unemployed because he has nobody behind him. So, I think Labour Offices should be made use of by the Federal Government and by the Regional Governments.

I support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Twenty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 633—Miscellaneous, be approved.

HEAD 636—POLICE

Two Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty Thousand and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 636—Police, approved.

HEAD 637—GENERAL

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie) : I beg to move, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, One Hundred and Six Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 637—General, be approved.

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

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I beg to move an Amendment under this Head of 637 of the Capital Expenditure Estimates as follows—

“To insert a new Sub-head 532—Mid-West Referendum—and to provide a sum of £80,000 under this Sub-head.”

I hereby signify the Governor-General's recommendation to so move.

This amount is required in order to put into effect the previous decision of this honourable House that a referendum should be held to determine whether a Fourth Region should be created in the Mid-West of Nigeria to include Benin Province, including Akoko Edo District in the Afenmai Division and Delta Province, including Warri Division and Warri Urban township area.

The money now requested is required to meet the expenditure in connection with transport, including motor vehicles and river transport, equipment, printing and stationery, including the printing of all papers and the salaries and allowances of the supervisor, his Secretary, Referendum officers, Polling and Presiding officers and thousands of other supporting staff who will supervise and organise the referendum.

I am sure hon. Members will support the provision of this money and I beg to move.

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

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) : I just want to thank the Government for making this provision for the Mid-West plebiscite. I, however, would like to say one or two things or to repeat one or two things which I said when this matter was first discussed in this House some time ago. The plebiscite to determine the creation of a Mid-West state is a matter which is in everybody's mind, especially in the minds of those who are true Mid-Westerners and, as far as Mid-Westerners are concerned, it is a matter of life and death.

Now, this matter being uppermost in the minds of Mid-Westerners, it will be very necessary to make sure that everybody is

[MR E. A. MORDI]

given the opportunity of indicating his or her wish on this issue. There are many people who registered during the 1959 registration for the Federal elections. They were either in the Mid-West area at that time or they had to be on leave and so had the opportunity of registering in the Mid-West area. Some of these people unfortunately, have been transferred to the North or West or East and those of them who are in Federal Departments have had to go on transfer all over the country. So, whenever this plebiscite is going to be held and these people do not have the opportunity to go and cast their votes, it is definitely going to work against the plebiscite. Therefore, I consider it absolutely necessary for the Federal Government to make all arrangements to make it possible for everybody who registered, whether the person be in the North, or East or West, to go home and cast a vote.

It is very significant because as far as this plebiscite is concerned we require 60 per cent of all the registered voters and not necessarily of the people who are voting, and therefore everybody who has registered is to vote in order to be reckoned. If you vote against it it will be against the Mid-West, if you do not vote at all, it is against the Mid-West.

So what I am trying to say is that it is absolutely necessary that that day, should be made a public holiday so that every Mid-Westerner, wherever he or she may be, should be allowed to go back home to the Mid-West and vote.

I also want to say that I had expected personally that before this House rises the hon. Prime Minister would be able to make a statement as to the date of the plebiscite. It is unfortunate that he is not here and he may not be here before this House rises. It is therefore unlikely that we can get anything, any idea of the date of the plebiscite before going home. I further want to say that since it is his prerogative to decide upon this date, he should have to take into consideration the conditions which now obtain.

I refer to the climatic conditions. The rainy season is fast coming on, and there are many parts of the Mid-West where by June or July, the rains are so heavy that it is absolutely impossible to travel.

I am therefore suggesting very strongly to the Prime Minister, that he will be doing a great deal of justice to the people of the Mid-West if he can, between now and the earliest possible moment, fix a date for us so that this plebiscite will be held before the rain gets very heavy as it is definitely bound to make it difficult for people to come to the place and cast their votes.

As I said before, apart from making it possible for the people to come in to vote, and apart also from this question of rainfall being considered by the hon. Prime Minister, I would also suggest that the date for the plebiscite be made a general public holiday for everybody in Nigeria.

I beg to support.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South): It is very interesting that provision is made for the housing of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, and it is very interesting that plans are in hand for a new house for the Prime Minister, but I would say that it is not enough to make provision for our Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries only.

An hon. Member: On a point of order, Sir, there is an Amendment to that Motion.

The Chairman: Order! Shall we then dispose of the Amendment?

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Mr Ajibola: I was mentioning the housing of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. I said it is very good, also I think, to have a comfortable house befitting the dignity of the Prime Minister. I would say there has been a great omission, and that is, about comfortable houses for the Members of this House.

It is true that we put up at the Victoria Island, but they are not comfortable places at all. We would like the Federal Government to look into the comfort of hon. Members, who are helping the Ministers to do their jobs. Again, there is one great punishment which is being meted out to the Members of this honourable House. It is when we are sitting here that we can live freely in these houses, but immediately we adjourn we have to pay charges of one guinea per day, if we should stay in the building.

Most of us live in our constituencies or in some other parts of the Federation. But occasionally we may want to come down to Lagos either to do our duty as the representatives of our people or as professionals. We feel that we should not be charged any amount of money. After all in this place we are not provided with food. It is just a question of bed and some chairs and tables.

Also we would like to have this matter considered by the Government so that we can stay there freely any time we come to Lagos. We would like in each flat that there should be a telephone. At present, it is very difficult for Members to telephone back home and we would like this to be duly considered. The comfort of the Members of this House should be the primary concern of the Federal Government.

Personally, I live in Lagos and practise in Lagos, though I go home occasionally to see my people. But when we consider those who come from very long distances they have to put up in a house after all. We should like this system of payment to be abolished.

Again, at times when we get our pay, one is always surprised that a certain amount has been deducted. When one asks, the answer is that it is because of accommodation, and no amount of argument can make the deduction be refunded. With our very poor pay as Members of this House, it is unfair to us that a part of that money should go back to Government on account of accommodation. I would like this matter to be thoroughly, sympathetically and generously considered.

I beg to support.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East) : Under this Head we have £45,000 for special assistance to friendly countries. I very much welcome this vote and we hope this money will be wisely spent on friendly countries more especially on the other African States which need our help either in cash or in kind. This is an important way of fostering the African unity which we all very much need, and this will bring about good relationships with other nations of the world.

Here too about £2 million has been set aside to be given to the National Universities Commission. I sincerely believe that a substantial amount from this huge sum of money

will be given to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, for expansion and development which is very much needed there.

The third point is about the population census. Here over £2½ million has been voted for the forthcoming census. This is all right; we support the vote, but I have to warn that we do not want what happened during the last census to happen again. We will not tolerate any more nonsense on the next census. We hope there will be no more Regional scrambling for supremacy about the census and no more reckless and contradictory statements about the census result when it comes out next time.

We do not want to waste more money for nothing when our people are suffering from hunger and mass unemployment. We do really hope that the Prime Minister and his Regional colleagues will be equal to the occasion and save the country from any ugly embarrassment.

I beg to support.

M. Maina Waziri (Potiskum) : In supporting this Head I have a brief comment to make. The first one is about the special assistance to friendly countries. The amount of £40,000 which has been voted seems to me to be insufficient because Nigeria is being looked upon as one of the biggest countries in Africa, and in fact, it is. If this is the case, this amount is very small for assistance to friendly countries, especially countries in South Africa and also those in Portuguese possessions which are suffering too much now. Therefore, if we really want the unity of Nigeria and if we want to assist the friendly countries, this amount is very small indeed. I think the Government should do something about it.

I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr M. O. Okilo) : In supporting the Motion before the House I would like to pass a word to the political leaders of the Mid-West areas in connection with the forthcoming plebiscite. I want to appeal to the leaders not to ignore the minority opinions in the proposed Mid-West State. The people there have expressed disagreement on certain minor matters which should be settled within the area.

[MR OKILO]

Those of us who are from the minority areas are really very anxious to see the Mid-West State created. We want it created at all costs so that the people from the minority areas of this country can be very grateful. If it is created it will encourage the people to put forward their case. Now that we want this state to be created we do not want the plebiscite to fail. In order to succeed the leaders of the area should not ignore the opinions of the people in that particular area.

I am speaking with particular reference to the Western Ijaw people in the proposed Mid-West area. These people have put their case before the leaders of the Mid-West and the country at large. They have certain grievances to be settled, and if we want this plebiscite to succeed, the views of these people must be respected. Trying to ignore them—

Mr V. A. Nwaleji (Nsukka West) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Brass (*Mr Okilo*) has not told this House how many States he wants us to create after the creation of the Mid-West.

Mr Okilo : It is not my place—

Mr Chairman : Order, the point of order was directed to the Chair, and if the hon. Member for Brass (*Mr Okilo*) wants to continue his speech he should make his points and not give a ruling.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : The Parliamentary Secretary (*Mr Okilo*) appears to be speaking against the Government. I think that since there is an Amendment here from his Leader, there is no need for him to speak again.

The Chairman : Order, order ! I do not think the Parliamentary Secretary (*Mr Okilo*) is the first Parliamentary Secretary to contribute to the debate during this meeting.

Chief J. S. Mariere (Urhobo Central) : The matter of the creation of States has a Constitutional procedure and the question of internal arrangement amongst the people in the area is not a condition. Already a Planning Committee is looking into the complaints from several sections and I do not see why that should be the basis of a reply by the Parliamentary Secretary.

The Chairman : I understand the Parliamentary Secretary to be expressing his personal views. I do not think he is making any Ministerial Statement or anything of the sort.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : It appears that the Parliamentary Secretary has been directing his speech not to the Government but to other political parties in the Mid-West, and the hon. Member for Urhobo Central (*Chief Mariere*) has already replied to his points.

I think that this is a matter for the political parties which are concerned in the matter and the Government's position in this respect is to provide the money which I am now asking to be provided. The matter of arrangements between political parties and understanding between themselves is not a matter for this House.

The Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) complained about the members of the Mid-West who registered in 1959 and who may not be in the Mid-West during the referendum. Again, this matter is for the political parties in the Mid-West. It is for the hon. Member and members of his party and other parties interested to try to persuade those Mid-Westerners who have registered since 1959 and who are not there now, to come and vote during the referendum. The Government cannot run around and call all the people of the Mid-West to come to the Mid-West during the referendum. It is a matter for the political parties.

The same hon. Gentleman also spoke about the date of the referendum and asked why the Prime Minister did not make a statement. The hon. Gentleman should know the reasons because it is only a few days ago that a Bill was passed in this House, the Electoral Provisions Bill, which made it possible for us to conduct the referendum under the 1959 register and this Bill was passed only two days ago in the Senate, so the Prime Minister could not possibly make a statement before the Bill has been passed which made it possible for us to conduct the referendum.

Of course, we are making all arrangements for the referendum and the Supervisor of the referendum and all his Assistants are very busy in the Mid-West making preparatory arrangements, and it is for them, after they have completed the arrangements, to advise the

Prime Minister in order that he should appoint a date according to their advice. I think the hon. Member should rest assured that we are doing everything to make it possible for his Mid-West to be a reality as soon as possible.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, One Hundred and Six Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 637—General, be approved.

HEAD 638.—DEFENCE

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : I beg to move :

That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 638—Defence, be approved.

Minister of State (Hon. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

Mr J. A. Yacim (Igala North West) : What I want the Government to do after this Head has been approved is that the rules of the old colonial officers on the appointment of soldiers should be revised. What happens now when an interested young man wants to join the army in order to serve his country is that he is disqualified either because he is short or not fat enough. I do not know what that has got to do with somebody who has the interest to fight for the security of his country.

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : The hon. Member speaking was a short man when he was in the Army and he was not turned out, and I believe other short men like himself may not be turned out.

Mr Yacim : Quite recently, and I am speaking from experience, a team of service commissioners were sent to Kabba Province. Over 300 young men appeared for selection with Standard Six Certificates and out of this huge number, only 4 were selected. The rest were disqualified for various funny reasons : some were not tall enough and some not fat enough.

In other countries every body has to be educated on the military side. Since the compulsory period of service, is only six years and people who are not fit to fight could be made to

do other jobs in the Army, I do not see why these people should be turned out. I therefore appeal to the Minister to revise these colonial orders.

I would like to give the example of the Japanese who are naturally short and I wonder who would serve in their army if they were to have orders like these. It is my view that there are short men who can do better than tall men.

Mr A. O. Ogunsaya (Ikeja) : On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman should realise that the Army is not meant for pocket sized men !

An hon. Member : Like the hon. Member for Ikeja !

Mr E. O. Ifezue (Orlu North) : Under sub-head 361 we have provision for the purchase of war ships. We have been asked to approve over £820,000 for this year. The point I want to make here is that our Government is very fond of buying old things. I just want to tell the Government not to buy old ships, those used during the last World War. War ships to be bought for the Nigerian Navy should be new ones and strong ships that will represent our dignity.

Furthermore, why is it that in our third year of independence we are not able to find a Nigerian to command the Nigerian Forces ? We have produced capable men who can command the Nigerian Forces and I want the Government to do something in this regard. We are tired of allowing expatriates to come and man all our key positions. Defence is very important in a nation and I want the Government to make it possible for a Nigerian to command our Armed Forces.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Nine Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ten Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 638—Defence, be approved.

HEAD 639—FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 639—Financial Obligations, approved.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

HEAD 640—LOANS ON-LENT AND EXTERNAL
GRANTS TO REGIONS

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : I beg to move : That Fourteen Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 640—Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regions, be approved.

Minister of State (Hon. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : I rise to support this Head and all I want to say is on the Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regions. I understand that Regions cannot raise loans direct from anywhere except through the Federal Government and therefore the Federal Government is a sort of surety. That being the position, it is the duty of the Federal Government to supervise the expenditure for which this loan was raised and which they guarantee. The Federal Government should see to it that when the time comes for the repayment, repayment is done in instalments as was agreed to.

Any loan whether lent to the Regional Government or to the Federal Government should, as far as possible, be without strings, and if there are strings such strings should not be such as to strangulate us. It should be as flexible as possible. And any contract entered into should bind both the lender and the borrower.

Again these loans to the Regions are meant to be used for development purposes. I am inclined to say that in the past money such as this lent to the Regions used to be spent judiciously as far as certain sections are concerned. I have in mind that it is the intention not only of the Federal Government but also of the Regional Governments to industrialise the country, and industrialisation should not, by any stretch of the imagination, be concentrated in Lagos, in Ibadan, Kaduna or Jos, Enugu or Port Harcourt. After all these places mentioned are not the only places that make up Nigeria. We want this loan to the Regions to be used judiciously, to be used in improving development in the rural areas

such as Ikom and Abakaliki, and then last but not the least, the area I come from which has even been recognised by this House as having been neglected.

We want the Federal Minister of Finance to go out and bring in money into this country but the Minister of Finance should be careful not to go and bring in money which will strangulate us. May I tell the Minister of Finance and the Government that sufficient effort has not been exerted in raising internal loans. For instance we see a number of lorries here or mammy wagons or *Kia Kia* bus equipped for this campaign. But the campaign for internal loans is only concentrated in Lagos. I appeal to the Minister and the Government to please send these vans to the Regions. There are Members in this House who are quite willing—and I am one of them—to go out and campaign to sell these bonds. If we concentrate in Lagos and Ibadan alone not many people will buy them. So please send them to the rural areas. We are all out to help the Government to finance its programme.

I beg to support.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo Central) : This Head is a very important Head and I am speaking in support of it. It is a pity that quite a lot of Members from the rural areas who should join me in pressing forward the points I want to make before this House are not now here.

The Head here is on Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regions and the amount is Fourteen Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand and Fifty Pounds. By the pattern of our Constitution it is quite plain that the Federal Government has limited functions in the Regions and, even though the Regions are doing their best as far as their financial resources permit them, they are still handicapped by way of funds, and as long as the finances of the Regions make it impossible for them to cover the development work in all the areas under their territorial control so long will the people in certain parts of the Regions continue to suffer.

Now the aim of development in the whole country is to provide for the common which our able Minister of Finance gave prominence to on page 17 of his Budget Speech, the

common man. The common man, the Minister referred to in three places under page 17. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I start with the first reference, and proceed to the second reference and the third reference to the common man.

He spoke at one point of the betterment of the lot of the common man. Further on he said the plan is to raise the living standard of the common man. Then the last part was that the Federal Government is concerned with the whole of the population and not one section of it, and that particularly they are concerned with the farmers who form the vast bulk of our population.

Now somebody has just asked me who is the common man? I think my answer is that the common man is the man who cultivates his farm, the man who does his fishing, the man who works to provide food for the working class, the labourer, the man who lives from hand to mouth. Well those are the people referred to as the common man. If we find all these people in the Regions and the Regional Governments owing to some handicap in their financial resources are not able to cater for the common man who lives in the rural areas, is it not necessary for the Government to make substantial grants to the Regions specifically for development work? If we divide £14 million among these three Regions each will receive only £4.7 million regardless of the population and size of the Region. That is regardless of the population and size of the Regions. It seems to me that we come here to pass a vote of £58 million for which hon. Members from the rural areas cannot account when they get back to their constituencies. What are we going to say? Hon. Members complain everytime that there is nothing they can show to their constituencies since they have become Members of Parliament and then we come here to pass an Appropriation Bill of £58 million. What are we going to tell our people when we get back? That after passing an Appropriation Bill of £58 million there is nothing that the Federal Government can do for them?

The point is that the Federal Government has its own area to cover and the Regional Governments have their own area to cover, therefore, if the Regional Governments should find it difficult to cover all the parts under

their territorial control I think it is the duty of the Federal Government to give them grants. The external grant here is very small. I think it is high time the Federal Government should be specific and make concrete plans.

We are told here that we have a Modernisation Budget. There is no point modernising things within one area and "Oldernising" in other parts of the country. In this case, Government is perpetuating the old policy of making progressive areas more progressive and backward areas more backward. I think it is high time we called a halt to this kind of situation that makes Members of the Federal House from the rural areas to feel that they are just here to join the Government to improve only the areas that have already been improved.

Nigeria is independent, we are told, and apart from the politicians and people who dwell in the highly urbanised areas, what is the Government doing to bring the common man in the rural areas into the picture in the new scheme of things? I cannot see it. The only thing I would advise the Government to do is to take concrete measures to give loans to these Regions. The loans shown here are not enough because it will only be £4.74 million to each Region if it is divided as I said earlier regardless of size and population.

I must take this opportunity to thank the Federal Government for the loan that has already been given to the Western Regional Government. It is helping them and they are asking for more loans. I am asking that internal loans should also be given. So, I feel that the common man should be made to feel that he is also part and parcel of the people inhabiting this country. It should not only be the time we want them to give us their votes that we have to go to them and the only thing they know about the independence of Nigeria is when it is time for us to call them to cast their votes. That should not be the only way they feel this country is independent. We should make them feel that there is real independence for the country and one way to do it is to give them roads, let Government undertake an extensive programme of road construction.

In my area, you cannot reach some of the places by car and when some of the people themselves undertake to build roads by communal labour they are not reimbursed, no

[CHIEF MARIERE]

compensation is given to them after they have taken upon themselves to build roads and the Government says we have independence. This independence is only for the urbanised areas.

I would urge the Government to see to it that in future both external and internal loans should be given in large enough quantities to allow the Regional Governments to make use of such money for real development work for the rural areas otherwise we shall lead a delegation here to the Prime Minister and protest on behalf of the rural areas before the life of this Parliament comes to an end.

The Minister of Finance : I quite appreciate the worries of hon. Members about the development of rural areas, to such an extent that they want us to give more grants and loans to the Regional Governments to enable them carry out their assignments.

My hon. Friend the Member for Urhobo Central (*Chief Mariere*) who happens to be my cousin and comes from the same place as I, knows well that we all have our responsibilities. The Regional Governments have their responsibilities and we have ours. If we were to carelessly dole out our loans and funds as grants to the Regional Governments what would happen to our own responsibilities? Shall we shirk them, or shall we just throw them overboard. Hon. Members should know that the credit-worthiness of the Federation overseas is not recommended on Regional achievements or the financial buoyancy of Regional Governments but on the overall credit-worthiness and financial buoyancy of the Federal Government in particular. That being so, it is important for the whole country, for the Federal Government to continue to command substantial funds, to have the necessary money in order that our credit-worthiness may not be in doubt; that is important.

And what is more important is the fact that unless we keep some of the funds we have in reserve, if there is any financial turmoil that affects any particular Region going into financial liquidation, it will not be possible for the Federal Government to come to the support of such Regional Governments. If we were to be in such a position, which God forbid, then the whole financial system will collapse and I am sure that no one would like the financial system of our dear country to collapse.

The position is that the loans which we are raising must be raised for specific projects and in accordance with the policy of the Government, which is that those projects must be viable and must be productive. In other words, the money invested must within a reasonable time be able to repay itself so that we can use the money for other purposes. That is what a wise businessman will do. But a foolish businessman would like to invest here, invest there and yonder and even by the time he wants money to feed himself he finds that he has to go and take an overdraft. A man who lives on overdraft cannot consider himself a good businessman or a prudent businessman.

Thus the situation gives us our responsibility and gives us our financial possibilities to enable us to meet these responsibilities.

The same thing applies to the Regional Governments. It is only necessary for us to have a credit-worthy whole in Nigeria and we should also ask our Regional counterparts to be careful the way they spend their own money, to put them in productive enterprises and develop the rural areas within the limit of their financial resources. I think that my hon. Friend and brother will appreciate our difficulties that we must give what we have. I do not agree with him that we are trying to practise the biblical injunction to those that have, more shall be given and to those that have not, even the little which they seem to have may be taken away from them. It is one of those wonders of the Bible. Like the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) those that they have in Uyo will be taken—

Mr P. E. Ekanem : On a point of information, the Minister of Finance has taken our Fernando Po trade. That was the only means of our livelihood and he has taken it.

The Chairman : Do you mean smuggling?

The Minister of Finance : I am very grateful to the Chairman. This is a correct interpretation of biblical injunction. Even the small one which the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) seems to have had, which is smuggling, should be taken away from him. We must praise all the Regional Governments and the Federal Government; all of them.

Chief Abii : Does the Minister want us to praise the Regional Governments that signed for all their loans with their toes ?

The Minister of Finance : I think that we have every reason to thank everybody on this particular issue because we have a parable that a fatherless or a motherless child takes lessons from where a child is taking lessons from his parents. If any Regional Government has faltered or made some mistakes in its financial policy and practice, I think other Regional Governments should learn a good lesson from it. For that alone, we should thank them, but I really feel strongly that we have not made mistakes that are not redeemable. Whatever we have done in our transitional stage from colonial finance to sovereignty finance, we have every reason to thank God that we have not made irredeemable mistakes that we have been able to develop our country to such a proportion that it astonishes everybody who comes to Nigeria. I think this is a statement of fact.

It is true that we have not been able to go far enough, but time was against us and now that people are trying to go to the moon, we cannot afford to ride a push bike. We too must make some strides. That refers to the portion of my Budget Speech in which I said that the countries that have must come to help us. But they are not to give us loans, as my hon. Friend had said, with strings and conditions that will make it impossible for us to make good use of the money. In any case, I will never take such loans, I can assure hon. Members. We will have to take only such loans or grants as have no evil strings attached. Let them give us some loans or grants. We are not beggars. We want some money to help ourselves. After all, they have taken so much from this country in those days when nobody knew who was taking our money. We are asking them to give us back a little of what they have taken so that we too can enjoy life more abundantly.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West) : I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able way he has been able to go round the world to get us money. I do not call this begging because we are going to pay it back.

When one comes to Sub-head 3—United Kingdom Commonwealth Assistance Loan 1962—which is about £900,000, there is one

adage that says, when somebody has done a little, he has to be congratulated for the little he has done, then he will do more. We are of the opinion that the United Kingdom Government being the Government which has nurtured us up to this time and which has brought us up to the present standard we have attained, at least should do something better and more for this country. After all, it is a loan and some of it is a grant. We have to thank them very much for that which they have done and expect that in future they will do something greater for this country.

Another point I have to raise here is about Sub-head 501—United Kingdom Government Grant for Education—which is £2,500,000. We are grateful to the United Kingdom for giving us so much for our education in this country. After all, why people are worried in this country to-day is nothing but for education. Both the poor and the rich, everybody, would like to educate his child. If we talk of industry, farming, agriculture and other things, without education I think none of these things will materialise. With this little assistance they have given to this country, we are grateful to them, but we want them to give us more because Nigeria is a big country with great potentialities.

An hon. Member : Do they own us ?

Mr Elenwa : They do not own us, but as we know they are our fathers. Nigeria with its teeming population should need something substantial from the United Kingdom.

The United States has given us about £900,000. For this we are grateful to them ; we are thankful for this money granted to this country and we are hoping that in future as these countries look forward to Nigeria, a day will come when Nigeria too will begin to assist these countries.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Fourteen Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand and Fifty Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1963-64, under Head 640—Loans On-Lent and External Grants to Regions, be approved.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.]

FEDERAL COMMISSIONS (PRIVILEGES
AND IMMUNITIES) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move, That an Act to provide for the immunity from civil proceedings of members of the Judicial Service Commission and the Public Service Commission of the Federation and for the privilege of the documents of such Commissions be read a Second time.

This Bill is to provide for the immunity from civil proceedings of members of the Judicial Service Commission, of the Public Service Commission and, as I shall amend later, of the Police Service Commission and also for the privilege of the documents of such Commissions.

This is a straight-forward Bill. Hon. Members know that these privileges are due to these Commissions during the discharge of their duties and I commend it seriously for the acceptance of the House.

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

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West): Although this Bill appears to be very short and very brief, may I say that I view it with suspicion. The Bill looks somewhat dangerous in outlook. May I say that if the spirit of the Bill were only to be implemented by those named in the Bill, I would have had no cause to make any comments at all. I know the hon. Minister of Finance presenting this Bill is presenting it in good faith, but we should do very little to protect the interests of these Commissioners because not all of them will in future prove worthy of what is expected of them all the time.

May I say also that if this Bill were to be a worthy Bill, why should Members of this House not be included? Are we not entitled to immunity ourselves?

Several hon. Members: We are, already.

Mr Brown: I know we are. We only enjoy these immunities when we are in session here, but when we go out, we are molested by the Police. I think otherwise this is a very

good Bill, but we must be very careful how we cover up these Commissioners so that they will not abuse the privileges given to them.

Mr D. E. Y. Agbahowa (Benin West): This is a very progressive Bill and I am happy to contribute to its passage. However, I would like to make observations on the provisions of section 2 of the Bill. It says that if, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, certain documents are regarded as privileged, their production in evidence shall not be compellable in a court of law.

To all intents and purposes, this provision appears to be innocuous. One would say that from experience this is a sort of serious limitation of the rights of citizens because it is an essential ingredient of democracy that the courts shall be open to any aggrieved citizen. Once the courts are open, the means at least of redress must not be in any way limited. As it is, it appears that if in the opinion of the Attorney-General certain documents shall be regarded as privileged, the production of such documents shall not be compellable.

I would say that this appears to be a very serious invasion of the rights of the citizens of this country. If in the opinion of the Attorney-General, or in the opinion of the Government, the documents that might be affected are within the category of secret documents of state, it is understandable. It is in the interests of all of us that secret documents of state should not really be brought to the court. But as it is left now, it is almost a blank cheque. In other words if any document in the opinion of the Attorney-General, appears to be privileged, and the communications of the members of the commission or their findings at least in the opinion of the Attorney-General should be regarded as privileged, the courts have to be stopped from asking for the production of such documents.

I would seriously add that it should not be left so generalised. Some limitations should be put to the extent to which the Attorney-General in this matter could say that one document is privileged or is not privileged. If I may give a typical example, if a civil servant, may be in the upper segment, is reported adversely against, and he can put up a defence at least before the Public Service Commission, and ultimately they find against

relating to pool betting will be published unless such advertisements are certified by someone authorised to do so by me. Clause II of the Bill extends the application of the Federal Pool Betting Control Act of 1961 to the two Regions.

hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is a master in this gambling habit, and I do not see why the Government should be called upon to act because of one man's habitual misfortune.

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him, and he feels that he has been deeply wronged and he wants to challenge that act, that decision, by an action in court—we had a recent precedent in the Eastern Region—and the decision of the Commissioners as such is regarded as privileged by the Attorney-General, it would appear that this man at least is up against a brick wall, and he cannot cause the decisions of the Commissioners to be produced in evidence.

I would respectfully ask that serious consideration be given to the observations I have made. In this respect—I am seeing now that my leader is very eager to throw me out—it may be said that my fears are not genuine and that in actual practice they may not happen. It is better at least to provide against contingencies that might arise later. And, in circumstances of this kind I am asking the Government to provide against any possible contingency that may arise, by putting some limitations to the absolute power of the Attorney-General to regard certain documents as privileged.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance : My hon. Friend, as a lawyer, must have succeeded in arguing a very hard case well. But it may interest the House to know the facts. Section 2 of the Bill deals with privilege of documents. Section 2 makes specific the documents that are to be privileged documents; that are classified as privileged documents.

My hon. Friend tried to argue his case by saying that all sorts of documents, as long as the Attorney-General declares them privileged, they will be privileged and will not be tendered in evidence in court. That is not so.

The documents that are to be privileged under this law are clearly stated in section 2, and with your permission, I will quote:—

2. Any report, statement or other communication or record of any meeting, enquiry or proceedings which a Commission may make in the due exercise of its functions or which any member of a Commission may make in the due performance of his duties shall be privileged—

That is in the Bill. They are all specified in section 2 of the Bill, and it is not just any Government document or file or so, but any such documents as stated in that section of the Bill will be privileged, if the Attorney-General is satisfied that in the interest of the public duty of this Commission, it is not necessary to tender them in evidence.

I think hon. Members will agree with me that in the interest of running such important Commissions on behalf of the Government, such a section is necessary and expedient.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) : This Bill is a welcome one and it is non-controversial. It has come at a very opportune moment. But I hold the view that it does not go far enough. For one thing, it ought to have a saving clause. That is, here it provides privileges but there is no responsibility attached to it.

I feel that it might be open to abuse. I know very well that the people who are appointed to any Commission are people of high integrity, but all the same, human nature being what it is, it is better that there should be provided a saving clause, whereby if any member of a Commission deliberately distorts facts, he would be penalised.

That is my observation—that it ought to have gone farther still than this to provide a saving clause, so that if any member of a Commission, especially where it is a sole Commissioner, deliberately distorts some facts, he should be penalised.

With this remark, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : I only want to say that there is a fear that there is no date of commencement on this Bill. I know the Government are at liberty to fix a date of commencement. But I just want to suggest that they should not make the Bill retrospective. Because if it is retrospective, we shall have to suspect that they want to put up this to protect somebody, who in the past, had done some act.

A few days ago we found that some intellectuals challenged the report of a certain Commission of Enquiry. In future, they may not have the right to do that, but as it is now, an aggrieved person may go to court to challenge the action of a Commission, if it had happened in the past.

If this Bill is made retrospective, I am quite sure that such an aggrieved person will not have the right of redress. So, I suggest that the date should not be retrospective. It should start to-day, and then we can feel that there is no such suspicion anywhere and that it is not intended to protect any individual.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : The hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) is remembering the monies he has lost and therefore wants people to check unscrupulous agents. But who will be the judge to know whether somebody is unscrupulous or not ?

Mr Ekanem : That question need not be answered. It is the public who will judge. I am speaking as a member of the public, and this is a very serious matter, and I think everybody in this House, except perhaps the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) has at one time or the other staked and we have all suffered in the hands of these unscrupulous agents. Not only in the hands of pool agents but also in the hands of insurance agents. I do not want to raise that now because I will be ruled out of order.

I want the Minister and the Government to tighten the law about pool betting in this country, otherwise we shall get no where ; we shall only have people duping the illiterate and even literate people in the provinces.

I beg to support.

Mr D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt) : I welcome this Bill and I am happy that the Pool Betting Act is now being extended to the Eastern and Northern Regions.

The legislation on central pool betting is really a necessity, but may I ask the hon. Minister to make adequate provision in order to protect the interest of stakers in the provinces from the unscrupulous pool agents.

This Bill is non-contentious and non-controversial. I support it.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : May I also beg to support the Bill. As my hon. Friend, the Member for Port Harcourt (*Mr Okay*) has said, it is non-controversial. But there is one thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. As a result of pool betting in this country some members of the public, particularly the junior servants in the civil service, have taken to filling coupons in the offices rather than at home and this is certainly nothing but lack of a sense of responsibility.

I hope that the Government will check this sort of thing. If people are conscious of their duties they will fill their coupons outside the offices and after office hours.

I beg to support.

Chief D. A. Ogunleye (Ede-Ejigbo) : I have a brief comment to make about this Bill. In the first place I support the Bill.

The point I want to make here is that all over the country we see a large number of people trying to bet along the roads. Some of them use papers or draughts and invite passers-by to come and join them in betting, and by so doing a lot of stealing has been going on. It is high time the Government tried to urge the police to be over active in this case because, all over important places in Ibadan we see people betting, and even in Lagos, we still have some people betting along the streets. It is very surprising that even around the flats of Members we see people betting about. As soon as this Bill is passed into law, I will urge that the Government should make it a compulsory and bounden duty for the police to work very hard in order to see that they check these people who are robbing the public.

It is also a good thing and a credit to the Northern Government that they have prohibited betting in their area of authority. That is where the whole thing originated. This type of illegal betting originated from the North and it is very good now that it is prohibited there. If we want to find the easy way by which a person can steal or rob the country of millions of pounds, it is through this illegal betting.

I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North) : I must say that this Bill is a very good one. On several occasions we have heard the Niger Pool saying that with 24 points someone has won £2,000, but they have never told us how many people won the £2,000. I feel they should be able to state this so that we can know whether this is true or false.

If one goes to the Zettlers Pool one will see 23 points winning £10. We do not know how they work these things. Can the Minister tell us how they check these things? Do they just sit down there, check the things as they like and then give us the result? All these things are not clear. So provisions must be made in order not to cheat betters.

I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) : Some time ago when it was usual for people to stake their money in overseas pools betting business

I think the public had every privilege of receiving whatever they won. But no sooner it was actually prohibited and we had to make it here in Nigeria than we found that the people were getting fraudulent. Whenever you stake your money in this pools business and you win anything you cannot get it. If you win say £100, before you get £20 it will be a tug-of-war. Most of the promoters in Nigeria are fraudulent men. They do not honour their pledge at all.

I would request the Government to be very hard on them and at the same time the promoters should be asked to make substantial deposits with the Government in order to protect the interests of the public because sometimes the fixed odds promoters, whenever you win anything, not only that you will not get the money so won, but they often close their offices and run away and they cannot often be traced. It is necessary as provided in this Bill that the place of work and their full address plus the addresses of their next of kin should be supplied ever before they are registered. When they run away they cannot be traced and one gets nothing, but the public should be protected.

If we say we are going to do pools betting in this country I do not see the reason why people who are engaged in such trade should defraud the public and make themselves rich. If people invest money in something they want returns and they deserve to be satisfied by the Government. If we are not staking in the United Kingdom any more, if we are staking in Nigeria, the people doing the job should be as honest as their counterparts in the United Kingdom.

This is my submission, Mr Chairman.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : It is quite true that a number of Members have spoken to say that this Bill is very welcome. It is, as a matter of fact, legislation for an inevitable evil because pools betting in my own humble opinion is really an inevitable evil. It makes the people lazy. It makes somebody hope to gain when he has not done any piece of work.

A number of people enter into pools betting ; one or two get out of it completely impoverished while others get enriched. So as I said it is an inevitable evil and what Government is trying to do is to find a second alternative. But I rather implore the Government to banish pools betting completely in this country.

This will enable people to know that hard work leads to successful life rather than sit down and hope that tomorrow an unexpected fortune would come to one's door.

As I have said I am not blaming the Government, in any case, for introducing the Bill because it is in the sense that there are some people who have special craving for idleness and special disposition not to do any real work. As for me I have never filled any pools coupon because I believe that I can work with my hands and achieve what I want to achieve. So the Government should take upon itself to educate the people that in honest work lies success ; not in sitting down and praying unnecessarily, hoping that God will come from heaven and help those who never help themselves. Manna has ceased to fall from heaven and our people must be told that only in hard work can they really achieve success.

In this connection there is only one more point which I want to make and that is in respect of the uniformity of the law. It is something really painful that in the Federation of Nigeria we can find a Region contracting out of a measure projected by the Government for the over-all good of the whole Federation. I hope that as circumstances are changing in the Western Region the Federal Government will not rest on its oars in trying to get the rest of the Federation, including the Western Region, into this pools betting law so that there might be uniformity throughout the Federation.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : In supporting the Second Reading of this Bill and in supporting the last speaker, I should like to appeal to the Federal Government to be very, very vigilant about this pools betting. Fantastic sums of money are leaving this country unchecked and this is definitely detrimental to the economic progress of Nigeria. I appeal to the Federal Government to see that this pools betting is controlled or even banned completely.

I beg to support.

Mr M. D. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa) : I want to state, as the last speaker has said, that pools betting, if possible, should be banned in this country. My reason is this : it is most disgraceful that school children, even primary school children do bet. I do not know what kind of nation we hope to have in the future,

[MR GBOLAGUNTE]

if we allow children of eleven years of age to gamble in the schools and in the presence of teachers. It is not the fault of the teachers who do not check them but it is the fault of the country, I suppose. In fact, we can say it is the fault of this Government if it allows pools betting. It is something that can eat to the root of our progress in the future.

We want money and that is why we bet. I think we can introduce another means of saving or getting money. The workers who bet may be asked to contribute say ten shillings (10s) a month into a fund and perhaps after a period they will withdraw this money for something else. School children may be encouraged to contribute money in schools or perhaps to have something like a sort of saving as is done in England and when they are out of school they will have sufficient money to start their living. Perhaps if they start their living very well they will not go down to betting. Unfortunately, they go on the streets and find people who should be called beggars trying to bet. If they have a shilling they use it to bet, if they have three shillings they use two shillings and sixpence out of it to bet. Then they walk about and beg for more money.

I think that instead of encouraging it we should ban it. Unfortunately, the Federal Government also has gone to the extent of starting the Niger Pools. Well, if the Government can start that, what do we expect the public to do? So if it is possible, the Niger Pools should be banned, pools betting should be banned and the country will be happier.

It is also unfortunate that housewives in many cases do not have anything to do but to sit down and try to stake when their husbands are at work. When the husband comes back one finds a lot of row after the woman has spent the money to bet. I think we should ban pools betting instead of encouraging it. That is my point. It is against the Christian and Muslim ethics and so we should ban it. There are many Muslims and Christians in this country and we want to uphold the ethics of these religions. Therefore, I suggest that we should not encourage pools betting, we should ban it altogether.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I thank hon. Members who have contributed so ably to this debate. Most of the Members who spoke

have asked me to do exactly what this Bill is asking the House to approve; that is to tighten control of pools promoters and pools agents. This Bill, if passed, will enable us to have a better control throughout the country.

We are having, in the Ministry, shortly a Pools Inspectorate Division. This House has just passed a recurrent expenditure estimate under the Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and in it there is provision for an inspectorate division in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This inspectorate, when established, will be controlling pools betting in the Lagos Territory as well as in the other two Regions which have given us powers now to control pools betting in their areas.

Apart from that also we will have power to give licences to the pools promoters and pools agents in these areas and it is true we shall give licences only to those agents and promoters who are honest. If there is any default from any of the pools agents, then the result will be that he does not get his licence renewed because these licences are given each year.

We also have the Police going round to these pools houses and inspecting their work. Now their hands will be strengthened when there is a specialist branch in the Ministry to help in this inspection.

Members have spoken about banning football pools. I agree that pool betting may be against some religious beliefs but as the hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) has suggested, it is something which is inevitable which we have to accept as a necessary evil and it is impossible to encroach upon the right of the citizen upon his freedom to do as he likes with his own money, money which he has earned. I think it would be wrong for the Government to go to the extent of controlling the pocket of the individual. After he has earned his money by toil and efforts, it is for him to decide what to do with the money either to do something which is for his own good or throw it away; it is a matter for him.

All we can do is what we have already done to prevent this money from going outside the country. There has been a lot of waste when large amounts of money had been going out of this country to Pools Companies outside Nigeria. But this has now been controlled

and we do not allow any companies outside Nigeria to operate pool betting in Nigeria. That is the purpose of the Federal Government getting into the business of pool betting. It is not something which the Government wants to do but it is something which the Government did in order to be able to control it more effectively.

As I said before we cannot prevent people from betting, but if they would like to bet why not bet within Nigeria so that the money does not go out and the proceeds will be used for the development of the country?

I am glad to inform hon. Members that the Federal Government is already getting a quite substantial amount of money through levies to those pools promoters and also through the profits which it is making from the Niger Pools Company. So it is not money wasted as far as Government is concerned. It is different from what it had been before when the whole money was going outside the country.

I agree also with the Members who spoke about the desirability of having a country-wide uniformity in pools betting control, and we do hope that the Western Regional Government will find it fit to allow us, just as their counterparts have allowed us, to legislate on their behalf and control pool betting; and I am sure it will not be long when they will agree in the same way.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

POOL BETTING BILL : CONSIDERED IN
COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(SECTIONS ONE AND SEVEN OF 1961, NO. 69, AMENDED).

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): This is a Bill for which we must congratulate the Minister of Internal Affairs. Now this provision says that—

No person shall receive for publication or publish any advertisement relating to pool betting unless it is accompanied by a certificate as to its genuineness signed by some person authorised in writing by the Minister in that behalf.

The provision is very important and I am sure that those who know about pools will realise that this is going to protect the public

in future from some of the practices of unscrupulous pools promoters, and furthermore, make it possible for advertisements published by unauthorised persons to be discouraged by the Government. I think it is the duty of the Minister of Internal Affairs to see to it that these fictitious advertisements of pools dividends are discouraged and with the possibility of punishing offenders. It is my wish to see that people in this business are made accountable for what they publish in the newspapers.

I beg to support.

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West): I rise to speak on pool betting. It is no better than legislating for rogues. Everybody knows that it is a gamble. This is no betting. What they do in Nigeria is known as gambling. The Minister of State said a few minutes ago that they will know honest people to be given licences I think it is a matter of money. Money matters are not matter of fun. One cannot know an honest man in the monetary affair.

Another point I want to make is that even the police men who are supposed to have been in charge of all these things take part in gambling. Everywhere one goes one finds them. It has ruined so many workers. Some of these pools promoters have spent public money and they have been jailed for it. I would say that we no longer require all these things in Nigeria. We must give protection to the public. We legislate for the trickish people to have the chance to rob people of their money.

I beg to support.

Clause 1—(SECTIONS ONE AND SEVEN OF 1961, NO. 69 AMENDED) ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja): This Bill is going to be applicable to Lagos, the East and the North. As a Westerner, I think the hon. Minister should see to it, he should use his good offices to see that in due course this

[MR OGUNSANYA]

Bill will be applicable also to the Western Region so that the country will appear always as one whole country.

M. Sule Abba Biu (Biu North): In supporting the Third Reading of this Bill I wish to make one point. The point I want to make is that in most of the Government Departments, officers of the Departments, from the Permanent Secretary downwards, fill football coupons. I think that the best thing to do is to make the Permanent Secretaries responsible for checking on the officers who abandon Government work and fill football coupons.

I hope the Minister will do something about this.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Minister of Internal Affairs: I beg to move that this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1963.

As Members are already aware it is the policy of the Federal Government to finance as much as possible the present Development Programme from our internal resources. One of the surest avenues of contribution to the Development Fund is the channelling of funds from the recurrent revenues. All normal Government revenues are paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and all expenditure is made from the Fund by way of Annual and Supplementary Appropriation Acts unless in those cases where Parliament has already authorised the Minister of Finance by law to meet certain liabilities without further reference to the House.

In order to ensure that as much contribution as possible is made to the Development Fund from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, this Government has initiated a number of measures to curtail recurrent expenditure. At the end of each financial year, through very prudent management of our finances, there is an excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure. Also the total Treasury Bills in issue stands at £21 million of which £10 million has already

been transferred to the Development Fund and £5.75 million on lent to the Regions. It is the intention of the Minister of Finance to increase this hard core of Treasury Bills to £15 million of which £3 million will be on lent to the Western Region. This will increase the transfer of Treasury Bills to the Development Fund to finance the Development Plan by £2 million.

This Motion, therefore, seeks to retain the balance of £3,25 million Treasury Bills not yet on lent, together with the usual Five hundred thousand pounds statutorily earmarked for Working Capital, in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The balance as at the 31st March, 1963 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of this total of £3.75 million should all go into the Development Fund to finance Capital projects.

I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the transfer into the Development Fund of the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund in excess of Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds as at close of business on the 31st day of March, 1963.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed that this House do now adjourn—(MINISTER OF STATE (HON. M. A. O. OLAREWAJU)

1962 WEST AFRICAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

RESULTS

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East): I rise on the Motion for Adjournment to raise a matter which I regard as of social significance to the country. The West African School Certificate results have just recently been published and throughout the country there is general wailing and gnashing of teeth. Thousands of students were unsuccessful in the examination. In fact—

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North): I protest. In the Eastern Region, many schools had 100 per cent. So, there cannot be general wailing and gnashing of teeth about the results. It can only be in the Western Region not in the Eastern Region.

Mr Mordi : I think my hon. Friend the Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) is trying to blow his own trumpet wrongly. Even in Onitsha there is a school that had 7 passes out of 40. In fact, I know that well over 50 *per cent* of those who took the examination either failed completely or were referred in English. As an educationist, I will never subscribe to the idea that any candidate should be passed who did not merit it.

I also do not agree as is suggested by some people that our overseas associates in conducting this examination are playing some unfair game with a view to boosting their own economy. But, however, undisputable the genuineness of the source of the information may be, there can be no doubt that we lose quite enormously on the large number of failures. I must—

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : I humbly feel that my hon. Friend the Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) raising the question of results of the West African School Certificate examination here is trying to impute improper motives. If 4 people take an examination, and 2 of them get 100 *per cent* even if one of them does not have even a pass will the hon. Member come and raise the matter in Parliament? Once they are given the same syllabus, and they took the same examination if a school happens to get 100 *per cent* hon. Members should not come to Parliament to complain. I feel what the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is raising is improper.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) said that the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is going to impute improper motives. I cannot rule the hon. Member out of order without hearing him impute any such motive.

Mr Mordi : I have actually not been imputing any motive.

Mr Ogbalu : On a point of order, the point that my hon. Friend is raising is going to cause a lot of confusion in the country. The point is not worth raising on the Floor of this Parliament. I do not think it is worth-while allowing him to continue because it will create suspicion throughout the Federation about the examinations which are being conducted. I am a teacher myself and I know that there has been nothing unfair as far as the West African School Certificate is concerned.

The teachers in the Regions whose schools did badly should teach their pupils well. It is not a question of coming to raise such a point on the Floor of this Parliament because we have privileges. He should not be allowed to do that.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : I think there is nothing wrong in what the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) is raising. If only my hon. Friends will hear him in silence, I shall satisfy what they want. There is nothing wrong in the points he is raising and it is not going to create any trouble educationally in the country.

Mr Mordi : I thank the Minister of Education. As a matter of fact, what I was trying to say is that when these results do come out, one discovers that many of the pupils who fail do not necessarily fail because they have not secured passes in a good number of subjects. Some of the public who fail just fail because they have been rejected on account of the fact that they have not passed in the English Language. One finds a boy who has actually passed in five or six subjects without being given a certificate. In my own opinion, this is very unfair.

In England, for example, where English is their mother tongue, where English is the native language, one can understand. It may be explained that English should be a compulsory subject for students, but in Nigeria and other West African countries, English is a second language. As a matter of fact, what I am asking for is that the Minister of Education should go into serious consultation with the West African Examinations Council with a view to reviewing the regulations. Even in England, English has ceased to be a compulsory subject.

I want to say that there is a lot of man-power need in this country. Many boys are frustrated. Many boys fail in English after passing in five or six subjects and after having been in school for about six years. Most of these boys who fail these examinations in the school when they leave school find it difficult to pass other examinations. I am suggesting very strongly that the Minister of Education should go into consultation with the West African Examinations Council with a view to rectifying this anomaly.

The Minister of Education : The analogy which the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr Mordi*) has drawn is not acceptable to me, that is that in England English is the mother tongue and so it should be done by boys in England. In Nigeria English is an official language and must also be well done by Nigerians. However, I fully appreciate the concern of the hon. Member over the rule which does not allow a West African School Certificate to be awarded to a candidate who has passed with credits in a number of subjects, but fails to reach a pass standard in English language.

Our views on the matter are as follows ; I have already expressed it with vigour at the West African Examination Council. Those of our students who intend to pursue higher education in university institutions need the English language for the acquisition of knowledge. It is an essential tool, as important in literature as in Biology, Mathematics, Physics and the whole range of disciplines which are the subject-matter of University education.

For this reason, we still maintain that a pass in English is essential for those who intend to pursue university education, and there is no intention to alter this ruling for the time being in order to make entry into our Universities and overseas institutions easy.

I agree with the hon. Member for Asaba East that a student who has done five or six years in a secondary school and has not been able to get through his examination because he fails in English language should not be denied a chance of getting employment and for that reason, during the last meeting of the West African Examinations Council, a solution to this problem was reached and that was that from now on a student who has obtained credits in a number of subjects, but fails in English language should be awarded the General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level.

An hon. Member : That is School Certificate attempted.

The Minister of Education : It is not School Certificate attempted. The reason is that if a boy has four or more subjects in the General Certificate of Education, he is awarded a certificate and all the subjects in which he has attained credits in the West African School Certificate are regarded as pass in the General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level.

If therefore, a student attempts the West African School Certificate and fails in English but he has four or five credits, those subjects are reverted into G.C.E. Ordinary Level and he obtains a certificate.

ADUMUKE POLICE POST

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Izi South) : I want to raise a very important point affecting my constituency and that is on the removal of the Police Post at Adumuke in Abakaliki Division. In 1958 when the Prime Minister was in charge of the Police and the State of affairs in Abakaliki was brought to his notice, he decided to maintain peace and order in Abakaliki and a Police Post was established in Abakaliki. This time peace and order in Abakaliki is still going bad and a Police Post which was established in that centre of crime is about to be removed, if it has not been removed now ; that is the Police Post at Adumuke.

This place has been a centre of hideous crimes committed by the members of the Odozi Obodo Society and if this Police Post is removed, the place will go back again to its former position. So, I am asking the Minister of State for Police to use his good offices to see to it that the Police Post at present at Adumuke remains there so that peace and good order will not degenerate and, furthermore, so that people who are taking the law into their hands should no longer do so.

I wish the Minister of State in charge of Police to make a statement on this issue.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : No Police Station has been formerly established at Adumuke. During the Odozi Obodo disturbances, a number of temporary Police posts were established in the affected areas. Now that the situation has been settled, it is proposed in 1963-64 to establish a Police Station at Igbo to serve that area and also at Adumuke. The establishment will be served by one Sergeant, one corporal, two Lance Corporals, and thirteen Police Constables, a total strength of 17.

APAPA WHARF EXTENSION

Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry) : I am putting up a matter which is affecting my Division—Badagry. It is in respect of the Extension of

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[Adjournment]

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Apapa Wharf. I just want to find out from the Minister of Transport and Aviation whether the proposed Extension of the Apapa Wharf will close the boundary of territorial waters between Badagry and Port-Novo.

I want a Government Statement on this, because this morning an Oral Question No. O.739 standing in my name, due to one reason or the other, was not answered by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation. The question is so important and it affects so many thousands of people in my division. It also affects so many things.

The Agents of the Nigerian Ports Authority are worrying my people, especially those who are fishing in the territorial waters between Lagos and Badagry. So, I ask this question in the hope that the Minister of Transport and Aviation will make necessary arrangements to ensure that the proposed Apapa Wharf Extension will not interfere with the rights of fishermen who are at present making use of that river. I want the Minister to make a statement.

A person was ill-treated on this matter but there was no answer and nothing whatever; I approach the Minister to make a statement so that I may be able to know the exact position and where we stand on the question of these territorial waters.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation (Mr F. E. Ofor): This question was listed in the Order Paper for this morning, but I regret to say that when I was answering other questions the answer to this particular question was not available. However, I have to assure the hon. Member that the Nigerian Ports Authority said that the Apapa Wharf Extension will not interfere with the rights of fishermen plying between Lagos and Badagry.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I wish on this occasion to raise matter which will no doubt be of interest to all Members. During this meeting, it was circulated that the

House Committee had come to a decision recommending that the Canteen at Shaw Road be closed down, and another one be opened on the Victoria Island. I think it is a view not shared by the generality of the House. The Members who are at Victoria Island have the Federal Palace Hotel at their disposal so that really they have got that excellent facility there.

In any event, if they wish to have a canteen there, I do not see any difficulty in one being opened there for their convenience. After all, the meals at the canteen are being paid for, and we think that everything supplied there is paid for by the Members as they consume them. I do not see any savings at all which would be derived from closing the one at Shaw Road. If anything at all, the premises there will be completely out of use.

Therefore, I think, Sir, that in all fairness to those Members of the House who are quartered in Ikoyi, the Shaw Road canteen should be kept open.

Secondly, we cannot understand by what calculation it is that prices for refreshments Members buy whether on this premises or outside, are exorbitant. I think that the prices do not compare favourably with what we generally get outside and at least if we cannot get them cheaper, we should be able to pay just what we pay elsewhere. I think that it will not be demanding too much if we say that such catering facilities that are provided for Members should be reasonably and considerably cheap.

The Minister of Finance: I need notice of that Question, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn until the 31st of July.

Adjourned accordingly at 3 minutes to 5 o'clock till Wednesday the 31st of July next pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 3rd June, 1963

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

NOTICE OF MOTION

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
WESTERN NIGERIA

The Prime Minister : I rise to move the following Motion—

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I am inviting your attention to Order 20 of the Standing Orders of this House which stipulates that a Motion should require five days before it can be debated in this House. If it is your view that you are dispensing with it in this case under Order 25 you require the general consent of this House to dispense with notices of Motions.

Under Order 20, at least five days must expire since the filing of the notice and its being debated in this House but, if, Sir, you intend to dispense with that notice under Order 25, you are obliged to obtain the general consent of the Members of this House.

Mr Speaker : This applies to notices being given by Members of the House. Government need only give one day's notice.

Several hon. Members : Shame !

The Prime Minister : I rise to move the following Motion—

That, in accordance with the provision of section five subsection (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House signifies its consent to the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, having effect.

It is my painful but inescapable duty once again to address hon. Members of Parliament regarding the affairs of Western Nigeria. Hon. Members will all recall that about this time last year we had occasion in this august Assembly to declare a state of emergency in the Western Region as a means of ensuring peace, order and good government there. This was,

in due course, followed by a clear majority ruling (three to one) of the Federal Supreme Court that, on a true interpretation of section 33 (10) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, the Governor could not validly remove Premier Akintola from office, except as a result of an adverse vote secured on the Floor of the House of Assembly that the Premier no longer enjoyed the support of a majority of its Members.

When, in accordance with its original undertaking, the Federal Government brought the state of emergency in Western Nigeria to an end on December 31st, 1962 it at the same time restored the suspended Executive and Legislative Organs of the Region. The post-emergency Akintola Government has since assumed the huge responsibility for the implementation of the recommendation of the Report of the Coker Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of six statutory corporations of Western Nigeria.

Since Alhaji Adegbenro appealed from the judgment of the Federal Supreme Court to Her Majesty's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council some ten months ago, the constitutional and political situation in Western Nigeria has remarkably altered. In the first place, the Action Group's claim to the allegiance of 66 Members of the House of Assembly, whose alleged signatures had been collected outside the House and made the basis of the Governor's action in removing Chief Akintola from his premiership, has been falsified by two successive votes of implicit confidence in Premier Akintola cast last April by 79 and 80 Members respectively out of the total of 117 in the House.

In the second place, Her Majesty the Queen has seen it fit to appoint at the end of last year Chief Joseph Fadahunsi, as he then was, to be Governor of Western Nigeria on the advice of Premier Akintola, even though she was well aware of Alhaji Adegbenro's pending appeal before Her Majesty's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council at that time; and it is not an unfair presumption that the Queen's official acts are to be deemed to have been regularly performed.

It is against this background that this sitting of the House of Representatives to give its consent to the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, having effect, must be viewed. From what I have said,—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I am respectfully inviting your attention to Order 13 (8) which says :

References may not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as may prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

The subject matter of this Motion is now pending before the High Court of Western Nigeria. Alhaji the hon. Adegbenro has filed an action challenging the constitutionality of this Amendment to the Constitution of the Western Region, and as such it will be most improper and completely out of order for us to make references to that subject matter on the Floor of this House. Many people say— (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Hon. Members must allow me to hear the hon. Member raising the point of order.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I was saying that the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, has been—

One hon. Member rose on a point of order—

Mr Speaker : Order, order ! Only one point of order can be heard at the same time.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : It is the subject of a court action and this Parliament is to be guided by its Orders and Rules. We are a congregation of Gentlemen here (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! I have said that the House must listen to the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*).

Chief Akin-Olugbade :—and as such, there is no exception. We cannot make this an exception. Rules laid down by this Parliament must be followed and I am respectfully asking Mr Speaker to give his decision in favour of my point of order.

Mr Speaker : Which Standing Order is the hon. Member referring to ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : 13 (8) or 26 (3), Sir.

Mr Speaker : The two orders refer to the same thing—

“References may not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as may prejudice the interests of parties thereto.”

In the first instance, I must say that I have not received any notice that such a case is pending in a court. Such a notice must be received officially and in writing.

In the second instance, if this Order is discharged and the Motion is dismissed, it will also prejudice the interests of the parties. In other words, stopping the Motion will prejudice the interests of the other parties and, in this respect, I think the House should continue debating the Motion. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Prime Minister : From what I have said so far, it can be seen quite clearly that the opinion of the Judicial Committee in the Adegbenro *versus* Akintola Appeal has been overtaken by events, some of which have already been briefly indicated. To attempt to implement it can only lead to more confusion in the already complex situation of the Western Region.

For instance, were Her Majesty the Queen to sign the necessary Order-in-Council bringing the Judicial Committee's opinion into force, she would in logic be obliged to comply with Alhaji Adegbenro's letter, sent direct to her, nominating another candidate for the office of Governor. There would then be in the Western Region two rival Governors and two Premiers with all their complications of partisan fanaticisms among the warring political factions. The Federal Government would then be left with no alternative but to declare another state of emergency in that Region ! Such a course must involve not only Western Nigeria but also the entire Federation in financial ruin and political malaise.

It is surely better and wiser to avert such a disaster by the course now proposed and to recognise the local political realities of which the opinion of the Judicial Committee would appear to be entirely unaware.

Viewed from even a strictly constitutional standpoint, the Judicial Committee's legalistic interpretation of section 33 (10) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria must be regarded as unfortunate, since it holds that a Governor of a Region can exercise a power to dismiss a Premier at will whereas Her Majesty has ceased to exercise the same power for at least the past one hundred and thirty years. As the phrase occurs in identical terms in all the Regional as well as the Federal Constitutions, the Governor-General would similarly, be

[THE PRIME MINISTER]
entitled to collect signatures outside the House or interview some people as a means of determining that the Prime Minister no longer commands the support of a majority of Members of the House of Representative. (*Laughter*).

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): I can now see why the fight is on. The Prime Minister—

Mr Speaker: Order! If the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) will indicate the Order then that will help the House a great deal.

Mr Briggs: I can now appreciate—(*Interruptions*)

The Prime Minister: The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) can see why the fight is on and it is a good fight, Sir.

Could it be seriously suggested that the Queen need only consult public opinion polls on the pages of newspapers in order to dismiss Mr Macmillan as Prime Minister—

Several hon. Members: No!

The Prime Minister:—and invite Mr Harold Wilson to form another Government seeing that these polls have regularly indicated a percentage less than forty for Mr Macmillan? No. This is not a brand of democracy which we intend to adopt from Britain.

To give a Regional Governor or indeed the Governor-General of a Federation such a *carte blanche* in his obtaining of information would make the line very difficult to draw between legitimate consultation and improper intrigue.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, may I refer you to Standing Order 38 (10) which reads:

A Member shall not vote on any subject in which he has a direct personal pecuniary interest.

I do hope that the Speaker will rule out the hon. Prime Minister not only from voting later on but also continuing with this line of argument on this Motion.

Mr Speaker: Order! I very much doubt if the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is serious in making this point. For one thing he knows that he is raising his point of order in anticipation: no question has been put and no voting is taking place.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, if there is any Member in the House who should not be allowed to vote under the Standing Order, it is my hon. Friend the Member for Egba South. He is more interested than myself.

The one clean course open to a constitutional Head of State or Region is to allow himself or herself to be guided by the orthodox parliamentary procedure of testing a Prime Minister's or Premier's popularity by a confidence vote on the Floor of the Legislative House. This is exactly what the Constitution of Western Nigeria Amendment Law seeks to achieve and we think it right that we should support it.

It must not be forgotten that a constitution is a political document which cannot be interpreted by the same canons of consideration as are appropriate to statutes or ordinary Acts of Parliament. Any narrow or unliteral interpretation of a provision of the Constitution vital to its proper functioning must be avoided if the Constitution itself is to have efficacy and if the political framework and the legal order established within it are to have stability and legitimacy.

The opinion of the Judicial Committee in the case is, if we may say so without disrespect, quite out of touch with the realities of the situation in Western Nigeria and unsound in principle. It is partly for this reason that the Federal Government has reluctantly decided to support the Constitution of Western Nigeria Amendment Law, 1963, as the more expedient of the alternative courses of action open to it.

As I pointed out in my statement of May 30, the British Government quite recently found itself compelled to set aside the ruling of a Court of Appeal that would have made nonsense of the established constitutional arrangement in the Gambia. What has happened there is that a law had been passed in 1961 which substituted a new register of elections for the defective register of 1959. A general election on the basis of the new register had resulted in the defeat of the leading party, one of the defeated candidates of which challenged the validity of the law establishing the new register. The Supreme Court of the Gambia upheld the law but when the case was taken on appeal, the West African Court of Appeal had declared the 1961 law invalid on a literal interpretation of an imprecise phrase in it. This had the effect of

invalidating the electoral register and the majority of the membership of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr Duncan Sandys, in his explanation to the British Parliament on May 28, following his decision published on May 21, 1963, said that the Gambian and British Governments had two courses open to them: either to dissolve the House and order fresh elections or to amend the 1961 Law with retrospective effect, and that, acting on the basis of the legal advice available, the British Government had chosen the latter course and amended retrospectively the imprecise phrase in the law since the Gambian House of Representatives had not been properly constituted to do the exercise itself.

Hon. Members will thus see that what we are trying to do here this morning is no more than what the British Government thought right to do less than twelve days ago in almost identical, constitutional and legal situations.

It is interesting to recall that when faced with the argument from the Opposition Benches that what the British Government had done amounted to a violation of the rule of law, Mr Duncan Sandys' reply on May was, I quote with your permission, Mr Speaker:

It is all very well for Members Opposite to say that we are setting aside the law. This is not the first time that elections which have been shown to be invalid have been validated. It has happened in this House of Commons within the memory of those sitting there. There is nothing improper in it.

Our own answer to any suggestion that we are trying to set aside the opinion of the Privy Council must be the same. There is nothing wrong in enacting retrospective legislation to avoid political or economic chaos.

Hon. Members will readily call to mind our enactment in this House during the Budget Sitting last April of retrospective legislation regarding produce in the Regions. The only kind of retrospective legislation forbidden by our Constitution is one imposing penalties for offences. Indeed, examples abound in other Commonwealth countries of retrospective legislation to invalidate rulings of the Judicial Committee on constitutional or legal issues whenever it was considered expedient to do so,

Just now, we are conducting a nation-wide census; the referendum for the creation of the Mid-West Region is almost upon us; registers for the general as well as the regional elections due next year have yet to be compiled. In these circumstances, the Federal Government feels that, after all the recent upheavals, Western Region deserves a stable and enlightened government to foster the well-being and prosperity of its inhabitants as well as the growth of democratic processes and institutions. More that this is the constitutional duty of the Federal Government to take all appropriate steps in the national interest to ensure national unity and the continuance of Federal Government in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, our cause is just; our intention honourable.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance: I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: Some Members of the Opposition have filed an Amendment, and the Amendment is as follows:

To leave out from "House" to end and add "is of the opinion that the Constitution of Western Nigeria Amendment Law, 1963, is invalid and of no effect".

With the permission of the House, I would like to call the hon. Member to move his Amendment.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East): If the Amendment is to be moved with the permission of this House, I believe this House does not permit it.

Mr Speaker: Order! I think it is only proper for the House to allow the Member to move the Motion.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): I beg to move an Amendment to the present Motion, by deleting from "House" to the end, and substituting

"is of the opinion that the Constitution of the Western Nigeria Amendment Law, 1963, is invalid and of no effect".

Thus amended, the Motion will read—

That, in accordance with the provision of section five subsection (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House is of the opinion

[MR BRIGGS] concerning the number of those Members claimed by the Government, I say that it is only fair to both parties that the Prime Minister should read out the names, or, at least, emphasise in his Motion that the 82 Members who were said to have consented to this Amendment were all Members of the Government Bench. If in that case the hon. Anuku's or the hon. Olukoku's name is not there, then we will know.

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): Mr Anuku whose name my hon. Friend has been mentioning is not a reliable gentleman. I should like to tell him that Mr Anuku was a member of the N.C.N.C. at one time, he was independent at a certain time, he was a member of the Action Group at another time and to-day he may become U.P.P.

Mr Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Mr Briggs : He is a Native Court clerk. As I said, to be honest to both sides, the hon. Prime Minister should have released the names of those who voted for the Government. That is number one.

The second point I want to bring to the notice of the House is the fact that at the time the debate was on in the Western House of Assembly, at the time the votes were taken in the Western House, the Privy Council had already given its decision. It is a well-known fact, not only to lawyers but also to anybody, that once a decision had been given on a matter by the highest court, by any court, if there is no appeal on it, then that is the law at that moment. So that at the material time when the Privy Council gave its decision, I wish to submit that there was no legal Cabinet as such in Western Nigeria. The decision of the Privy Council had the effect of nullifying the appointment of Chief Akintola as Premier of Western Nigeria and, therefore, any appointment he made by virtue of the fact that he was a Premier or by virtue of the fact that he claimed to have been a Premier would be null and void.

At that time there was no legal Cabinet as such because such a Cabinet had not been appointed by a proper Premier, a legal Premier of Western Nigeria. At that time, the legal Premier of Western Nigeria was Alhaji Adegbenro and nobody else.

Chief Rosiji : It was the House that voted and not the Cabinet.

Mr Briggs : I am coming to that. My hon.

Friend is anticipating my next point. Now, following from this, if that Cabinet was illegal, if all those who were nominated by the then Premier who was not a legal Premier—

Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) : I think the hon. Gentleman is wasting the time of the House. His knowledge of law is also out-of-date.

Mr Speaker : I think you are also wasting the time of the House.

Mr Briggs : As I was saying, if you, Mr Speaker, agree with me that there was no legal Cabinet and the Premier appointed was not a legal Premier, then everybody in that House was a private Member of that House. On that material day, 27th May, 1963, at the moment of the Privy Council's decision, everybody was an ordinary Member of that House. In that case, if he was an ordinary Member, then his Motion for the Amendment must require ten days before it could be debated except by consent of the House of Assembly.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : If the Member for Degema had proved his mettle earlier than this, there would not have been any need for Mr Dingle Foot and Mr Graetian to be imported here. We see that the hon. Member is very anxious to put up a big show for the Action Group ; but why did he not do so before now ?

Mr Briggs : As I was saying before I was interrupted, Mr Ootobo or Mr Fani-Kayode or whoever considered himself a Minister of the Western Region was nothing more than an ordinary private Member of the House and his Motion could only ripen for debate within ten days under the Standing Orders except by special leave of the House. So far there is nothing on record to show that the House of Assembly gave its consent or leave before either Mr Ootobo or Mr Fani-Kayode moved that Motion.

The third point is the question of advice to the Governor. It might be argued that since the Governor had been advised by the Premier to give consent to the law in the Western Region, it had become law. This also follows from my second contention that there was in fact, no legal Premier after the decision of the Privy Council. There was in fact no legal Cabinet ; and if there was no legal Cabinet and no legal Premier, the advice given to the Governor was invalid. The legal Premier, as I said,

(1186)

(1184)

was Alhaji Adegbenro, and until Alhaji Adegbenro had given his advice to the Governor, whatever advice was given—

Mr Adeniran Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : There was in fact, a Premier, Chief Akintola, and there was in fact a *Premier Lolo*. (Laughter).

Mr Briggs : It is easy for us to say quite a lot of things with our tongues in our cheeks, but this Motion will have a far reaching effect. What we do here is watched by everybody in the world, and if we have to come here simply in the interest of one particular individual or simply because we want to crush a particular person or party or people, I submit that history will hold us guilty. We have come here to waste thousands of pounds. Last year, about this time, we came here also and wasted thousands of pounds in order to support the puppet Government of the Western Region and in order that some people may discharge their obligations to their friends in the Western Region. I must have to say—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Wrong motive is ruled out of order under the Standing Orders and to say that some people try to pay their friends back by using the Parliament is wrong motive and for that same gentleman to say again "they pay you" is wrong. I do not only ask that he withdraw that word, but also that he should apologise to me not in this House but outside ; otherwise, if he says so outside the House, I shall sue him to court. He dare not say so outside.

The Speaker : This motive has not been properly imputed.

Mr Briggs : So, I am asking everybody to consider not the consequences of to-day but the consequences of the future. As I said, our children—

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu North) : On a point of order, Sir,—

Mr Speaker : If the hon. Member will speak louder, perhaps he will be properly heard.

Mr Chukwu : Standing Order No. 32 provides that—

Subject to paragraph (2) of this Order and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 63 (Appropriation Bill), no Member shall be entitled to address the House

or a committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject.

Mr Briggs has been speaking for a long time. The Mover of the original Motion spoke for just fifteen minutes. Why should a person moving an unfortunate Amendment speak for such a long time? I think the Speaker should overrule him.

Mr Speaker : Mr Briggs has five minutes plus his time the last speaker has wasted.

Mr Briggs : It is said that a great nation and little minds do not go together. We in this House must show that our minds are higher, that we are not petty and that our minds are higher, in fact over and above the ordinary level and that because of that we can march forward with this nation into the future.

I beg to move.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade : In seconding this Amendment, I would refer to the speech of the hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister deliberately left out the fact about the votes cast on the law which has been amended and which has been brought before this House to-day for the consent of the Federal Parliament.

Again, the Prime Minister failed to state the facts as regards the assent of the Governor of the Western Region of Nigeria. I have here the Western Nigeria *Gazette* of the 28th of May, 1963 in connection with the law, that is to say No. 13 of 1963 entitled Constitution of Western Nigeria Amendment Law, 1963, wherein the Governor of the Western Region—

Several hon. Members : Which one ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Well, the illegal Governor of the Western Region, Chief J. O. Fadahunsi, purported to assent in the name of Her Majesty *this 27th day of May, 1963*. The fact that the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, was brought to the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs in Ibadan is an admission that the judgment of the Board of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council was right.

If the interpretation placed on section 33 (10) of the Constitution had not been upheld, the Amendment to the Constitution would not have been necessary. In fact I took

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particular notice of the release issued by the hon. Prime Minister on the 30th May this year where he said that with utmost reluctance he had to adopt the expedient course of supporting the Amendment to the Constitution by the Western Region House of Assembly and House of Chiefs. But the Prime Minister was very, very careful in not attacking the merits of the judgment of the Board of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. It is the act of a good statesman who knows that the effect of attacking the judgment of a court of law which is part and parcel of our legal system may be very grave and far reaching. But the point I like to make is this. The Prime Minister, much more than I do, knows very well that the Governor of the Western Region or the illegal Governor of the Western Region cannot give assent—

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya : On a point of order, Mr Speaker, there is no illegal Governor in Western Nigeria.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : As I was saying, the hon. Prime Minister knows much more than I do that a Bill passed by the Legislature of the Federation or of a Region has to be recommended for the assent of the Governor-General or the assent of the Regional Governor. The Amendment to the Constitution of the Western Region was presented or is deemed to have been presented to Chief J. O. Fadahunsi by a Premier or a pretending Premier who knew that the judgment of the Judicial Committee had made his position illegal. How can an illegal Cabinet advise the Governor?

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : It is most discourteous for the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to refer to the Governor of Western Nigeria as Chief J. O. Fadahunsi. Her Majesty the Queen has removed the Oni of Ife from the office of Governor in Ibadan and appointed Chief J. O. Fadahunsi as the Governor. It will be wrong for him now to refer to Chief J. O. Fadahunsi as the illegal Governor.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Speaker, as a matter of fact, I am sorry. I should rather refer to the Governor as Sir Odeleye. I think that is better.

The Constitution of the Federation Section 5 (3) requires that assent and I say that the hon. Prime Minister carefully avoided saying

anything as to whether the assent of the Governor of the Region has been given. For until that assent is given, under our Constitution, it is not a law to which we should signify our consent to have effect in this country. As such, an Amendment which is invalid has been presented to this House because Chief Akintola knew at the time that the Amendment was being passed that he was no longer the legal Premier of the Western Region. That was why the Amendment was made to be valid retrospectively to the 2nd October, 1960.

My only fear is that we are setting a very, very dangerous precedent and that we are exposing ourselves to the ridicule of the outside world by supporting the low political moral standard of a Premier who would not scruple to do the meanest thing in order to remain in office.

The hon. Prime Minister in fact referred to the act of the British Government in overriding an Appeal Court or validating, to use his own words, what was invalid in the law of Gambia. I respectfully submit that there is a big difference between validating an invalid law as stated by the Minister for Commonwealth Relations and nullifying a ruling which has not been attacked, which is regarded as valid.

Every act or conduct or behaviour of a person or government has causes and effects. The causes may be immediate or remote, while the effect may be immediate or ultimate. Any intelligent student of Nigerian current history knows or ought to know that the resolution proposed this morning has been prompted by the most ignoble and obnoxious causes which only debased and corrosive minds are prone to perpetrate.

Of the remote causes are, firstly, the long-nurtured plot of Chief Akintola and some of his colleagues here, his co-Fascist friends and bosses in the hierarchy of the N.P.C. and N.C.N.C., to destroy parliamentary democracy in this country. The second is the long-cherished ambition of certain important political leaders—

Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of Commerce and Industry) : Point of order Mr Speaker. Is it not wrong for the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) who organised the "Awo Brigade" and used up other people's money, to call other people Fascists?

Mr Speaker : This is not question time.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Perhaps he did not know that the man was the only Premier known to have imported into this country a machine gun which was presented to him by Marshal Tito in November 1961. He brought it into this country and you are saying he is not a Fascist.

The second remote cause is the long-cherished ambition of the Sardauna of Sokoto, the leader of the N.P.C., and Dr Okpara, the leader of the N.C.N.C., to destroy by fair or foul means the Action Group or Yoruba leadership in this country.

Mr D. O. Enefola (Igala South) : The hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is very irrelevant and I would say that because of this, he has failed to tell us the number of legislators Alhaji Adegbenro has got in the Western House of Assembly. Alhaji Adegbenro has not got the majority and what we are doing here is the voice of the people.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : My own voice is among the voice of the people. I say that behind this whole issue lies the deep hatred and envy of leaders of the Action Group by the victims of the most malignant feelings of inferiority complex.

Of the immediate causes may be mentioned the recent judgment which has been referred to, of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which was unfavourable to the Federal Government which intervened on its own and sent its Attorney-General before the Court to argue their case. In consequence of that judgment, the unpopular Premiers of the Northern and Eastern Regions and our respected Prime Minister, who appears to be a camp follower of the Federation, have become scared stiff by the awareness of the insecurity of their positions in the hands of a capable Governor or Governor-General, who can revoke section 33 (10) of the Constitution of the Federation or section 34, to remove the Prime Minister or the Premier of a Region.

I will not debase the dignity of this House by directing your attention to the crazy outbursts of the poker playing gamblers who did not stop at criticising that judgment, that classical and most evident judgment, those poker playing gamblers in the Western House of Assembly.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : Who are they? Tell us their names.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Mr Fani-Kayode is one of them, those poker playing gamblers and hemp smokers—

The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, I think that it is very improper for an hon. Member to refer to a Minister or an hon. Member of another House, or to make allegations against him, whereas he is aware of the fact that the hon. Member is not here and has not got the opportunity or privilege of defending himself. I think it is a shameful act.

An hon. Member : But you have been doing that here yourself.

Mr Speaker : Order! I think the hon. Member has gone a bit deep into the personal characters of these people. If the hon. Member will only confine himself to their political activities, that will not be out of order.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I would have withdrawn this if these people were legal Ministers.

Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) : On a point of order, I rise to challenge Chief Akin-Olugbade to say this thing outside this House.

Mr Speaker : You go and challenge him outside.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I have already said that I will not debase the dignity of this august House by drawing attention to the criticism of the evident judgment, which went to the extent of talking of and imputing motive to the long revered institution of which the most civilized creatures of the world have taken just pride.

What are the effects of the course we have here been called upon to adopt? Before enumerating some of the most obvious and vicious effects of the rejection of the Privy Council ruling, I will make bold to observe that even the most uncivilized government in the world would hesitate to adopt the course we are called upon to adopt to-day. I will also observe that it is only a Government that is obdurate to the point of perversion that will adopt the course we are called upon to adopt to-day. It is only a Government that is

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stricken with mortal fear that will adopt this course. It is only a Government that despises the rule of law that will adopt it.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): I want the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) to realise that what is being adopted in this House to-day is what had been adopted by the Action Group Government in the past. I quote the case of Lagunju of Ede versus Laoye.

Mr Speaker: Order! That is no point of order.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I said that it is only a Government that defies the will of the majority of the people that will adopt this policy, that it is only a Government that intends to forfeit the goodwill of the great civilized nations of the world that will adopt it. It is only a Government that has no regard for the liberty and legal rights of its people that will adopt it.

M. Saidu Zango (Zaria Central): On a point of order, the hon. Member is reading his speech.

Mr Speaker: I have really allowed quite a lot of references by the hon. Member to his notes, but perhaps he will do less of it now.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I said that it is a Government that has no regard for the liberty and legal rights of the individual that will adopt the course we are now asked to adopt. It is only a Government that will not hesitate to dishonour international and commercial obligations that will adopt the course we are now asked to adopt. It is only a Government that does not believe there is God—(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order!

Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe): My friend, the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) talks about God. May I ask him if he believes in God, and if so, how many times he has been to Mecca?

Chief Akin-Olugbade: To my mind, the effect of the rejection of the decision of such a disinterested and august body as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, that did no more than interpret a vital provision of our Constitution, can be most dangerous to the continued well-being and integration of our delicately balanced organisation.

The most distressing effect to my mind, is that our Constitution which has been acclaimed sacred by the hon. Prime Minister on several occasions is no longer worth the paper on which it is written. Political party expediency and conspiracy now take precedence over solemn constitutional principles and obligations. The Judiciary in the country is being relegated to the status of a mere decorative and ceremonial apparatus of the Federation. Treachery and disloyalty to political party leadership introduced by glaring corruption and bribery of the most heinous form have now become the badge of bravery and the badge of greatness.

Ye Gods, where do we go from here?

Mr Speaker, I beg to say that the implication of the expedient courses we are now being forced to adopt are equally grave and detestable. All our judges and magistrates who would not toe the line marked out for them by unscrupulous politicians or by the executive—those of them who would not dance to the tune of politicians—have now seen the red light.

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): On a point of order, Order 26 (1) states:

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.

Mr Speaker, you warned the hon. Member before of making so many references to his notes, but he is still continuing to read his notes.

Mr Speaker: Order! I asked the hon. Member to make less references to his notes and in fact he has made less references.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I said that the judges and the magistrates have now seen the red light because I know we have several gentlemen as leading politicians in this country who would not interfere with the independence of the Judiciary. But a rejection of the decision of a Court which is in fact embodied in our Constitution, the highest tribunal embodied in our Constitution, is an indication of red light. An unscrupulous politician can take advantage of that to sack judges and magistrates. As a result of the rejection, the hard-worked police no longer need to carry out their duties with reasonable diligence; no hope of justice for persons accused of political offences. The Privy Council is not a British Court of Law; it is part and parcel of our judicial system,

Chief Akintola started the law in motion, and if the decision had been in his favour the Amendment to our Constitution would not have been carried out—

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias): We have to get our bearings correct in this House, Mr Speaker. The hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade*) has been referring to the Privy Council's decision. I think he must know as a lawyer that when the Privy Council hands down an opinion it does not become binding until it is formally adopted by the Queen, by an Order in Council. As far as the Government knows, that particular act which would bring that opinion into force has not been performed by Her Majesty.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): The hon. Member for Egba South who is seconding the Amendment has been quite irrelevant; and in view of so many arguments he has now received he should resume his seat so that we can vote on the matter. He should go and pray for the Action Group instead of talking here. I have their paper which asks for prayers for the Action Group.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central): On a point of order, Sir, Chief Akin-Olugbade is a conditional pass lawyer so that he is not expected to know all these intricacies as our Attorney-General.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I need not answer a fool in his own language—a man who is owing over £197,000 to the National Bank of Nigeria!

Mr Speaker: Order!

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): On a point of order, section 26 (2) of the Standing Orders says:

A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

Chief Akin-Olugbade is being irrelevant, I will put it to him that when he flew with Arab Brothers to London to cash a cheque for £400,000—

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): On a point of order, I think the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has exhausted his time.

Mr Speaker: With respect to the Minister, we might allow him some two minutes.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: My time has been very badly wasted. I would wind up by saying that what Dr Elias said was true. But the fact stated supports the view that the Amendment in the Western Region—

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): In view of all these admissions on both sides, I am wondering whether we cannot call in the police to make some arrests. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Minister is not trying to revoke parliamentary privileges.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: He has his police here, that is the *Dan Dokas*.

What is being done to-day makes the matter worse; the matter raised by the hon. Attorney-General that we are passing a law in anticipation of an Act which is unfavourable to a cause for which we fought tooth and nail.

I will end this speech by appealing to the Prime Minister to withdraw the Motion and to allow Alhaji Adegbenro to assume office as the legal Premier of the Western Region.

If we pass this Motion, the Judiciary in this country would have been thoroughly brow-beaten. Already, our police have been over-worked beyond their full capacity. The army have always been on the alert for the past fourteen months, particularly in the Yoruba West. Thanks to the good sense, patience and long-suffering of the majority of the Yoruba people particularly the youths of this country, the name of the Federation would have been soiled by the blood of thousands of law-abiding Yoruba people. Millions of pounds have been lost as a result of the support we are giving to Akintola.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): With the greatest respect I think the hon. Member for Egba South has already taken up more than two minutes.

Mr Speaker: He has, in fact; but may be we can allow him another minute to wind up.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will say that the slogan these days is "peace, unity, stability" and Chief Akintola's own slogan is "co-operation". But before

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

October 1, 1960, we had peace, unity and stability, and we were co-operating. What we fought for was freedom, but nowadays some political leaders talk of "peace, unity and stability". It is only when it suits them that they say they want peace and stability.

I remember that sometime ago, in the House of Commons, Sir Wiston Churchill said that he would "prefer freedom to peace", and Patrick Henry of America, too, said "give me liberty or give me death". It is freedom that we want in the Western Region. Our people have been plunged into misery as a result of Chief Akintola's doggedness, and I am not surprised that people whose ancestors have never ruled in their life time would not like to leave office; and that is why we are having to face this sort of situation in the Western Region.

I support the Amendment.

Mr Speaker : Does the hon. Gentleman mean he supports or seconds the Amendment ?

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I second the Amendment.

The Minister of Finance : I rise to oppose the Amendment and, in doing so, I will not endeavour to take the valuable time of the House. I will try only to reply to the points made by the Mover and the Seconder in order to enable this Amendment to be disposed of quickly, so that we can go to the substantive Motion.

The first argument supporting the Amendment moved by the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is that there were no two-thirds votes cast in favour of the law passed in the Western Legislature and, according to his own argument, he mentioned two people who were supposed not to be present, and he tried to persuade the House to believe that all that should be accepted is his own statement in this House, that a two-thirds majority was not obtained on the Floor of the House.

I must say that this is a very shallow argument. In the first place, the two members mentioned by my hon. Friend to have sworn to *affidavits* are such well-known notorious political characters that it will be impossible—

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, there had been a ruling here on a point raised by this same hon. Minister that nobody should bring in the name of a member of another House who is not opportunely to defend himself in this House.

Mr Speaker : Order ! A "notorious political character" can be as good as he can be bad.

The Minister of Finance : I also want to say that if one must follow the logic of the Action Group in this particular matter, one must be very chary in accepting *Affidavits* of politicians of the kind referred to, because my hon. Friend will accept that it knocks off the bottom of the whole argument when one remembers, as the Prime Minister had said, that of the sixty-six members that signed and swore to *affidavits* day and night, and went to swear in Ministers' houses at midnight, most of them now have voted on the Vote of Confidence on the Premier of the Western Region.

My point really is this. Is the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) seriously suggesting that we must accept *affidavits* these days ? What we are saying is that we will not accept the signing of letters and that *affidavits* are now stocks-in-trade somewhere and nobody should take them seriously.

Our stand clearly is that for the same reason that we are refusing signatures which we think do not mean anything we, also think that *affidavits* do not mean anything these days. What is proper is a full sitting of the House like the one we are in now, where people will speak their minds and vote. And what is more, the Governments of this country are not run on the basis of *affidavits*. The fact of it is that we have practices and procedures which are thus.

When a Legislature passes a bill amending any section of the constitution with a two-thirds majority, all that is required of the Legislature to do is as follows. Firstly, the Regional Government sends a copy of the law to the Federal Government and *vice versa*. That is to say that when we amend the constitution here, all that is left for us to do is that we have also to send it to the Governments concerned in the Region. In this case the Government of the West had sent the law that was passed to the Federal Government; and, secondly, the Federal Government on receiving it sent copies of the law and the notices of the Motion to signify consent to it to the Clerk of the Parliaments who, of course, asks the Speaker's approval for the Motion to be put down on the Order Paper. And I want to say that in this case this was done.

The law was properly passed by a two-thirds majority, both in the House of Assembly and in the House of Chiefs, and it was sent to the Federal Government, and the Federal Government in turn sent it to the Clerk of the Parliaments who, with the authority of the Speaker, put it down on the Order Paper for us to debate to-day. That is the usual practice and procedure, and we are in keeping with it. This House is therefore acting in order by debating this Bill to-day.

My hon. Friend is asking about the facts; let me give the facts. Who should we believe? The Speaker of the Western House of Assembly and the Clerk of the House or Mr Briggs? I am in a position to know that the Orders and Proceedings of the Western House of Assembly of that day, as well as of the Western House of Chiefs of that day, signed by the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly are already deposited with the Federal Government and are in the hands of the Speaker of the Federal Parliament. With the permission of the Speaker I should like to have them read in order to put them on record.

This is the Western House of Assembly's Votes and Proceedings of Monday 27th May, 1963. The Motion for suspension of Standing Orders was moved, and question was put, and the House divided, and the Action Group members were in the House.

Several Opposition Members : They walked out.

The Minister of Finance : I shall come to the point where they walked out. That is the usual tactics of the members of the Action Group. When they are cornered they either walk out or they call unnecessary points of order or file *affidavits*.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, I would like to remind my hon. Friend that it was the N.P.C. that walked out in 1953. The Action Group has never walked out.

The Minister of Finance : The hon. Gentleman is a new-comer to Nigerian politics. I am an old hand. The Action Group walked out in London.

On the Motion for the suspension of Standing Orders, the House divided, the ayes were 80, the noes 35.

Alhaji Bello Dandango (Gwarzo East) : For the purpose of record, the N.P.C. in 1953 did not walk out. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order! Will hon. Members please avoid political controversy.

The Minister of Finance : I want to say that on the Motion for the suspension of Standing Orders, the Action Group members were 35. Before I go further, I would like to say that surely on the admission of my hon. Friend, the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*), even here this morning, the supporters of the present Government are 80 and some others have stated that Adegbenro has 35 Members. Is my hon. Friend suggesting that by any stretch of imagination, any reasonable Federal Government should allow a minority to rule the West?

Several hon. Members : No, no.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, I must say that Akintola's Government was a minority when it was installed in Western Nigeria. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order! Order!

Mr Briggs : I know those people who say we are a minority. They are marketable commodities. Those people who swore to an affidavit are marketable commodities. Whether or not Akintola is installed, we shall go back again.

The Minister of Finance : On the Motion that the Constitution of Western Nigeria should be amended, that is the Amendment Bill presented, it was read for the First time and ordered to be read a Second time now. "Motion made and Question proposed that the Bill be read a Second time. Question put." The House divided pursuant to section 5 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria, and the ayes were 83. Quite frankly, I can understand the Member for Degema reasoning that way, but not the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*). I think he should be wiser.

Mr Dosunmu : If in less than one minute ago, the total membership of the U.P.P.-N.C.N.C. was 80, why did they change it to 83 the next minute?

The Minister of Finance : My hon. Friend knows that time and again here voting

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

when it is repeated has always changed. It has always changed. Some Members may be outside.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The Minister of Finance should not pull a wool across our eyes here. It is even known that many N.C.N.C. Members did not vote on that day.

The Minister of Finance : All that I am trying to show is that the Federal Parliament is not a court of law to take evidence from the Member for Ijebu South and the Member for Degema. All I am saying is that in accordance with the practice in all civilised countries, we have to abide by what we receive, signed by the Speaker of the House and the Clerk of the Legislature. That is the point. What I am saying is that the House divided on this particular Bill and the voting was 83 to nill. This had been signed by the Speaker and by the Clerk of the Legislature. I have to tender it because it is impossible for this Government to accept extraneous evidence from outside.

Further than that, it is amazing that my hon. Friend just argues on the position of the House of Assembly. What is the position in the Upper House where we have traditional rulers of Yorubas, better Yorubas than the Member for Ijebu South ; traditional chiefs and better traditional rulers.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : There are Yorubas indeed who have lost the glory of their forefathers and who have become slaves to poor pennies, shillings and pounds.

The Minister of Finance : In the House, there are traditional chiefs and heads of their kingdoms. What was the position? The House divided on this particular Bill, the ayes were 95, the noes 2.

For the purpose of record, as my hon. Friend said, I would like to say that some important rulers, if I may name even my own king, the Olu of Warri, voted in favour ; the Olubadan of Ibadan, the Awujale of Ijebu Ode, the Akarigbo of Ijebu Remo, the Oshile of Oke-Ona, the Olowu of Owu, the Olota of Otta, the Orimolusi of Ijebu Igbo, the Deji of Akure, the Oshemawe of Ondo, the Timi of Ede, the Oluwo of Iwo, and even the Odemo of Ishara all voted in favour.

How can somebody come here this morning to tell us about the impatience of the Yoruba people of the West? Since when has the hon.

Gentleman been to the West? I know he is a Lagos Yoruba man ; he is nothing more than that.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : The Obas did not vote. They were ticked.

The Minister of Finance : I also have to tender this Vote of Proceedings for the Western House of Chiefs as incontrovertible evidence before this Government and this Legislature to-day that the Bill was properly passed by a two-thirds majority not only in the Western House of Assembly but also in the House of Chiefs.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is misleading this House in quoting the Votes and Proceedings of that day, stating that there were 83 Members who voted for the Government then, whereas the *Hansard* of that day shows 82, in which case a two-thirds majority was not obtained.

Furthermore, the Members of the House of Chiefs did not vote. Their names were ticked because many of them could not write.

Mr Briggs : On a point of order, Sir, what I want to say is that the *Hansard* showed 82, but this one shows 83. I think the fraud section of the Action Group has broken away and formed the U.P.P. !

The Minister of Finance : As I have said, I do not want to waste the time of the House, but—

Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : The Minister of Finance failed to mention chiefs of my area—Chief the Onogie of Epoma.

The Minister of Finance : Now, not to waste the time of the House, my hon. Friend spoke about a legal cabinet not being in existence at the material time. I think that my hon. friend, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has cleared the legal position on it. It will therefore be unnecessary for me to speak on it ; but it will be important to say that there was a legal House of Assembly and a legal House of Chiefs. What we are concerned with at the moment is that the Bill was properly passed by the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs. There was a legal cabinet at the material time and even to-day, there is still a legal cabinet in the Western Region and tomorrow there will continue to be a legal cabinet in the West.

Now, my hon. Friend also made reference to the Governor. I feel that the point already made by the Attorney-General also goes conclusively to confirm that the legal Governor appointed by the Queen, as the Prime Minister said, is Chief Fadahunsi and even if we were to take the argument further than this, is it expected that from what happened, from the voting of 83 to nil, the Governor will ask Adegbenro with his 35 Members to come and form the Government of the West?

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : Chief Fadahunsi has not been appointed by the Queen and the hon. Minister should check his facts.

The Minister of Finance : Not only was he appointed but he was also knighted. Why did not they knight me? The Queen knighted the man and you are still arguing. Would he have been knighted if he was still the Chairman of the Airways Corporation?

My hon. friend started to speak about the Judiciary being relegated. I think he would not like me to comment on it because if there is any political party that relegates the Judiciary and reduces it to nothingness in this country, it is the Action Group.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : If there is anybody who tries to brow-beat our Judges and Magistrates, it is Chief Okotie-Eboh. He invited them to his House.

The Minister of Finance : I happen not to be a lawyer. I do not live by going to Judges. I lived by buying rubber before I came here. I can invite rubber sellers to come to my house, but not Judges. I have nothing to do with them. That is the hon. Member's job.

My hon. Friend also started by reciting "it is only a Government". When a political party through the mouth-piece of its Chief Whip begins to pray in the open and in secret asking for prayers, then we must know that that party has reached its doom. I wish that people like the Alafin of Oyo could resurrect to-day and say their own prayer against the hon. Member, then he would not move an inch. The hon. Member talks about God! Do they know God?

My hon. Friend goes on by talking about freedom. What sort of freedom are we talking about in this country? Is it freedom for

people like my hon. friend to go about doing all sorts of Jankara everywhere or freedom to try to blow up the Parliament or to sign papers at mid-night or to overthrow a constituted authority?

Several hon. Members : No.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : The hon. Minister of Finance was imputing dishonourable motives to me. When he went to Czechoslovakia in August 1961, Chief Okotie-Eboh thought that people would not know, but we have the receipts and everything.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member speaking does not realise that what the Minister of Finance said "was people like Chief Akin-Olugbade", but in fact, the hon. Member has imputed improper motives to the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance : I was talking about freedom but before I conclude with my freedom as I know it, I will say I have ordered no machine guns. The hon. Member has nothing to speak upon or to support himself. At least, he is not the Security Officer of this country. In any case, people who should talk about freedom should be people who are above board. They talk about freedom to squander twelve million pounds of the people and put it in the hands of a few, freedom for people to make receipts and sign with their toes. *(Laughter)*

Mr Briggs : I must respectfully say that the section that deals with such action of fraud has now broken away and is in the U.P.P. now.

The Minister of Finance : I want to say that the action of the Government is in the interests of this country of ours, and the Prime Minister has carefully put our case before the whole world. I am sure that all reasonable people will agree that the step we have taken is the best and most necessary one in the circumstance. We cannot allow any outside power to divide Nigeria for us. This country is already free. The British were here for many years, but they have left and left for ever.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Finance has a valid standing. He has been convicted and it has not been set aside by the order of the Privy Council.

The Minister of Finance : The fact of it is that the sovereignty of this country is sound and safe and the Government is held by responsible people and led by our world-wide respected Prime Minister of the Federation. (*Hear, hear*). If anybody thinks that they can profit by twisting judicial decision, or by asking the House of Commons to support them or by people having a God-father in Dingle Foot and all the rest of it, we will remain for ever a free country ruled by a government of the people by the people and for the people. (*Hear, hear.*)

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : The hon. Minister of Finance has reduced this debate to a level of absurdity.

Under section 114 of our Constitution Part 2—Appeals to Her Majesty in Council. "(1) *Subject to the provisions of this Constitution an appeal shall lie from decisions of the Federal Supreme Court to Her Majesty in Council as of right in the following cases.*"

Now the Minister of Finance is calling them foreigners and everything done by his Government to-day is done in the name of Her Majesty the Queen. He appealed to the Privy Council when he was convicted in Sapele and lost the Appeal.

Question put, that the words proposed to be left out, be left out.

The House divided :—Ayes 19, Noes 245.

NOES

Seat No.	Name of Member
1	Ifezue, E. O.
2	Muhammadu Nalado
4	Adeyemo, B. A.
6	Onwuchekwa, I. S.
7	Nnaji, S.
8	Chukwu, J. C.
14	Eko, U. U.
15	Nwalieji, V. A.
18	Okoronkwo, F. I.
19	Muhammed Ningi
20	Muhammadu Kumo
21	M. Barko, Maaji Kachalla
22	Shettima Ali Monguno
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa
24	Yusufu Ilesha
26	Muktar Gajiram
27	Abbas Raha
28	Aliyu, Sarkin Puloti
29	Ladan Isa
30	Garba Jabo Abubakar
32	Saidu Zango
33	Abasi, S. A.
34	Ejukwa, P. I.
35	Sarkin Gobir

Seat No.	Name of Member
36	Ihe, F. U.
37	Oronsaye, D. N.
38	Oyewole, S. A.
40	Araka, E. O.
41	Chikelu, I. O.
42	Udenyi, J. U.
43	Nwangbo, N.
44	Elenwa, N. E.
45	Ogbalu, F. C.
47	Oloyede, T. A.
48	Eboigbodi, J. B.
49	Enwo, N.
50	Okay, D. D. U.
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki
52	Abba Terab
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar
54	Saiyadi Ringim
55	Yerima Saleh
56	Sule Abba Bui
57	Alhaji Kabiru Bayero
68	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero
59	Yushau Mohammed
60	Abubakar A. Ibrahim
61	M. Iro Mani
62	Usman Turaki
63	Ibrahim Na Maitama
64	Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman
65	Ahamefula, D. O.
66	Ekenekot, U. O.
67	De. Omomadia, J. K.
68	Falaiye, W. J.
69	Nwofokoda, J. N.
70	Ememe, O. C.
71	Aghahowa, D. E. Y.
73	Ukah, N. D.
74	Muojeke, R. N.
76	Mohamed, Y. A.
77	Onugu, N. N.
79	Amadi, F. A. M.
80	Ayeni, U. O.
81	Giadom, K.
82	Ikeh, B. O.
83	Alhaji, Mai Kano
85	Maina Waziri
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi
87	Umaru Gumel
90	Saidu Daura
94	Chiedozi, C.
95	Orok, Chief R. A.
96	Odey, J. U.
97	Afolabi, R. A.
98	Chukwu, D. N.
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici
100	Iketuonye, V.
101	Odunrinde, A. A.
102	Igwe, J. O.
103	Ogunbiyi, J. O.
104	Eleke, P. O.
105	Nweke, O. O.
107	Dr Okeke, P. U.
105	Senu-Oke, D.
109	Mbah, A. U. D.
112	Chief Mariere, S. J.
113	Chuku, H. O.
114	Dr Nzeribe, B. U.
115	Ukaegbu, B. N.

Federal Parliament Debates

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[Amendment of Western

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117	Albatam Yerima Balla	216	Kolade, S. O.
118	Akinjide, R. O. A.	218	Abdullahi Mahuta
119	Akwiwu, E. C.	219	Alhaji Abubakar Magajin Gari
120	Opia, A.	220	Usman Barkono
121	Chief Ubani, M. W.	223	Balang U. Barami
122	Dr Ezera, K.	224	Muhammadu Zaiyana Sardauna
123	Ogunsanya, A. O.	225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona
127	Galadima Maikiyari	226	Abba Sadiq
128	Abdu Kirim	227	Ahmadu Babandi
129	Alhaji Aminu Tafida	228	Alhaji Aliyu Mohammadu
130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi	229	Olokotun, S. A.
131	Usman Gwarzo	230	Wada Nas
132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina	231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
133	Alhaji Mohamed-Munir	232	Ibrahim Nadabo
134	Lar, S. D.	233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
135	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma	234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadeija
136	Ibrahim Gusau	237	Etukudo, T. I.
137	Alhaji Are, K. O. S.	246	Chief Ogunleye, D. A.
138	M. Muktari Sarkin Bai	249	Taiwo, J. A.
139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto	250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
146	Ekane, P. E.	252	Baba Shehu Ibrahim
147	Rosiji, Chief A.	253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
148	Akinloye, Chief A. M. A.	254	Abdulkadir Dukku
150	Okunowo, Chief E. O.	255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar
151	Ogedengbe, S. A.	256	M. Ahmadu Ribadu
152	Akerele, A.	259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange
154	Effiong-Spatts, E. A.	260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai
155	Isa Haruna	261	M. Abba Yola
156	Odo, E. A.	262	Atto Bungudu
157	Ede, J. O.	263	Garba Gada
158	Shekarau Omar	265	M. Aliyu Ali Gwarzo
161	Muhammadu Gwarzo	266	M. Garba Turakin Paiko
162	Alhaji Ahmadu A. Baba	267	Umaru Galkogo
163	Inusa Tudun Wada	268	Oladapo, S. A.
168	Sarkin Dalhatu	269	Ogunkanmi, E. J.
169	A. Aminu Suleman Dutse	274	Fajinmi, S. O.
170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa	277	Haikali Maigari
171	Kaita Damale	278	Ogundipe, S. O.
174	Brown, I. A.	283	Peter Ipu
176	Dada, G. K.	284	Olatunde, P. B.
177	Odulana, A. F.	287	M. Dati Kudu
179	Eminue, O. J.	288	Shehu Na Ita Sokoto
183	Tobun, L. O.	290	Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau
186	Aminu Yelwa	292	Zubaru Alkintozu
188	Zanna Isa Monguno	294	Umaru Maltimbi
189	Musa Hindi		
190	Tokula, P. O.	A.	Damla, J. M.
191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma	B.	Ka'allaya Shekarau
192	Abdu Bauchi	F.	A. Ansah
193	Isa Iko		Prime Minister
194	Hamidu A. Bayero		Minister of Finance
195	Muhammadu Bayero		Minister of Commerce and Industry
196	Abdusalami Olomoda		Minister of Communications
197	Babatunde, S. A.		Minister of Defence
198	Ahmadu Angara Doma		Minister of Foreign Affairs
199	Enefolo, D. O.		Minister of Economic Development
200	Yacim, J. A.		Minister of Education
201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla		Minister of Establishments
202	Alhaji Mohammadu, Sarki Burmi Moriki		Minister of Information
203	Umaru Dan Waziri		Minister of Internal Affairs
204	Afanideh, M. B.		Minister of Lagos Affairs
205	Dame-Obob, P.		Minister of Mines and Power
206	Assadugu, J.		Minister of Transport and Aviation
209	Olaore, J. A.		Minister of Works and Surveys
210	Lajide, V. L.		Minister of State, Hon. M. A. Olarewaju

Seat
No.

Name of Member

Minister of State, Chief the hon. Omo-
Osagie
Minister of State, Hon. Usumanu Maitam-
bari
Minister of State, Hon. H. Adaji
Minister of State, Hon. M. Amechi
Abubakar Isandu
Alhaji Ahmed, U. A.
Yerokun, S. A.
Hamza Gombe
Ahmadu Fatika
Zanni Gezawa
Lamuye, T. A.
Lana, S.
Dominic, M. Mapeo
Nwika, S. F.
Offor, F. E.
Okafor, R. B. K.
Okilo M. O.
Orodi, E. T.
Ezonbodor, N. A.
Ibrahim Tako
Ugwu, D. C.
Aliyu Zungum
Umaru Gela

AYES

Seat
No.

Name of Member

140 Dosunmu, L. J.
141 Briggs, W.
144 Akomolafe, A.
172 Chief Akin-Olugbade, O. B.
176 Dada, G. K.
180 Ajasin, M. A.
182 Adedamola, A.
207 Daka, S. T.
214 Swem, K.
217 Iyorkar, M. D.
238 Shisha, V. T.
240 Udo-Inyang, D. S.
241 Tarkande, P.
242 Obi, M. C. K.
244 Akinyemi, J. A.
245 Ajayi, B. A.
147 Oladiran, S. A. (Oba)
272 Gbolagunte, D. M.
276 Aihonsu, D. K.

Tellers for Noes

Alhaji Bello Dandago
Chief D. N. Abii

Tellers for Ayes

Mr A. A. Ajibola
Mr E. D. Akinbowale

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :
On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I would like
to refer to Order 39 (3). The last sentence of
Order 39 (3) states, "A Member must vote
according to his choice."

When the Lobbies were cleared, the hon.
Member for Ikeja (*Mr Adeniran Ogunsanya*)
went along to the Lobby of the Ayes and started

to lobby the Members. Some Members had
voted for the Ayes and the Clerk was asked to
tear off the sheet—

Mr Speaker : Both the Tellers for the Ayes
and Noes have agreed ; so I do not think Chief
Olugbade's case is admissible here. The
Ayes to the right 19, the Noes to the left 245
and so the Noes have it.

Amendment accordingly negated.

Main Question again proposed.

Chief M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North
East) : I only want to say that it is necessary
for us to find out what was the intention of the
framers of the Constitution itself which went up
to the Privy Council for interpretation. I will
say that our leaders in this country went to the
United Kingdom for the Constitutional Con-
ference and that the question of dissolution of
parliament and the removal of a Premier was
discussed. I would like to quote, with your
permission, what Chief Obafemi Awolowo who
led the Action Group delegation at that time
said. I am quoting from the report of the
Constitutional Conference of the 28th of May,
1957.

Mr W. O. Briggs : On a point of order, as
far as I can see, this is a typewritten or cyclo-
styled copy of something we do not know. If
he wants to quote the proceedings of the
Constitutional Conference, he must read the
report to us and not just read something he has
made up himself.

Chief Akinloye : I am not the one who
made up this—

The Minister of State (Hon. Mbazulike
Amechi) : On a point of order, Sir, I rise to
move, That the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker declined to put the Question.

Chief Akinloye : This is the minutes of the
proceedings of the Constitutional Conference.
It is the official one distributed to the leaders of
the delegations to the Conference.

On the 28th of May, 1957, Chief Awolowo
considered that it would be dangerous to confer
on a Governor, the power to dissolve the legisla-
ture at his own discretion, though he admitted
that the Governor should be permitted discre-
tionary powers to refuse a dissolution. He
said that he envisaged two occasions on which
the Governor might find it necessary to order a
dissolution without the advise of the Premier,

namely, in the case of a coalition Government which has been defeated in the legislature and where no alternative Government can be formed within a reasonable period and secondly when the statutory life of the legislature has expired.

The Action Group delegation considered that the provisions in the Ghana Constitution should be modified to the extent that where a vote of no confidence has been passed in the House, the Premier should be given an opportunity to resign. Finally, if in the opinion of the Governor, the Premier has lost the confidence of the people but refused to call a meeting of the House, it will be possible for the Governor to summon a meeting of the House, but this should be written into the Constitution.

I will not make any further comment on the somersault which Chief Awolowo took from the position in which he was at the Constitutional Conference and the time when he decided to remove what he called an obstacle in his way, Chief S. L. Akintola.

Mr W. O. Briggs : On a point of order, I want to make two points on this point of order. The first is that we are dealing with the Constitution as it is, as it was passed there, not the proceedings. The second one is that Chief Awolowo had said nothing at all on this issue. He is standing trial at the moment and he has nothing to say now.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member was making reference to what Chief Awolowo said during the Constitutional Conference.

Chief Akinloye : The only further point I want to make is on the decision of the Privy Council. I have never seen any decision so biased, so prejudiced and so unreasonable. As a matter of fact, it is a matter of common knowledge that this Government had—

Chief Akin-Olugbade : On a point of order, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council consists of men whose ages range from fifty upwards, and they are people who are competent to interpret this Constitution, and that was what they did. They are also people who cannot be scared at all.

The hon. Gentleman was there. He did not appear in the court himself, but people

senior to him and higher than he is appeared and argued but failed. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! If Members are not interested in debates, but in raising unnecessary points of order, we may as well put the question.

Question put, That, in accordance with the provision of section five, subsection (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House signifies its consent to the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, having effect.

The House divided : Ayes, 242 ; Noes, 18:

AYES

Seat No.	Name of Member
2	Muhammadu Nalado
4	Adeyemo, B. A.
6	Onwuchekwa, I. S.
7	Nnaji, S.
8	Chukwu, J. C.
14	Eko, U. U.
15	Nwaleji, V. A.
18	Okoronkwo, F. I.
19	Muhammed, Ningi
20	Muhammadu Kumo
21	M. Barko, Maaji Kachalla
22	Shettima Ali Monguno
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa
24	Yusufu Ilesha
26	Muktar Gajiram
27	Abbas Raha
28	Aliyu Sarkin Puloti
29	Ladan Isa
30	Garba Jabo Abubakar
32	Saidu Zango
33	Abasi, S. A.
34	Ejukwa, P. I.
36	Ihe, F. U.
37	Oronsaye, D. N.
38	Oyewole, S. A.
41	Chikelu, I. O.
42	Udenyi, J. U.
43	Nwangbo, N.
44	Elenwa, N. E.
45	Ogbalu, F. C.
46	Ifeazue, E. O.
47	Oloyede, T. O.
48	Egboigbodi, J. B.
49	Enwo, N.
50	Okay, D. D. U.
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki
52	Abba Terab
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar
54	Saiyadi Ringim
55	Yerima Saleh
56	Sule Abba Bui
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero
59	Yushau Mohammed
60	Abubakar A. Ibrahim
61	M. Iro Mani

Federal Parliament Debates

2369

[Amendment of Western

3 JUNE 1963

Nigeria Constitution]

2370

<i>Seat No.</i>	<i>Name of Member</i>	<i>Seat No.</i>	<i>Name of Member</i>
62	Usman Turaki	129	Alhaji Aminu Tafida
63	Ibrahim Na Maitama	130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi
64	Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman	131	Usman Gwarzo
65	Ahamefula, D. O.	132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
66	Ekenekot, U. O.	133	Alhaji Mohammed-Munir
67	De. Omomadia, J. K.	134	Lar, S. D.
69	Nwofokoda, J. N.	135	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
70	Ememe, O. C.	136	Ibrahim Gusau
71	Aghahowa, D. E. Y.	137	Alhaji Are, K. O. S.
72	E. O. Araka	138	M. Mukhari Sarkin Bai
73	Ukah, N. D.	139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto
74	Muojeke, R. N.	146	Ekanem, P. E.
75	Mordi, E. A.	148	Akinloye, Chief A. M. A.
76	I. A. Muhammed	150	Okunowo, E. O.
77	Onugu, N. N.	151	Ogedengbe, S. A.
79	Amadi, F. A. M.	152	Akerele, A.
80	Ayen, U. O.	154	Effiong-Spatts, E. A.
81	Giadom, K.	155	Isa Haruna
82	Ikeh, B. O.	156	Odo, E. A.
83	Alhaji Mai Kano	157	Ede, J. O.
85	Maina Waziri	158	Shekarau Omar
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi	160	Olatunde, P. B.
87	Umaru Gumel	161	Muhammadu Gwarzo
90	Saidu Daura	162	Alhaji Ahmadu A. Baba
94	Chiedozi, C.	163	Inusa Tudun Wada
95	Orok, Chief R. A.	167	Alhaji Haruna
96	Odey, J. U.	168	Sarkin Dalhatu
97	Afolabi, R. A.	169	M. Aminu Suleman Dutse
98	Chukwu, D. N.	170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa
99	Ismaila Abdullahi Bici	171	Kaita Damale
100	Iketuonye, V.	174	Brown, I. A.
101	Odunrinde, A. A.	176	Dada, G. K.
102	Igwe, J. O.	177	Odulana, A. F.
103	Ogunbiyi, J. O.	179	Eminue, O. J.
104	Eleke, P. O.	181	Akpan, P. O.
105	Nweke, O. O.	183	Tobun, I. O.
107	Dr Okeke, P. U.	186	Aminu Yelwa
108	Senu-Oke, D.	188	Zanna Isa Monguno
112	Chief Mariere, S. J.	189	Musa Hindi
113	Chuku, H. O.	190	Tokula, P. O.
114	Dr Nzeribe, B. U.	191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
115	Ukaegbu, B. N.	192	Abdu Bauchi
116	Eneh, G. O. D.	193	Isa Iko
117	Albatam Yerima Balla	194	Hamidu A, Bayero
118	Akinjide, R. O. A.	195	Muhammadu Bayero
119	Akwiwu, E. C.	196	Abdusalami Olomoda
120	Opia, A.	197	Babatunde, S. A.
121	Chief Ubani, M. W.	198	Ahmadu Angara Doma
122	Dr Ezera, K.	199	Enefolo, D. O.
123	Ogunsanya, A. O. O.	200	Yacim, J. A.
126	Maaji Waisul	201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
127	Galadima Maikiyari	202	Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarki Burmi Moriki
128	Abdu Kirim		

Federal Parliament Debates

2371	[Amendment of Western	3 JUNE 1963	Nigeria Constitution]	2372
Seat No.	Name of Member	Seat No.	Name of Member	
203	Umaru Dan Waziri		Minister of Information	
204	Afanideh, N. B.		Minister of Internal Affairs	
205	Dame-Oboh, P.		Minister of Lagos Affairs	
209	Olaore, J. A.		Minister of Mines and Power	
210	Lajide, V. L.		Minister of Transport and Aviation	
213	Idiong, S. U.		Minister of Works and Surveys	
216	Kolade, S. O.		Minister of State, Hon. M. A. Olanrewaju	
218	Abdullahi Mahuta		Minister of State, Hon. Chief Omo-Osagie	
219	Alhaji Abubakar Magajin Gari		Minister of State, Hon. Usumanu Maitambari	
220	Usman Barkono		Minister of State, Hon. H. Adaji	
223	Balang U. Barami		Minister of State, Hon. M. Amechi	
224	Muhammadu Zaiyana Sardauna		Abubakar Isandu	
225	Muhammadu, Sarkin Gona		Alhaji Ahmed, U. A.	
226	Abba Sadiq		Yerokun, S. A.	
228	Alhaji Aliyu Mohammadu		Hamza Gombe	
229	Olokotun, S. A.		Sanni Gezawa	
230	Wada Nas		Lamuye, T. A.	
231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura		Dominic, M. Mapeo	
232	Ibrahim Nadabo		Nwika, S. F.	
233	M. L. Alhaji Daura		Offor, F. E.	
234	Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadeija	274	Fajimi, S. O.	
237	Etukudo, T. L.	277	Haikali Maigari	
246	Chief Ogunleye, D. A.	278	Ogundipe, S. O.	
249	Taiwo, J. A.	283	Peter Ipu	
250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi	287	M. Dati, Kudu	
252	Baba Shehu Ibrahim	288	Shehu Na Ita Sokoto	
253	Abdulkadir Abubakar	292	Zubairu Linan Katagun	
254	Abdulkadir Dukku	294	Umaru, Maitumbi	
255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar		A. Damla, J. M.	
256	M. Ahmadu Ribadu		B. Ka'allaya Shekarau	
257	Ali Nakura Kaura		Sarkin Obir	
258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara		E. Ansah	
259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange		Okilo, M. O.	
260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai		Orodi, E. T.	
261	M. Abba Yola		Ezonbodor, M. A.	
262	Atto Bungudu		Ibrahim Tako	
263	Garba Gada		Ugwu, D. C.	
264	Alhaji Mohammed Gwate		Aliyu Zungum	
265	M, Aliyu Ali Gwarzo		Umaru Gela	
266	M, Garba Turakin Paiko			
267	Umaru Galkogo			
268	Oladapo, S. A.	140	Dosunmu, L. J.	
269	Ogunkanmi, E. J.	141	Briggs, W.	
	Prime Minister	144	Akomolafe, A.	
	Minister of Finance	172	Chief Akin-Olugbade, O. B.	
	Minister of Commerce and Industry	180	Ajasin, M. A.	
	Minister of Communications	182	Adedamola, A.	
	Minister of Defence	207	Daka, S. T.	
	Minister of Foreign Affairs	214	Swem, K.	
	Minister of Economic Development	217	Iyorkar, M. D.	
	Minister of Education	238	Shisha, V. T.	
	Minister of Establishments	240	Udo-Inyang, D. S.	
		241	Tarkande, P.	

NOES

Seat

No.	Name of Member
242	Obi, M. C. K.
244	Akinyemi, J. A.
245	Ajayi, B. A.
247	Oladiran, S. A. (Oba)
272	Gbolagunte, D. M.
276	Aihonsu, D. K.

Tellers for the Ayes :

Mr A. A. Ajibola
Mr E. D. Akinbowale

Tellers for the Noes :

Alhaji Bello Dandago
Chief D. N. Abii

Question accordingly agreed to.

Resolved : That, in accordance with the provision of section five subsection (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House signifies its consent to the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, having effect.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Finance : I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn till the 31st of July. In doing so, I would like to ask your permission to express the appreciation of the Government to hon. Members on all sides of this House for the way they have responded to the summons to the House to meet. I think it shows that the hon. Members of this House have a great sense of responsibility.

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

Chief Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : Sir, we are all dedicated to the preservation of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law in this country, and we shall always obey the summons to the Parliament.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn till the 31st July.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes past one o'clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS—28th MARCH, 1963

TRANSPORT

Air-Conditioned Passenger Trains

W.2. Mallam Yarima Saleh asked the Minister of Transport, how soon air-conditioned passenger train coaches will be introduced in Nigeria.

The Minister of Transport : Investigation has revealed that with the decline in the number of private passengers travelling in the upper class of our Railway, the public at large will resist the extra charges that must be imposed to cover the cost of installation of air-conditioners in passenger coaches.

29th March, 1963

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

W.7 Mallam Abbas Rahah asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing new industries in Sardauna Province in order to provide employment for the people.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : As I said in my answer to Question No. O.55,

each Regional Government has plans for the industrialisation of the area under its jurisdiction. It is the policy of the Governments of the Federation to spread industries all over the country and the results of the intensive resources surveys continually being undertaken will guide the Governments when deciding on the location of industries.

1st April, 1963

WORKS

O.39. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many indigenous contractors were awarded contracts between 1st March, 1962 and 15th March, 1963, and what is the value of the contract awarded to each of them, what is the total value of contracts awarded to non-Nigerian contractors during the same period.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : 37 contracts were awarded to indigenous contractors between 1st March, 1962 and the 15th March, 1963. These varied in value between £1,100 and £92,000, the total aggregate being £823,553. The total number of contracts awarded to non-Nigerian contractors for the same period was 28 and the aggregate value was £3,657,580.

TRANSPORT

Railway Platform Ticket

O.41. M. Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Minister of Transport, if he will explain why the cost of Railway Platform tickets is higher in the North than in either of the other two Regions.

The Minister of Transport : The cost of Railway Platform Ticket is one penny at all stations except Kano and Kaduna where the charge of three pence is made. Before the introduction of the 3d Platform Tickets at these stations a lot of undesirable elements came and made away with passengers' money and personal effects. The increase has had a salutary effect.

Ilorin Railway Station

O.44. Mr S. A. Babatunde asked the Minister of Transport if he will state when improvement work will commence on the Ilorin Railway Station in view of the assurance he gave on the 30th of November, 1961, on the Adjournment Motion, that this project would be included in the Railway Corporation's 1962-68 Development Programme.

The Minister of Transport : As a first step, action is being taken to install electric lights on the Platform of Ilorin Station. Until the Railway's Six-Year Development Programme is finally approved by the Government, the phasing of this improvement cannot be undertaken.

3rd April, 1963

COMMUNICATIONS

Ikot-Ekpene Telephone Service

O.95. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he is taking to improve the telephone service at Ikot-Ekpene in order to relieve the congestion there.

The Minister of Communications : There are 31 applicants waiting for telephone service in Ikot-Ekpene of which 10 will be served as soon as the cable scheme now in hand is completed. The other applicants outside the exchange area will be served as the area is developed.

Nto Edino Postal Agency

O.96. Mr B. U. Ukpong asked the Minister of Communications, what proposals he has to convert the Nto Edino Postal Agency into a full post office to meet the great demand of the public as the town is fast developing and very far from the Itam post office.

The Minister of Communications : The business now transacted at the Nto Edino Postal Agency amounts to only 4,891 units which is below the minimum figure of 24,000 units required for conversion into a sub post office. Hon. Member will recall that a sub post office must have a minimum unit of 40,000 for conversion to a Departmental Post Office.

Umuahia-Ibeku

***O.98. Mr C. A. Odigbo** asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he proposed to rebuild the Post Office and telephone Exchange at Umuahia-Ibeku.

The Minister of Communications : A site for the project has been acquired and the

planning completed. There is provision in the capital estimate 1963-64 for the construction work.

***O.99. Mr C. A. Odigbo** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the telephone service at Umuahia-Ibeku is below average, and whether he will consider investigating the cause of this gross inefficiency.

The Minister of Communications : I do not support the view that the telephone service at Umuahia-Ibeku is below average. The capacity of the existing exchange has been extended thrice recently to cater for the increased demand for service in the area, and consideration is being given to further extension of the capacity of the exchange and in this connection refer to the answer to your question No. O.98. It is proposed to develop the telephone service further by replacing the existing manual exchange by automatic exchange in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

***O.100. Mr C. A. Odigbo** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider linking Umuahia-Ibeku by telephone directly with Lagos, in view of the political and economic importance of the expanding town.

The Minister of Communications : Telephone calls between Umuahia-Ibeku and Lagos are connected at present through Enugu Exchange, as the number of calls between Umuahia-Ibeku and Lagos does not justify the provision of a direct link. The provision of direct links between telephone exchanges is under constant review and will be provided between Umuahia-Ibeku and Lagos as soon as this is justified.

4th April, 1963

EDUCATION

University of Nigeria

O.114. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Education, if he will state whether the Federal Government has given any financial aid to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka ; if so, how much.

The Federal Minister of Education : The Federal Government has recently given the sum of £450,000 to the National Universities Commission to enable it to give grants to Nigerian Universities. It is expected that the University of Nigeria will derive some financial benefit from this allocation.

Scholarships for Lagos

O.115. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Education, whether in view of representations he has received from the people and the press he will now make the proposed secondary school scholarship awards, formerly intended for those born or resident in Lagos, a country-wide scheme.

The Federal Minister of Education : I am fully aware of the views expressed by the people of Nigeria and by the Press on the proposed secondary school scholarship awards for the Federal Territory of Lagos. I must state, however, that all the Regional Governments in the Federation have primary responsibility for the children of the areas within their jurisdictions. In recognition of this responsibility, liberal provisions have been made for the award of scholarships, both for the secondary schools and higher institutions. In regard to the Federal Territory of Lagos, however, the responsibility for the promotion of all levels of education is clearly that of the Federal Government. In the circumstance, no change is envisaged in regard to the recent arrangements. I may add, for the information of the hon. Member, that during the financial

year 1962-63 the heavy sum of £550,000 was earmarked for the extended scholarship scheme, while £180,000 was voted for post-graduate scholarship awards applicable to the whole Federation.

Inter-Regional Secondary Grammar Schools

O.117. Oba S. A. Oladiran asked the Minister of Education, if he will state when the introduction of Inter-Regional Secondary Grammar School will take place, and how many such schools will be allocated to each Region.

The Federal Minister of Education : The construction of the first three Inter-Regional Secondary Schools will begin during the current fiscal year. Seven such schools, due to be opened during the period 1962-68, are regionally distributed as follows :

Northern Region	3
Western Region	2
Eastern Region	2

University of Lagos

O.118. Oba S. A. Oladiran asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the total number of under-graduates in the University of Lagos, and how many are there in each Faculty.

The Federal Minister of Education : The under-graduate enrolment at the University of Lagos for the current academic session is 100. The distribution according to disciplines is as follows :

(i) Commerce and Business Administration	46
(ii) Law	26 (3 girls)
(iii) Medicine	28 (2 girls)

In addition, there are 30 students in the evening classes for the degree course in Law.

Common Entrance Examination

O.189. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Education, how many candidates who sat for the Common Entrance Examination from 1959 to 1962, gained admission to the College of their second choice and if he will consider reviewing the entire policy of the Common Entrance Examination with a view to abolishing it.

The Federal Minister of Education : There is nothing like a Common Entrance Examination for all Secondary Schools in the country or even for those in the Federal Territory. It is therefore impossible to abolish what, in fact, does not exist.

The position is that the West African Examinations Council conducts, not only an

annual Entrance Examination for a group of about 18 schools in the Eastern and Western Regions and in the Federal Territory, but also sets question papers for Government and Native Administration Schools in Northern Nigeria. The total number of Secondary Schools in the country is about 500.

Numerous other schools therefore conduct their own Entrance Examinations either individually or in groups. Thus many pupils are free to sit, and, in fact, do sit as many entrance examinations as they possibly can.

I hope my honourable friend appreciates the impracticability of furnishing the figures of candidates during the years mentioned in his question.

8th April, 1963

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Uba-Bama Road

W.5. Mallam Abbas Rahah asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether there are any plans to tar the Uba-Bama Road, and if so, how soon the work will commence.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys : I regret that owing to limited funds available there are no plans at present for tarring this road.

Funtua-Gusau Road

O.246. Mallam Wada Nas asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what is the total cost of the reconstruction and tarring of the Funtua-Gusau road via Yankara.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works : The total cost of the reconstruction and tarring of the Funtua-Gusau road is expected to be about £950,000.

Idoma-Abakaliki Road

O.250. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider taking over responsibility for the Idoma-Abakaliki Road in view of its importance as a link between Northern and Eastern Nigeria and also the Oturkpo-Ogumogbo Road in view of its commercial importance.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works : I regret that owing to the limited financial resources available for the reconstruction and maintenance of the existing Federal trunk road system, it will not be possible for the Federal Government to take over any regional roads during the present economic programme.

Aliade-Makurdi-Jos Road

O.251. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when the Aliade-Makurdi-Jos Trunk Road A will be tarred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works : At present 13 miles northwards from Makurdi and about 40 miles southwards from Jos to the Asob escarpment have been tarred. The tarring of the Aliade-Makurdi section of this road has been included

in the current economic programme. The route has been surveyed and contract documents are in preparation. Work will commence as soon as funds are released.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Economic Missions

O.133. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state in what respects have the repeated world tours of the Nigerian Economic mission improved the prices of our chief exports, *i.e.*, cocoa, groundnuts, palm oil, palm kernels and timber.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : I am not aware that the Nigerian Economic Missions referred to by the hon. Member set out from Nigeria with the purpose of improving the prices of our chief exports. In fact the main purpose of the major Economic Missions that have left Nigeria has been other than this. However, when in foreign countries Nigerian Economic Missions have, apart from their primary purpose, always taken up the question of expanding markets in those countries for Nigerian export commodities. There has been evidence that such expansion of markets has in fact taken place. As world market prices are dictated by the forces of supply and demand the expansion of markets may have had a favourable effect on the trend of prices.

Industrial Establishments

O.132. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Federal Government industrial establishments are there in each of the three Regions and the Federal Territory of Lagos, and how many are there in Owerri Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry : There are no industries fully owned by the Federal Government either in the Regions or in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The main concern of the Federal Government in the field of industrial development is to draw up a broad industrial development policy, enact industrial legislations, provide incentives and, in general, create an atmosphere congenial to investments in, and growth of, industries throughout the Federation.

However, in order to foster their growth, the Federal Government has invested, in partnership with the Regional Governments or with private entrepreneurs, in a number of industrial projects considered to be of major economic significance. These are—

(i) the cement industry at Nkalagu in Eastern Nigeria ;

(ii) the sugar project at Bacita in Northern Nigeria ;

(iii) the manufacture of matches in Ilorin in Northern Nigeria ; and

(iv) the flour-milling industry in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

Details are at the moment being worked out for Government participation in more projects of national importance.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sardauna Province Telephone Service

W.3. Mallam Abbas Rahah asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangements he is making to provide Mubi, Gwoza, Ganye and Gashaka-Mambila divisional headquarters with telephone service.

The Minister of Communications : A limited telephone service already exists at Mubi and Ganye but this is primarily used for administrative purposes. Consideration is being given to the provision of additional telephone facilities in these places and the Gwoza and Gashaka in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

Gwoza Postal Agency

W.4. Mallam Abbas Rahah asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the commercial importance of Gwoza, in Sardauna Province, he will convert the existing postal agency into a full post office.

The Minister of Communications : The Commercial importance of Gwoza is not reflected in the amount of business transacted at the Postal Agency which is now only 5,499 units. This figure is far below the necessary 24,000 units specified in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 for conversion of Postal Agencies to Sub-Post Office and the 40,000 units required for a Departmental Post Office.

9th April, 1963

DEFENCE

Compulsory Military Service

O.265. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Defence, whether the Government proposes to introduce compulsory military service for Nigerian youths as a way of reducing the ever-increasing employment problems and strengthening the security of this country.

The Minister of Defence : The introduction of compulsory military training for certain classes of Nigerian youths would involve large-scale expenditure in equipment, accommodation and instructional staff, which cannot be justified in present-day circumstances.

The Army have as many volunteers as they need to maintain their strength at the level authorised by the Legislature. Although the question of combating unemployment in this country does not fall within the purview of my Ministry, I can say that the Federal Government is doing its best with the means at its disposal to reduce unemployment to a minimum.

LABOUR AND WELFARE

Dockworkers' Strike

O.270. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what were the casualties in the disturbances resulting from the Dockers' strike last February.

The Minister of Labour : Police records show that no deaths occurred in the disturbances resulting from the Dock Workers' strike. The details of those who were injured are as follows :

Workers

Lagos : 9 injured, 2 admitted into hospital.

Port Harcourt : 6 injured and admitted into hospital.

Sapele : 4 injured and 1 admitted into hospital.

Calabar, Warri and Burutu : Injured persons were treated in hospital for injuries sustained.

Police

Lagos : 5 injured, one of whom is a police woman who sustained an eye injury from a broken bottle while on her way to work in a Police car.

Port Harcourt : 19 treated for injuries sustained.

Labour Rift

O.271. Mallam Wada Nas asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what steps he is taking to unite the two rival Labour Organisations.

The Minister of Labour : The hon. Member is referred to the Answer which I gave to Question 140 asked this morning by hon. Ogunkanmi.

MINES AND POWER

Electricity for Okigwi

O.137. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Mines and Power what proposals he has made for supplying Okigwi Township with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Okigwi Township is one of the towns included in the second phase of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria's New Towns Development Programme for the Eastern Nigeria.

The necessary surveys have been carried out and the materials collected during the survey are being analysed. The report, when completed, will be submitted to the Eastern Nigeria Government for approval.

Electricity Supply

O.138. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what steps he is taking to supply electricity to all towns in Egbedore, Aiyedade and Orile District Council areas.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Gbongan town is being supplied with electricity at the expense of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. There is no plans at the moment to extend electricity supply to the rest of the towns in Egbedore, Aiyedade and Orile District Council areas.

It is up to the Western Nigeria Government to include these towns in their Development programme.

Electricity for Malumfashi

*O.256. **Mallam Wada Nas** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether in view of the increasing population, he will consider providing Malumfashi Town with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power : Malumfashi Town is one of the towns recently surveyed for possible development. The survey reports are now being analysed and will, in due course, be forwarded to the Northern Nigeria Government for approval or otherwise.

Gas Deposit

*O.258. **Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what plans he has for the

tapping of the gas deposit in Akukwa (Ugwuoba) in Awka Division.

The Minister of Mines and Power : A very high pressure gas and water show was struck in Akukwa No. 1 well in 1955 and this caused a serious blow out which led to the abandonment of the well.

A second well was drilled later to develop the gas bearing formation but failed to find it in spite of the fact that the well was drilled several thousand feet deeper than the first one.

The gas found at Akukwa in 1955 appears to be an isolated patch of formation as the second well failed to find more than traces of gas and no high pressures in any of the formations penetrated.

There is therefore no plans at present to develop the gas deposit at Akukwa.

10th April, 1963

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone Service for Okigwi Division

O.144. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications, what steps he is taking to provide telephone service in those important and populous parts of Okigwi Division, especially in the Etiti and Mbano County headquarters.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The provision of telephone service is being considered under the 1962-68 Development Programme for the headquarters of the Etiti and Mbano County Councils in Okigwi Division, Amakohia and Umuduru respectively. Consideration will also be given to the provision of telephone services at Okwele, Amaraka and Ovim, all in Okigwi Division.

Telephone and Telegraph Facilities

O.145. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications, how many towns have been provided with telephone and telegraph facilities since October 1960 and how many will be provided with these facilities between now and 1968.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Information regarding the number of towns provided with telephone and telegraph facilities is not readily available as a telephone exchange or telegraph office may serve more than one town. I can, however, tell the hon. Member that my Ministry has opened 16 telephone exchanges, 17 Rural Call Offices and 6 Telegraph Offices for Public service since 1st October, 1960.

Until my Ministry finalises plans for the 1962-68 Development Programme, I regret I cannot state the number of localities which will be provided with telephone and telegraph services between now and 1968.

***O.208. Mr U. O. Ayeni** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will provide Benin with an automatic telephone exchange.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The planning - the provision of more automatic telephone

exchanges under the 1962-68 Development Programme is well in hand and until this is completed, I shall not be in position to say with any certainty when an automatic telephone exchange will be provided at Benin. The present manual exchange at Benin will continue in use for some years more and serious consideration will be given to the provision of automatic telephone exchange at Benin in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

Post Offices

***O.209. Mr U. O. Ayeni** asked the Minister of Communications, how many post offices have been erected in each of the three Regions since April 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The number of New Post Office buildings erected in the three Regions and the Federal Territory of Lagos since April 1960 is as follows :

<i>Eastern Region</i>	<i>Western Region</i>	<i>Northern Region</i>	<i>Federal Territory</i>
9	6	13	2

Post Office for Ora

***O.210. Mr U. O. Ayeni** asked the Minister of Communications, when he hopes to build a Post Office at Ora.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The building of a type N1 Post office has been decided for Ora under the 1962-68 Development Programme but it is not possible to say now exactly when the building will commence.

Makurdi Post Office

***O.324. Mr P. O. Tarkende** asked the Minister of Communications, how much did it cost Government to build the Makurdi Post Office and what is the average annual revenue realised from this post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Makurdi Post Office was built at a cost of £39,567 and the annual revenue realised is approximately £12,000.

Okomoko Postal Agency

W.8. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider the desirability of making the Okomoko postal agency a receiving and distribution centre for all the mails from other postal agencies in Etche so as to determine correctly the volume of business transacted there, and to enable it to be converted to a sub-post office as early as possible.

The Minister of Communications : I have noticed that the hon. Member asked exactly this same question when this House met last August but the question was not taken then.

Detailed examination has shown that there will be no advantage in making Okomoko Postal Agency a mail distributing centre, as mails for some of the Postal Agencies in the area will be over-carried and subjected to delay.

The conversion of Okomoko Postal Agency to Sub-Post Office is also not justified at present as the current units of 5,775, are far below the standard requirements of 24,000 units qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office.

HEALTH**Congestion at Lagos Hospitals**

***O.280. Mr Victor L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Health what steps he is taking to reduce the congestion in the General Hospital and Dispensaries in Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : I have been aware for a long time past of the need to ease the congestion in our main hospitals. Within the Economic Development Plan period, proposals have been made to build a number of Health Centres in the wards in the Federal territory. Five will be built during this financial year. The health centres will cater primarily for out-patients, thereby eliminating congestion at the out-patients departments of our hospitals.

Maternity Hospital in Lagos

***O.148. Alhaji K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Health, how much did it cost the Government to maintain the Maternity Hospitals in Lagos from April 1960 to March 1962, and how many cases were successfully treated during the same period.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : The recurrent costs of the Lagos Island Maternity Hospital from April 1960 to March 1962 was £430,761.

The number of cases successfully treated in the hospital during the calendar years 1960, 1961 and 1962, *i.e.*, from January to December of each year, are as follows :—

Calendar Year Jan.-Dec.	Successful Deliveries	Morbid conditions related to pregnancy and child birth which were successfully treated	Total number of cases successfully treated
1960	13,868	3,187	17,055
1961	13,795	4,882	18,677
1962	15,782	5,356	21,138

11th April, 1963

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Police Posts for Awka Division

O.281. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Prime Minister, if he will state why the proposed police posts at Abagana, Uruma, Umunze and Ekwulawbia in Awka Division, have still not been set up.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): Consideration will be given to the proposed police posts at Abagana, Uruma, Umunze and Ekwulawbia in Awka Division during the 1962-68 development scheme. Implementation will depend on prevailing priorities and availability of funds.

Ranks of Policewomen

O.284. Mallam Wada asked the Prime Minister, how many women Police are holding the rank of sergeant and above in the Nigerian Police.

Hon. Olarewaju: The number of Police-women holding the rank of Sergeant and above in the Nigerian Police is 25, made up as follows:—

Federal Territory: 3 Senior Police Officers, 6 Inspectors, 3 Sergeants.

East: 4 Inspectors, 1 Sergeant.

West: 1 Senior Police Officer, 4 Inspectors, 2 Sergeants.

North: 1 Inspector.

Death of Inoma Briggs

O.177. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Prime Minister, if he will now release the results of investigations carried out by the police on the circumstances surrounding the death of an 18 year old girl, Inoma Briggs, whose dead body was found half naked at the Abonnema water-side, Port Harcourt sometime early last year, and if he will make a statement.

Hon. Olarewaju: Inoma Briggs was found in the swamps along Abonnema wharf on the 9th of June, 1962. The Port Harcourt C.I.D. conducted an investigation and found no evidence to support a prosecution.

The case was referred to the Coroner who held an inquest and returned the following verdict on 2nd of November, 1962.

“That the deceased's death was due to shock resulting from mechanical interference with normal delivery of birth.”

EDUCATION

Hard Up Students

O.220. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Education, how many students were turned out during the present academic session from the University of Ibadan for inability to pay fees.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Within the current academic session, 62 under-graduates, unable to pay their fees, have been turned out by the University College, Ibadan, authorities.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Allocation of Crown Land

O.152. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether he is aware of the serious complaints by the public of the discriminatory practice in the allocation of Crown Lands, and whether he will investigate the situation.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs: I am not aware, but will investigate.

Southwest Ikoyi Plots

O.153. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, how many plots from the Ikoyi reclaimed land have been allocated to tenants; what is the annual rent payable by them and what is the expiration period of the lease-hold agreement.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs: The present position in regard to the reclaimed land at South-West Ikoyi is that 506 plots have been allocated through the secret ballot held in 1960; 92 plots have been leased to private individuals by direct allocation, and 11 plots have been directly leased to persons displaced by the L.E.D.B. Central Area Slum Clearance Scheme.

The total number of plots granted, at south-West Ikoyi reclaimed Estate amounts to 609, and the rents reserved are based at the standard rate of £200 per acre per annum, on lease for a term of 99 years from the date of execution of the lease agreement.

L.E.D.B. Building Scheme

O.154. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he will state the total number of buildings so far completed by the L.E.D.B. from 1st April, 1960 to March, 1962; how many of these buildings have already been allocated, and how much did it cost to put them up.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs : Under the Rehousing Scheme whereby houses are provided for those displaced in Central Lagos as a result of the Lagos Central Planning Scheme, the L.E.D.B. built a total of 732 houses at a total cost of £451,312-0s-11d, between 1st April, 1960 and 31st March, 1962.

Under the Freehold Housing Scheme, a total of 386 houses were built at a cost of £805,040-3s-3d between 1st April, 1960 and 31st March, 1962.

All these houses have been allocated or sold.

16th April, 1963

LABOUR

Weekly Wages

O.162. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Labour, whether he will now consider the introduction of weekly payment of wages to workers throughout the country.

The Minister of Labour : No, Sir. The Federal Government along with the Regional Governments has for some time now been considering the question of bi-monthly payment of wages. Consultations are still proceeding and it is hoped that before long a decision would be reached in the matter.

MINES AND POWER

New Uses for Coal

O.163. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if in view of the decision of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to dieselise the country's railway system, he will make a statement on the alternative use of coal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The Nigerian Railway Corporation has declared as a policy that dieselisation of the railways is to be spread over a period of years which will give the Nigerian Coal Corporation time to develop new markets and adjust output.

The loss of this market will be partially off-set by an increase in sales to the Nigerian Cement Company, Nkalagu which will commence from January 1964 to take Coal at the rate of 140,000 tons per annum.

It is also estimated that on the establishment of the Iron and Steel Industry the Coal Corporation will supply about 160,000 tons of Coal per annum to that industry.

It will interest the hon. Member to know that the Nigerian Coal Corporation is pursuing a policy of expanding the Domestic Sales Market.

Oshun Mineral Resources

***O.164. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if and when he proposes to send Geological Surveyors to Ikire, Ago Owu, and Tonkere to locate the mineral resources in these covered areas.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I have to refer hon. Member to Question No. *O.70 in the Parliamentary Debates of 27th March, 1962 at page 277 and to add that large parts of Ilesha are now being geophysically surveyed by means of an airborne magnetometer. The results of the Survey will be described in a bulletin of the Geological Survey which will be published before the end of the year.

Zaria Province

***O.486. M. Saidu Zango** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will send a team of Experts to make a thorough geological survey of some parts of Zaria Province.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : Large parts of Zaria Province are being geologically mapped in the geological survey current programme of the regional geological mapping.

Many districts have been very carefully examined and geologically surveyed in considerable detail. These include the younger granites of Banke, Dutsin-Wai and Kuderu. Description of the geology of large areas of Western and South-eastern Zaria will be published in the near future.

At the present geological survey is being undertaken in the southern part of the Province where the mapping of the country to the North of Kafanchan is in progress.

Electricity for Kafanchan and Zonkwa

***O.487. M. Saidu Zango** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will state when Kafanchan and Zonkwa towns will be supplied with electricity.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : Kafanchan is one of the towns in the North already surveyed.

A comprehensive report on the survey is being prepared and would be forwarded to the Northern Nigeria Government in due course.

Zonkwa was not included in the list of towns submitted by the Northern Regional Government.

INFORMATION

"Post" Profits

*O.494. **M. Saidu Zango** asked the Minister of Information, if he will state what profits were realised from the sales of the *Morning Post* and the *Sunday Post* since their first publications.

The Minister of Information : The Balance Sheet and audited accounts of the Company for the period mentioned are now being prepared and I will obtain this information for the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

I must, however, take this opportunity and say that the Nigerian National Press Ltd. is an integrated company and it is concerned with the publication of the *Morning Post* and the *Sunday Post* and with commercial printing. It is therefore not easy at present to draw a dividing line between profits accruing from the newspapers and profits arising from commercial printing.

Moreover, the Nigerian National Press Ltd. published its first newspaper in October 1961 and it is therefore yet early to expect any margin of profits. In any case, as I have already stated, after the preparation of the Balance Sheets and audited accounts have been completed the picture of operation with regard to profits or losses will be clearer.

Expansion of T.V. Service

*O.496. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Information, what programme of expansion of the television service he has.

The Minister of Information : The Nigerian Television opened on April 1st 1962, with a provisional schedule of 1½ hour per day. During the course of this past year the schedule has been progressively increased and during the past week the Service has been further expanded to an average of nearly 5 hours per day.

In this connection it is necessary to state again that the N.T.S. is expanding at a very satisfactory rate both in terms of the physical plant as well as in programme content.

The temporary facilities have been replaced by permanent buildings and equipment. The N.T.S. buildings on Victoria Island were officially opened on the 28th February this year. With regard to the programmes, quite apart from the extension of air time from 1½

hour in April last year to an average of 5 hours in April this year the quality has improved greatly. Moreover, the N.T.S. programmes are now over 40 per cent "live" and Nigerian talent is being fully utilized.

Commercial Film Production

*O.497. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Information, whether he intends to undertake commercial film production.

The Minister of Information : There are no plans at present to undertake any commercial film production in the Film Unit of my Ministry.

Jagua Nana

*O.498. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Information, what is the present position about the filming of *Jagua Nana*.

The Minister of Information : In August 1962, the Council of Ministers considered an application by an Italian Film Company to make a commercial film of the novel, "*Jagua Nana*". The Council agreed that the Company could be given permission to produce the film in Nigeria, provided that the country would not be portrayed in an unfavourable light and provided also that the film when produced, would be censored before the Company left the country. It was also agreed that the Federal Government should not sponsor nor be associated in the production of the film; and since the venture was a commercial one it was also agreed that no Government facilities should be made available to the company.

These conditions were necessary because the film was not going to be "prestige" film on Nigeria such as the film "*This is Nigeria*". On the other hand, those who have read the book, "*Jagua Nana*" may agree that the book deals with fictitious characters and is not a factual picture of Nigeria to-day. The Film Company concerned as well as two other companies interested in filming the novel had indicated that they wanted to make a film that would portray life in Africa to-day, and they felt that "*Jagua Nana*", filmed against the background of contemporary Nigeria would give good material for their purpose.

For the film to represent life in Africa it must be a true or reasonably true picture of life in Nigeria, if Nigeria must be taken as

the example. But "Jagua Nana" does not represent life in Nigeria.

It must be said that if the film were to be made as representing some unspecified part of Africa, and to be the story of an illiterate woman of loose morals merely against an African background it could be made anywhere in Africa, and neither the characters nor the contemporary scenes would be representative of life in modern Nigeria.

The book, of course, reflects African womanhood unfavourably and therefore would portray any country in an unfavourable light and give the impression that African womenfolk were immoral and that their lives were sordid and mercenary; but in point of fact the characters and the situation in the book are entirely fictitious and unrepresentative of any specific part of modern Africa as I believe the author intended they should be. But since this would be the first commercial film to be made in Nigeria, especially since independence, by an overseas film company, it would do untold harm if it were to cause embarrassment to the Government and people of Nigeria.

In my considered opinion, therefore, the outside world should not get the impression that Nigeria is a country of loose women and unscrupulous politicians like those portrayed in the imaginary world wherein "Jagua Nana" is set. We must be assured that any film made in Nigeria at this time should not portray the country in a bad light. It is for these reasons that I have stipulated, with the support of the Government, that if the Company is to make the film, then the producers would be required to show the finished film to the Board of Censors in Lagos before it was released for general exhibition. This would ensure that a reasonable true picture of life in Nigeria to-day is given and that the country is not portrayed in an unfavourable light. I am also of the view that if possible the principal part should be given to a Nigerian girl.

The producers visited Nigeria in October 1962, and the conditions were made known to them. They have, however, been unable, up till now, to give the undertaking or guarantee required and appear to have suspended further consideration on the production of the film.

In anticipation of anyone who may feel or say that films showing the shady aspects of life in Britain, France, America, Italy and other countries are made and released for the general public, my answer is that, in general, and as far as is known, those films are never meant to give the impression that they portray the general life in those countries. We welcome, in principle, the idea of making commercial films in Nigeria, but we must insist that the films thus produced cause us no embarrassment. There have been many cases of misrepresentation of Africa and we cannot be too careful in view of our determination to advance.

Agricultural Films

O.611. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Information, if he will consider sending the Federal Film Unit to the Eastern Region to produce films on agricultural projects in the Region.

The Minister of Information : The hon. Member is no doubt aware that the Eastern Nigeria Government has a Film Unit of its own, *i.e.*, the Film Division of the Regional Ministry of Information. I have no doubt, however, that the Film Unit of the Eastern Region will be able to produce suitable films on agriculture and other projects if required to do so by the Regional Government.

On the other hand, it would give me and the staff of the Federal Film Unit great pleasure to render any assistance that may be necessary in such exercises. In this connection it is my hope that the steps now being taken to co-ordinate the information services of the Federal and Regional Ministries of Information would extend to the field of Film Production.

17th April, 1963

DEFENCE

Training in Military Schools

O.364. Alhaji Zakari Isa asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians were sent overseas for training and how many are now training in Nigerian Military schools.

The Minister of Defence : It is not in the public interest to furnish in the House the details sought by the hon. Member but they could be given to him if he cares to call at my office.

Nigerian Forces in the Congo

O.366. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Defence, whether he will now withdraw the Nigerian Armed Forces serving with the United Nations in the Congo.

The Minister of Defence : Circumstances do not at present warrant the withdrawal from the Congo of the Nigerian Armed Forces now serving in that country. The hon. Member can rest assured that the Nigerian troops would not stay longer than is necessary for them to do so for the purposes of maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the Congo.

Recruitment of Women

O.367. Mr P. O. Tarkende asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerian women have so far been recruited into the Army.

The Minister of Defence : 21 Nigerian women have been granted nursing commissions in the Royal Nigerian Army and are holding the following ranks :—

- 1 Major ;
- 1 Captain ; and
- 19 Lieutenants.

Graduates in the Army

O.444. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Defence, how many graduates and higher school certificate holders have so far been employed in the Nigerian Army stating how many of these were employed after Independence,

The Minister of Defence : 23 University Graduates and 141 Higher School Certificate holders have been employed in the Royal Nigerian Army. 20 of the University graduates and 75 of the Higher School Certificate holders have been recruited since Independence.

Nigeria's Defence

O.446. Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Defence, what steps he is taking to strengthen Nigeria's defence.

The Minister of Defence : The hon. Member is referred to the answer to the Oral Question No. O.264 which appeared at page 860 of the Parliamentary Debates of 9th April, 1963.

Nigerians in Key Positions

O.613. Mallam M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Defence, how many Nigerians have held key positions in the Nigerian Army since Nigeria achieved independence.

The Minister of Defence : Four Nigerians have been promoted Brigadiers, two of them substantively, since independence. In addition, eleven were promoted Lieutenant-Colonels, three of them substantively. With these promotions, two of the three top Advisers to the General Officer Commanding the Royal Nigerian Army are Nigerians, whilst all but one battalion of the Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment are commanded by Nigerians.

Defence Arrangements

O.666. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Defence, if he is satisfied with the country's defence arrangements in case of civil disorders or external aggression.

The Minister of Defence : The hon. Member can rest assured that adequate measures have been taken and will continue to be taken to ensure that our national defence is not in jeopardy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Postal Transactions in Okigwi Division

O.166. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the volume of business transacted at Amakohia,

Ikenanzizi and Nsu postal agencies, in Okigwi Division, he will consider converting them into Sub-Post Offices.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The business units transacted at the Postal Agencies are currently as follows :—

Amakohia ..	19,948 units
Ikenanzizi ..	14,614 units
Nsu ..	19,102 units

None of the Agencies has attained the standard of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The position will however be watched and conversion will be considered as soon as the business transacted at the Agencies rises to the required level.

Financial Aid

O.167. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications, how many communities have, in accordance with the provision of the Sessional Paper No. 4/1957, applied and received financial aid from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in order to enable them bring their sub-post offices or post-offices up-to-date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Four communities, Obiaruku, Okuku, Mbieri and Igarra have applied for aid but none has yet been granted.

The application from Igarra was refused because the Sub-Post Office building was below the acceptable standard.

The applications from the remaining three communities are under consideration.

Bauchi Post Office

O.309. Mallam Muhammadu Ningi asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the fact that the unit of business transacted in the Bauchi Post Office is increasing daily, he will consider rebuilding and modernising it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : A new Post Office building for Bauchi to replace the present one has been included in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

Postal Agency for Kankara Town

O.10. Mallam Wada Nas asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider providing Kankara town with a postal agency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No application has been received for the establishment of a Postal Agency in Kankara town. When any application is received, it will be considered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Ogbomosho Post Office

***O.311 Mr Victor L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will provide a new Post Office at Ogbomosho.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Studies on postal development are being carried out in my Ministry and from this it will be ascertained whether a new Post Office for Ogbomosho is necessary. It is regretted that no definite reply can be given at present until the studies are completed.

Provision of Postal Agencies

O.312. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Communications, when he will provide postal agencies in Ajawa and Iressa in Ogbomosho District and more in Ogbomosho township.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Arrangements for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Ajawa are nearing completion, but no application has been received from Iressa for the establishment of a postal agency there, neither have there been any applications from Ogbomosho for the establishment of more postal agencies in the township.

When the applications are made, they will be examined in accordance with the provisions of the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and if found agreeable, new postal agencies will be provided.

24-Hour Telephone Service

O.313 Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Communications, when he will provide a 24-hour service at the Ogbomosho Telephone Exchange.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The Ministry's provide is to prove 24 hours service when the number of subscribers to an exchange reaches 75. At present, there are 51 subscribers connected to Ogbomosho exchange.

Experience has shown that it is when the number of subscribers connected to an exchange reaches 75 that 24 hours service can be provided on an economic basis.

Telephone Service

*O.454. Mr George Yilgwen asked the Minister of Communications, when he proposes to provide telephone service at Shendam in the Lowland division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Consideration is being given to the provision of telephone service at Shendam in the 1962-68 Development Programme. I regret I can give the hon. Member no definite undertaking when this service will be provided as my Ministry is still planning the overall development of the telephone system.

Direct Telephone Line

*O.500. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Communications, if he will provide a direct line telephone between Lagos and Zaria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I do not intend to provide direct telephone lines between Lagos and Zaria. Operators in each of these exchanges use a system of dialling through Kaduna exchange to reach the distant subscriber and it is this system of indirect dialling which I propose to develop instead.

Post Office for Ogbete

O.501. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he intends to build a post office at Ogbete, a project which he approved about three years ago.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : A Post Office has been approved for Ogbete and included in the building programme of this Ministry for 1962-68. The project will be handled as soon as practicable.

Ekpoma Sub-Post Office

*O.506. Chief P. Dame-Oboh asked the Minister of Communications, whether the Ekpoma sub-post office will be converted into a full post office before the end of this year.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : No. Sir.

A departmental post office has been approved for Ekpoma and is included in the 1962-68 building programme.

The conversion of the Sub-Post Office will await the completion of the building which will take its turn in the programme.

Sub-Post Offices

O.507. Chief P. Dame-Oboh asked the Minister of Communications, if he will enumerate in order of priority the 14 sub-post offices which will be converted to full post office status in the next Six-Year Development period.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : I am unable at this stage to enumerate in order of priority the 14 sub-post offices which will be converted to full post office status in the Six-year Development period, since there are still unforeseen circumstances within the next six years.

Postal Agents

*O.623. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will state why postal agents are not paid any salaries at all.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Postal Agents are not civil servants. They may in addition to their postal agency work, engage themselves in other private interests.

Postal Agents are employed and paid purely on commission basis as laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Mail Runners' Wages

O.625. Mr U. O. Ayeni asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that Local Councils pay the wages of mail runners and if he will consider taking over the payment of these wages since Communications is a Federal subject.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : One of the conditions for opening Postal Agencies is the acceptance by the sponsoring authority usually a Local Council of the responsibility for collecting and delivering mail between the postal agency and the nearest Post Office.

It is not yet considered expedient to alter this condition.

Awka Post Office

O.626. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, what plans he has for expanding and rebuilding the Awka post office in view of its status and ever-increasing volume of business.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : Provision has been made for extension of Awka Post Office. Work will start as soon as it is practicable.

Conversion of Postal Agencies

***O.627. Mr F. C. Ogbalu** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will reduce the number of units necessary for converting a sub-post office to a full post office and a postal agency to a sub-post office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications : The conditions as stipulated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 are currently being examined with a view to providing some form of relaxation.

I informed hon. Members in answer to a similar question on the 3rd of April that I am introducing a White Paper shortly which will enable conversion of a postal agency to a sub-post office when 18,000 units of business are transacted annually instead of the 24,000 required at present.

Conditions for conversion to full departmental post office will also be revised.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Research

O.458. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Economic Development, what plans he has for initiating research into the brewing of liquor from guinea corn which is widely grown in Ibarapa area of Ibadan district.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Research into the brewing of liquor from guinea corn is not on the current programme of the Federal Institute of Industrial Research but should any of the governments of the regions in which guinea corn is grown request assistance from the Institute, assistance will be offered.

O.457. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will cause researches to be made into the extraction of melon seed which are successfully grown in Ibarapa District of Ibadan division.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry : Research is being undertaken at the Federal Institute of Industrial Research into the possibilities of the economic exploitation of a number of lesser known vegetable oil seeds of which melon seed oil is one. It is hoped to publish a report on this research later in the year.

Survey of Mineral Resources

O.693. Mallam Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Economic Development if he will soon carry out a comprehensive survey of the Mineral resources of the Country with a view of tapping them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power : The hon. Member is referred to Question No. O.485 the answer to which was given in this House on the 16th April, 1963.

18th April, 1963

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Republican Form of Government

O.465. Mr George Yilgwen asked the Prime Minister, what steps he proposed to take to meet the wishes of the country for a Republican form of Government.

The Prime Minister : The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Oral Question No. O.5.

Census

O.466. Mr George Yilgwen asked the Prime Minister, whether he will state how soon the next census will take place and what devices he plans to introduce to ensure that such mistakes as occurred in the last one are not repeated.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to question O.378.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

O.534. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, what results have so far been achieved at the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): Although progress at the current Disarmament Conference in Geneva seems slow, the mere decision to meet and consider possible means of removing the threat of total destruction hanging over mankind is an achievement in itself.

Significant ground has been covered on the question of banning nuclear tests, though agreement has still not been reached on the number of on-site inspections of tests or suspected tests within the national territories of member countries.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Petrol Filling Stations

O.550. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, how many residential plots on Awolowo Road in the South West

Ikoyi have been used or approved for use as petrol filling stations and whether the Government does not consider this change of user as doing great injury to the planning of the area.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua): Messrs Agip, Total Oil, and BP. West Africa Ltd., have been accorded approval for the development of petrol stations along the northern aspect of Awolowo Road in lieu of residential development.

The Lagos Executive Development Board is the planning authority in Lagos and it is for the experts of the Board to decide upon, and lay down the regulations for, the planning of Lagos and if considered an injury to the planning area it should not have been allowed.

EDUCATION

Scholarships

O.319. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Education, what is the number of scholarships offered by the Federal Government to Nigerians to study in Soviet Russia; and whether applications for scholarship by Nigerians already studying in Russia have at any time been rejected and if so, why.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): No scholarship has been offered by the Federal Government to Nigerians to study in the Soviet Union up to date. The reason for this is not due to any objection to study in Soviet universities, which are among the best in the world.

No student has indicated in his application a desire to study in the Soviet Union. This is understandable, because of the language difficulty they are likely to encounter and general ignorance about the conditions for admission into Soviet universities. Students generally prefer to go to institutions about which they know a great deal.

There are no records of any rejection of applications for scholarships by Nigerians already studying in Russia at any time. The last part of the Question, therefore, does not arise.

Ibadan University College

O.390. Alhaji Isa Haruna asked the Minister of Education, how many graduates has the University College, Ibadan provided since its inception.

The Federal Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Since its inception in 1948, the University College, Ibadan, now the University of Ibadan, has produced a total of 1,393 graduates according to the following breakdown:—

First Degrees	1,054 men
	73 women
Higher Degrees	7 men
Diplomas and Certificates	218 men
	41 women

Civics

O.470. Mr I. O. Chikelu asked the Minister of Education, if he will consult with the Regional Ministers of Education with a view to re-introducing Civics in the primary schools throughout the country.

The Federal Minister of Education: Civics has never been abolished as a subject in primary schools in the Federal Territory. The question of its re-introduction in the primary schools of the Regions will be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education.

Commonwealth Scholarship Awards

O.471. Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Education, how many Commonwealth Scholarship awards have been made from 1st October, 1960, up to the end of 1962 and what consideration governed their even distribution between the Regions.

The Minister of Education: Since October 1st, 1960, 75 post-graduate scholarships have been made under the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Plan.

Regional considerations are not involved in their distribution. Awards were based strictly on academic merits and eligibility for admission into university research departments.

Scholarships for Post Secondary Education

O.472. Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Education, whether, in view of the increasing urge that students should stay in the country to pursue their post-secondary education in the Universities, he will consider making special allocation of scholarships on merit to each University for award.

The Minister of Education: The Federal Government already finances ten state scholarships annually in each of our five Universities. These scholarships are distributed by the Universities authorities to under-graduates of outstanding academic performance. Also, apart from scholarships allocated to the children from special areas, e.g., Niger Delta and to the Northern Region, the Federal Government awards annually well over 500 scholarships entirely on merit and many of these are taken up in the institutions of higher learning in Nigeria.

Inter-Regional Secondary Schools

O.541. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Education, how many Inter-Regional Secondary Schools have been established and if he will make a statement on where they are located.

The Minister of Education: I would refer my hon. Friend to the answer to Question No. O.190 of Thursday, 4th April, 1963.

Scholarships for Foreign Nationals

O.542. Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Education, how many foreign nationals, indicating their nationalities, have been awarded scholarships to study in Nigerian universities.

The Minister of Education: Five foreign students listed below according to their nationalities, have received post-graduate scholarships from the Federal Government since Independence:—

United Kingdom	2
Union of South Africa	1
India	1
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	1

Since 1960, the Federal Government provides annually eight scholarships under the Commonwealth Fellowship and Scholarship Plan. Only

five out of the nominations received from eight Commonwealth countries were qualified to study in our higher institutions.

Ibadan University Undergraduates

O.543. Mr J. A. Akinyemi asked the Minister of Education, how many undergraduates of the University of Ibadan had to discontinue their studies during the academic years 1961-62 and 1962-63 owing to inability to pay their fees.

The Minister of Education : Answer not yet available.

Grants to Nigerian Universities

O.544. Mr V. A. Nwalieji asked the Minister of Education, what grants were made in 1962-63 to the University, of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello University and the University of Ife respectively.

The Minister of Education : The Federal Government made an interim grant of £450,000 to the National Universities Commission for allocation to the Universities of Nigeria, Ife and Ahmadu Bello during the last fiscal year.

Cost of Education

O.545. Mr V. A. Nwalieji asked the Minister of Education, how much money did the Federal Government spend on primary, secondary, technical and university education in 1962-63.

The Minister of Education : During the 1962-63 fiscal year, the Federal Government spent on :—

		£
Primary Education	..	479,202
Secondary Education	..	289,497
Technical Education	..	139,274
University Education	..	1,208,100
Total	..	<u>£2,116,073</u>

Scholarships from Foreign Countries

O.546. Mr V. A. Nwalieji asked the Minister of Education, how many foreign countries have awarded scholarships to students of Nigerian origin since 1960 ; which countries are they, and how many scholarship awards were offered in each case.

The Minister of Education : I would refer my hon. Friend to my statement on the subject of scholarships offered by foreign countries to Nigeria in this House on Thursday, 11th April, 1963.

Education

O.548. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Education, what form of education is available now to Nigerians in Fernando Po.

The Minister of Education : A Mission School, which is recognised and inspected by the Federal Government, provides education for Nigerian children of primary school age in Fernando Po. There are no facilities for Secondary education.

Nigerian Students in Bulgaria

O.549. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Education, how many Nigerian students were in Bulgaria in 1962 and whether he will state what arrangements exist for their welfare.

The Federal Minister of Education : I would refer the hon. Member to my answer to a similar question in this House on the 4th of April, 1963. Necessary consular services are provided for the students by either the nearest Nigerian Mission or the British Diplomatic Representatives where we have no Embassy.

Grade III Teachers

O.547. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Education, if he will state how long he intends to continue training teachers for the Grade III Teachers' Certificate in Lagos.

The Federal Minister of Education : I am anxious to put an end to the training of Grade III teachers in Lagos Training Colleges as soon as possible. The exact date will be determined in due course.

Federalisation of Education

O.628. M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Education, whether he will discuss with his regional counterparts the possibility of making education a Federal subject.

The Federal Minister of Education : The making of education a federal subject in the Federation of Nigeria involves a constitutional amendment. Such an amendment can only be made in accordance with the provision already embodied in our constitution.

Mr Grant

O.700. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Education, what are the reasons leading to the rejection of an application made by Mr Grant to establish a school in Lagos and if the Minister is aware that a lot of money has been collected by the Proprietor in respect of the proposed school.

The Federal Minister of Education : Careful enquiries have revealed that it will not be in the interest of education in the Federal Territory to allow the person mentioned by the hon. Member to run a school.

Commonwealth Teachers Bursary Scheme

O.702. Mr D. M. Gbolagunte asked the Minister of Education, whether Nigeria will withdraw from participating in the Commonwealth Teachers Bursary Scheme in view of the fact that the opinions of the Regional Governments are sharply divided on the bursary and subsequent training given to selected students.

The Federal Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : It is not correct to say

that opinions of the Regional Governments are sharply divided on the Commonwealth Teachers Bursary Scheme. The hon. Member probably has in mind the U.K. award which was the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Joint-Consultative Committee on Education held last December. Agreement was reached between the Ministries of Education in the country that the programme should be modified to meet the present needs of the various Governments, and steps are now being taken with this modification in view. No withdrawal from the Scheme is, therefore, being contemplated.

Federal Government Scholars

O.703. M. Ahmadu Angara Doma asked the Minister of Education, how many Federal Government scholars have graduated from universities and other institutions of learning both in Nigeria and abroad since the attainment of Independence in 1960.

The Minister of Education : 567 Federal Government scholars have graduated from various institutions and universities at home and abroad since our Independence.

22nd April, 1963

JUSTICE

Appeals to Privy Council

O.633. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, how many of the judgments of the Federal Supreme Court proceeded on appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council within the last five years and with what results in each case.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): Within the last five years, *i.e.*, from 1st April, 1958 to 31st March, 1963, forty-two appeals from the Judgments of the Federal Supreme Court actually proceeded to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. One of these Appeals was allowed, fifteen were dismissed and twenty-six are still pending.

Apart from these, there are cases in which although leave was granted to the parties to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the appeals were not forwarded because the appellants failed to comply with the conditions of appeal and also those cases in which the appeal was abandoned.

Currency Law

O.705. Mr A. U. D. Mba asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he is aware of judgment delivered in a case recently in Onitsha to the effect that under the present law no offence of forged Central Bank Notes can be established because the law refers to the old West African Currency Notes, and if he will state what steps he has taken to rectify the position.

The Minister of Justice: The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice is not aware of the case to which the hon. Member has referred, but he is aware that our currency law is in need of revision. Indeed, a draft Bill on the matter has been under discussion between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice. But the point must be emphasized that the existing law covers the kind of case cited. Anyone who has forged the Central Bank Notes can quite properly be charged under section 467 (2)(g) of the Criminal Code with the forgery of a bank note. The punishment for this offence under the Criminal

Code is imprisonment for fourteen years as against the punishment of imprisonment for ten years provided for the forgery of a Currency Note under the West African Currency Notes Act.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Establishment of Industries

O.278. Mr J. O. Ede asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he proposes to establish and industries in the Northern Region during the next four years and, if so, whether he will locate one of these industries in Idoma Division in order to provide more employment opportunities in that area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): As I said in my answer to Question No. W.7 at page 25 of the Official Report of 29th March, each Regional Government has plans for the industrialisation of the area under its jurisdiction and the results of the intensive resources surveys continually being undertaken will guide the Governments when deciding on the location of industries.

Formation of African Common Market

O.297. Mr M. D. Iyorka asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what steps have been taken so far towards the formation of an African Common Market and what has been the reaction of other independent African States to this proposal.

Alhaji Ahmed: Most of the independent African and Malagasy States have indicated their support for the idea of an African Common Market, although opinions differ on some aspects of the details of its establishment. Already there are existing among several African and Malagasy States agreements which could easily form the nuclei of Regional Common Markets that might eventually lead to an African Common Market, a subject which will probably receive special attention at the May 1963 meeting in Addis Ababa of Heads of African and Malagasy States.

Nigeria's Cotton

O.291. Mallam Bala Mohammed Dutsinma asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how much of Nigeria's cotton is used in the manufacture of textile in Nigeria.

Alhaji Ahmed : The total quantity of Nigeria's cotton used locally in the manufacture of textiles is impossible to assess because of the very large number of unknown consumers in our cottage industries.

Consumption figures for the 1961-62 cotton season for only three of the major textile companies stood at about 6,000 tons ; and the estimated consumption for 1963-64 for five of such companies that are in production is about 12,000 tons.

Relief on Import Duties

O.447. Mr George Yilgwen asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industrial and contracting companies have been granted free import duties on building materials and other commodities since 1960 stating their names and the amount of revenue the Government lost by granting these exemptions.

Alhaji Ahmed : Import duties relief is not granted in respect of building materials. With regard to other materials, a total of 27 companies have since 1960 been granted import duties relief. The amount of revenue which it is estimated the government will over the period of the relief have to forgo is £502,000.

The list is as follows :—

LIST OF COMPANIES GRANTED IMPORT DUTIES RELIEF SINCE 1960

1. Nigerian Metal Fabricating Limited
2. Aluminium Manufacturing Co. Limited
3. British Paints (West Africa) Limited
4. R. T. Briscoe (Nigeria) Limited
5. International Paints (W.A.) Limited
6. Nigerian Cement Company Limited
7. West African Thread Company Limited
8. Nigerian Canning Company Limited
9. S. Raccah Limited
10. ICI (Paints) Limited
11. Askar of Nigeria Limited
12. Industrial Enterprises (Nigeria) Limited
13. Beejay Manufacturing Co.
14. Cadbury-Fry (Export) Limited
15. Lever Brothers Limited
16. De Facto Works Limited
17. Associated Industries Limited
18. Dumex Pharmaceutical Limited
19. Chesebrough-Ponds International Limited
20. Pharco Productions Limited

21. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Industries Limited
22. Swedish African Milk Company (Nigeria) Limited
23. Metal Containers of West Africa Limited
24. Longmans of Nigeria Limited
25. Pfizer Products Limited—Nigeria
26. Nigeria Agricultural Industries Limited
27. U.A.C. of Nigeria Limited—Drugs and Perfumes.

International Trade Agreements

O.473 Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many international trade agreements have been entered into by the Federal Government since the last International Trade Fair, and with what nations were these agreements made.

Alhaji Ahmed : Since the last International Trade Fair Nigeria has entered into four international trade agreements :— with Cameroun, West Germany, Hungary and U.S.S.R. The first two have been signed, but not yet ratified ; the last two have only been initialled.

Legislation on Hire-Purchase

O.477 Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will consider introducing legislation regulating the hire-purchase system in respect of motor vehicles.

Alhaji Ahmed : As I said in my answer to Oral Question 344 by Mr J. A. Okor, and in my speech during the debate on the motion on the same subject, the Federal Government has already submitted a draft Bill on all aspects of Hire Purchase to the Regional Governments for their comments.

Loans

O.562. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state what percentage of the total loans granted by the Federal Loans Board went to applicants from the Northern Region since the Board was established.

Alhaji Ahmed : The total of loans approved by the Federal Loans Board from its initiation to 31st March, 1963, amounts to £591,672 of which £176,500 has been loaned to applicants from Northern Nigeria, viz ; approximately 30 per cent.

Industries

O.563. M. Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Nigerians applied to set up industries during the year 1961-62; how many were successful, and in what areas did they intend to operate.

Alhaji Ahmed : Except in cases where fiscal concessions are required, no approaches are normally made to my Ministry by potential Nigerian industrialists. There is no system of industrial licensing in Nigeria. Nigerians may establish industries as and where they wish. There are, therefore, no applications to establish industries and it is impossible for me to answer the question as posed.

TRANSPORT AND AVIATION**Extension of Railway Line**

O.642. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Transport, if he will consider in the Six-Year Development Programme the extension of a railway line to Onitsha *via* Ogbaku, Ihe, Umabi and Awka.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : No, Sir. The extension suggested was not included, and cannot now be accommodated, in the 1962-68 National Development Plan.

Dieselisation

O.644. Mallam Yakubu Allanana asked the Minister of Transport, if he will advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to dieselise the Kafanchan-Enugu line.

The Minister of Transport : No, Sir. The policy of the Nigerian Railway Corporation is that of gradual dieselisation based on the replacement of old steam engines by diesel engines as and when they are life-expired.

There are quite a number of steam engines the life of which will not expire for the next 10 to 15 years and these engines will be based entirely on the Eastern District of the Railway, thereby enabling them to utilise fully the coal that is produced by the Nigerian Coal Corporation at Enugu.

WORKS AND SURVEYS**Bridge**

O.564. Mallam Saidu Zango asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what progress

has been made with regard to the provision of a second bridge to link Lagos Island with the Mainland.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : On the technical side, all survey and design work have been completed. Bills of Quantities for tendering purposes are being prepared and tender documents will be ready by the end of July, 1963.

On the financial side, my colleague the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry recently visited Bonn where he signed on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria a number of Agreements, including the Loan Agreement for the Bridge.

Lastly, the question of land acquisition and the settlement of persons to be displaced at the Lagos end of the bridge is being negotiated by the Ministry of Lagos Affairs.

Delay in Reconstruction Programme

O.565. Mr C. O. Chiedozie asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state what causes delay in completing the reconstruction programme being carried on at the Enugu Airport.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The delay is largely due to the inexperience of the indigenous contractor who has been carrying out this work. However, progress is now satisfactory and it is hoped that the work will be completed early in May this year.

Tolls Charge

O.566. Mr F. U. Ihe asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if tolls will be charged on vehicles using the proposed Niger bridge at Onitsha after its completion.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Yes, Sir.

Tarring of Ilorin-Kabba Road

O.567. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he intends to tar the Ilorin-Kabba Trunk Road during the present financial year.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The hon. Member's attention is drawn to question No. O.820 which was answered on the

20th December, 1962. In addition it should be noted that a contract has now been awarded for the rehabilitation and bridge strengthening of the Ajana-Omuaran section of this road.

Contract for Apapa Wharf Extension

O.568. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state why the contract for the Apapa Wharf Extension was not split up so as to enable the indigenous contractors to participate in the contract.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : The size and specialised nature of the construction of the Apapa Wharf Extension are such that only contractors of international repute with the requisite experience can undertake it. Nearly all aspects of the works involve one type of specialist knowledge or equipment or another at present beyond the resources of indigenous contractors. I am informed, however, that in the supply of sand, timber and other materials, indigenous contractors are being used to the maximum extent possible by the main contractors.

Splitting the contract would necessarily have increased the cost of the project, delayed its completion and lowered the standard of the work to an extent out of proportion to any benefit that might accrue to the country from an indigenous contractors' participation in it. It was therefore considered an unwise thing to do.

Reclassification of Trunk Roads

O.569. Mr E. A. Mordi asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider reclassifying all trunk roads so that those on which Armel's Transport carries mails will be made Federal trunk roads.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The present vehicle transport system provides inter-regional communication between Federal and Regional capitals and other large towns, and international links with important centres in neighbouring states. Mail routes need not coincide with these.

If roads were reclassified according to mail routes this would mean accepting responsibility for an indefinite mileage of Regional roads which is impossible owing to the limited

financial resources available for the reconstruction and maintenance of the existing trunk road system.

It will be noted that Armels have no monopoly over conveying mails and in many places they are carried by other contractors.

New Bridge for Uya-Oron

O.570. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when work on the new bridge at Uya-Oron is due to start.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Work will start on this new bridge when funds are released.

Motor Accidents

O.571. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he is aware that at a portion of the Benin-Asaba road at mile ten from Benin many fatal motor accidents have taken place and whether he will make a statement showing the causes of these accidents and what he intends to do to prevent further accidents.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is correct that a number of accidents have occurred at this place. Some of these can be attributed to the human element and some to vehicle conditions, but some would appear to be due to the road being of an old design. This caused little trouble in the past when vehicle speeds were lower than they are now.

Safe speed signs have now been erected and are being maintained by the Regional Ministry of Works and this location will be realigned as an improved maintenance operation shortly.

Lagos-Ijebu-Benin Road

O.572. Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he hopes to open to traffic the Lagos-Ijebu-Benin Road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : I hope it will be possible to open the Lagos-Ijebu-Benin road to traffic early in 1964.

Widening of Owerri-Onitsha Trunk A Road

O.636. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will undertake as a matter of priority the widening of the

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Federal Industrial Projects

O.295. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many Federal Industrial projects are at present in Lagos and in each of the three Regions; what did it cost Government to establish each one of them, and what other projects he has in view for 1963-64.

O.296. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industries are now owned by the Federal Government in each Region; what do they produce and how much did they cost to put up in each case.

Alhaji Ahmed : Sir, with your permission I intend to take Question No. O.295 and Question No. O.296 together.

As I stated in answer to Question No. 476 of 22nd April, the Federal Government does not own industries; it only creates congenial atmosphere for their establishment and growth in Nigeria. However, in certain important and/or strategic cases, the Federal Government, as well as the Regional Governments, has invested directly in industries.

The shareholdings of the Federal Government in those industries are as follows :—

Dunlop Nigerian Industries Ltd. (W. Region)	50,000
Nigerian Cement Co. Ltd. (E. Region)	450,120
Nigerian Sugar Co. Ltd. (N. Region)	520,000
Flour Mills of Nigeria Ltd. (Federal Territory).. ..	60,000

Tariffs

O.707. Mr T. I. Etukudo : asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will make a brief statement on the implications of the discriminatory tariff proposed to be imposed on certain products from African Countries by the associated countries of the European Common Market.

Alhaji Ahmed : As at present proposed, the Common External Tariffs of the European Economic Community will affect the following commodities :—Cocoa 5.4 per cent, Coffee 9.6

per cent, Groundnut oil 10 per cent (15 per cent if refined), Palm oil 9 per cent (14 per cent if refined), Timber, 5 per cent for logs, 10 per cent for sawn, Plywood 15 per cent. These commodities are also produced by certain countries associated with the community, but when they are exported by such countries, will not be subject to the common external tariffs of the E.E.C.

The possible implication of this situation is that trade in these commodities will tend to be diverted to the countries associated with the E.E.C. from countries like Nigeria. This implication may not be far-reaching if Nigeria can produce more efficiently and/or if the associated countries cannot readily expand production of these commodities. Nevertheless, Nigeria is actively engaged in seeking ways and means of reducing the possible impact of the common external tariffs on her trade.

Mines and Power
Electricity

***O.574. M. Saidu Zango** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how soon Kontangora will be supplied with electricity.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) : Kontangora is one of the towns already listed by the Northern Nigeria Government in their Group "B" category of towns for preliminary survey with a view to supplying it with electricity.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Expatriates in the Federal Public Service

O.11. Alhaji K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Establishments, how many expatriates in executive posts are still in the Federal Public Service and how soon will their posts be filled by suitably qualified Nigerians.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande) : There are approximately 950 expatriate officers serving in the Federal Public Service at the present time, the large majority of whom are on contract appointments.

All expatriate officers will be replaced just as soon as qualified and experienced Nigerian officers become available.

Mr Nwika: Radio and Television Licences fees are being collected at Departmental Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and some Postal Agencies in Nigeria.

As a result of measures taken so far, which include extensive publicity and house-to-house

Equipment

O.677. Mr N. D. Ukah asked the Minister of Communications, if he will hasten the supply of the necessary equipment for the

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Pensioners' Allowances

O.146. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Establishments, whether in view of the daily rising cost of living, he will give consideration to increasing the allowances paid to pensioners.

The Minister of Establishments : In accordance with usual practice all pensions were increased on the occasion of the last general revision of salaries and wages. The increases awarded at that time corresponded to the increase in salaries, and no further increases are contemplated at present.

Federal Public Service

O.279. Mr Victor L. Lajide asked the Minister of Establishments, how many Africans other than Nigerian citizens hold executive posts under the Federal Government.

The Minister of Establishments : Eighty Africans from the following countries hold executive posts in the Federal Public Service :

Cameroun Republic	4
Dahomey	11
Gambia	1
Ghana	20
Sierra Leone	28
South Africa	1
Southern Rhodesia	1
Togoland	14

Of these, 3 are on contract while the others hold permanent and pensionable appointments.

Non-Nigerians in Executive Posts

O.460. Mr T. O. Oloyede asked the Minister of Establishments, how many executive key posts in the civil service are still held by non-Nigerians.

The Minister of Establishments : Approximately 950 posts are filled by overseas officers, the large majority of whom are on contract appointments. In addition about 80 posts are held by Africans who are not of Nigerian origin.

Mr Nwika : The units of work of Oji River Sub-Post Office are as follows :—

1960	24,596
1961	38,404
1962	54,455

Under existing standards, Oji River Sub-Post Office is qualified for conversion to full Departmental Office and conversion will be made in the present Development Programme.

Telephone Service

O.685. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of communications, what steps he is taking to provide telephone service at Isi-Uzo, Igbo Eze and Uzouwani.

Mr Nwika : Consideration is being given to the provision of telephone service at Ikem, Enugu-Ezike and Umolokpa which are the Headquarters of Isi-Uzo, Igbo Eze and Uzouwani councils.

Nsukka Post Office

O.686. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of communications when he proposes to replace the present inadequate post office building at Nsukka with a larger one.

Mr Nwika : With permission, I will invite the hon. Member's attention to the answer given to Question O.503 of 17th April, 1963.

Nsukka Telephone Service

O.687. Mr N. N. Onugu asked the Minister of Communications, what arrangements are being made to extend Nsukka telephone service to a 24-hour one.

Mr Nwika : It is the policy of my Ministry not to provide a full 24 hours service at Telephone Exchanges unless the number of subscribers is at least 75. There are at present 60 subscribers at Nsukka Exchange.

The provision of 24 hours service in a telephone exchange of less than 75 subscribers is considered an uneconomic proposition, as the cost of extra staff required is greater than the additional revenue accruing from the longer hours of service.

Oyo Division Telephone Service

O.688. Mr J. O. Taiwo asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware of the fact that in the whole of Oyo division only Oyo town enjoys full telephone facilities, and whether in view of the strategic locations, distance and size of towns like Iseyin, Shaki Oboho and Igbetti, he will give first preference to this division in the next phase of the Six-Year Development Programme.

Mr Nwika : I am aware that Oyo town is the only place in the Division with 24-hour telephone service.

The hon. Member will be aware that we have recently opened a new telephone exchange at Iseyin. The number of subscribers and the telephone traffic does not at present justify 24-hour service there, but we shall review the position continually. The other towns mentioned by the hon. Member are all recorded for consideration.

Reduction in Units

O.689. Mr J. O. Taiwo asked the Minister of Communications, if he will reduce the number of units which qualify postal agencies for conversion to sub-post offices so that more towns may enjoy full postal facilities.

Mr Nwika : Yes Sir. I may refer the hon. Member to Question No. O.669 which is similar to which I have already replied that the number of units for conversion is being considered for a reduction.

Telephone Service for Wurno

O.690. Mr Abdullahi Maikano asked the Minister of Communications, whether a telephone service will be provided at Wurno in the 1962-68 Development period.

Mr Nwika : It is unlikely that telephone service will be provided at Wurno in the 1962-68 Development Programme on the basis of its present strength unless there are unforeseen developments.

25th April, 1963

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Census Figures

O.589. Mr L. J. Dosunmu asked the Prime Minister, whether the Government will publish the census figures of the country-wide count of 1962 and what are the reasons leading to their rejection.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (M. Abubakar Isandu): The hon. Member is referred to the reply to Question No. O.83 by the hon. Minister of Economic Development published in the Parliamentary Debates of 3rd April, 1963, at page 22.

Termination of Appointment

***O.591. Mr L. J. Dosunmu** asked the Prime Minister if he will state what reasons led to the service of the former Chief Census Officer, Mr Warren, being terminated.

M. Abubakar Isandu: Mr Warren was engaged on a one-tour contract and he left Nigeria on the expiration of the contract.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Loans and Grants

O.414. Mr V. L. Olajide asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he will make an up-to-date statement of loans and grants made by the Federal Government to the Lagos Town Council and the Lagos Executive Development Board and what are the terms of payment.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua): Federal Government has made the following loans to the Lagos Executive Development Board:—

(a) Interest-free loan of £713,000, repayable over 50 years in respect of Surulere Rehousing Scheme No. 2.

(b) £100,000, at 4½ per cent interest, repayable over 20 years, with a moratorium of five years, in respect of Surulere Main Drainage.

(c) £100,000 interest-free loan in respect of the Lagos Central Planning Scheme.

(d) £30,000 at 6 per cent interest repayable in 20 years in respect of Lagos Executive Development Board Staff Quarters.

(e) £600,000 in respect of Apapa Industrial Estate. This loan is interest-free for the first two years. Then interest at 4½ per cent per annum for the next 8 years and thereafter the loan is repayable in 30 equal annual instalments with interest at 4½ per cent per annum.

(f) £100,000 general purposes loan, interest free for 10 years from August 1950, thereafter repayable in 20 equal annual instalments with interest at 3½ per cent per annum.

(g) £640,000 interest-free loan, repayable over 40 years from 1956-57, in respect of Surulere Rehousing Scheme No. 1.

Between 1st April, 1959 and 31st March, 1963 the following grants have been made to the Lagos Executive Development Board:

	£	s	d
Lagos Housing Scheme, 1955	1,072,600	0	0
Lagos Housing Scheme Extension	75,000	0	0
Lagos Central Planning Scheme	2,960,000	0	0
Upper King Street Improvement	18,000	0	0
S.W. Ikoyi/Obalende Development	784,000	0	0
School Sites	225,750	0	0
Surulere Clinic	5,500	0	0
Apapa Pilot Sewerage Centre	9,445	18	8
Surulere Community Centre	4,000	0	0
Special Survey (Victoria Island, etc.)	25,000	0	0
Special Survey (Ijora Industrial Site)	8,000	0	0
Total	5,188,045	18	8

The present system of grants paid by the Federal Government to the Lagos Town Council is based on the Report by Sir John Imrie, C.B.E., and the operation of it started in the financial year 1960-61.

Alhaji Ahmed : The last Japanese Mission to Nigeria has had no marked effect on our balance of trade with Japan as the following figures show :—

	1961	1962
Imports	£30.3m.	£24.9m.
Exports	3.3m.	1.5m.
Adverse Balance	27.0m.	23.4m.

Industries

W.53. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industries have been attracted to Nigeria as a result of the Federal Government's various economic tours overseas.

Region	Project	Amount of Loan
WEST : 7 Applications, approved	3 Sawmills	£28,450
	1 Map printing	26,000
	1 Hotel	5,000
	1 Bakery*	
	1 Sheet Rubber Production*	
		£59,450
EAST : 6 Applications, approved	1 Bakery	5,000
	1 Motor Repair Workshop	5,000
	1 Pork Processing Plant	29,930
	1 Hotel	28,000
	2 Palm Oil Mills	34,000
		£101,930
NORTH : 1 Application, approved	1 Cinema	£8,500
<i>Supplement to Original Loan of</i>		
£18,000		
FEDERAL : 9 Applications, approved	3 Printing	27,000
	2 Sawmills	5,800
	1 Bakery	1,500
	1 Tobacco Manufacture	2,000
	1 Furniture	2,000
1 Upholstery*		
		£38,300

* Amount still to be worked out.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Contracts

O.765. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what contracting firms were awarded contracts during the period 1st

Alhaji Ahmed : I refer the hon. Member to my answer to Parliamentary Question No. O.401 in column 1709 of the Official Report for Monday, 22nd April.

Approved Loan Applications

W.54. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many loan applications were approved by the Federal Loans Board for projects sited in each Region and Lagos during the period 1st April, 1962 to 28th February, 1963 and what are the projects and their values.

Alhaji Ahmed : The following loans were approved by the Federal Loans Board during the period 1st April, 1962 to 28th February, 1963.

April, 1962 to 28th February, 1963 ; what are the values of the contracts and the projects for which they were awarded.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys (Mr D. M.)

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Mapeo): The contracts awarded between the value and the projects for which they were April 1st, 1962 and the 28th February, 1963, awarded are as follows :—

Project	Value £	Contractor
Military Barracks, Kaduna	236,500	G. Cappa Limited
Military Barracks, Enugu	565,000	Taylor Woodrow
2 Block of Flats, Surulere	49,500	Poletti Brothers
1 Block of Flats, Q.C., Yaba	20,036	Akin Taylor
Special Post Office, Akure	34,095	U.C. & C.A.
Sewage Desposal Plant, Northern Police College, Kaduna	14,232	G. Cappa Limited
Police Barracks, Makurdi	15,072	Adam Brothers
Security Prison, Kiri-Kiri, Apapa	49,042	E. J. Delany
Mobile Police Force, Kaduna	161,374	D'Alberto & Bogialla
Technical Institute, Yaba	114,506	G. Cappa Limited
Trade Fair, Lagos	3,490	Mills Scald
Re-roofing Pavilions, Lagos	11,780	E. J. Delany
Coladding to Pavilions, Lagos	5,250	Dys Rocca
Medium Security Prison, Kiri-Kiri, Apapa	26,450	E. J. Delany & Co.
Re-roofing Base Workshop, Yaba	22,074	A. O. Karunwi, Limited
Renovating Pavilions, Lagos	7,800	Arbico Limited
Interior Works to pavilions, Lagos	5,830	Costain (WA) Limited
Hostel Block, Oshodi	27,970	Lawson Brothers
Kitchen Block, etc, Kiri-Kiri, Apapa	27,122	E. J. Delany
Girls' Approved School, Surulere	45,945	Yaya Mumuni
Block of Flats, Yaba	27,400	United Const. Engineering
17 R. & F. Quarters, Ogwashi-Uku	16,969	Berty Tony and Company
Beacon Hut, Maiduguri	450	Alhaji M. Goba
P. & T. Store, Gusau	960	G. O. Mbelu
P. & T. Store, Uyo	961	Ekpe Obon Atakpa and Company
Conversion work, Yaba Pharmacy School	11,575	United Construction Eng.
Alterations to Ward Block, Medical School, Suru- lere	32,000	G. Cappa Limited
Partitioning to Offices, 5 Oil Mill Street, Lagos	6,000	Cappa & D'Alberto
Chapel, Kiri-Kiri Prison	10,000	E. J. Delany
Partitioning to Offices, 5 Oil Mill Street, Lagos	1,766	Cappa & D'Alberto
Port Labour Office, Marina	1,370	Taylor Woodrow
Police Armoury, Jos	1,500	P. C. Ndu
Police Quarters, Obalende	23,000	Benson & Company
Soils Laboratory, Ibadan	17,000	Ebea & Company
Infantry Barracks, Kano	280,000	D'Alberto & Bogialla
Police Barracks, Apapa	220,000	Jammal Engineering
Extension to Mosaic House, Lagos	54,656	G. Cappa Limited
Waterguard Barracks, Kano	23,180	M. Gashash
Temporary Airport Buildings, Ikeja	49,500	Arbico
Partitions, Oil Mill Street, Lagos	3,847	Cappa & D'Alberto
Police Inspectors Quarters, Ije	11,450	Sarkin Hausawa
Extensions to Military College, Kaduna	20,539	G. Cappa Limited
Police Barracks, Apapa	30,000	Are Brothers
Police Barracks, Jinadu	60,950	F. M. Obi
Infantry Barracks, Ikeja	688,000	J. Bech
Police Barracks, Kaduna	62,500	Shareffedin

Project	Value £	Contractor
Customs Post, Zango	13,750	D. N. Onyido
Junior Staff Quarters, Sokoto	2,972	Alhaji Salga
Police Barracks, Ikoyi	26,500	Western Builders Syd.
Prison Buildings, Kiri-Kiri	63,447	E. J. Delany & Company
Customs Post, Babam-Mutum	13,956	P. A. David

Dangora-Tudun Wada-Ririwai Trunk B Road

O.766 M. Muhtari Abdullahi Wambai asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider taking over responsibility for the Dangora-Tudun Wada-Ririwai Trunk Road B in view of its commercial importance.

Mr Mapeo : The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to question No. O.245 which was answered on the 8th of April.

Widening of Bridges

O.767 Mr P. I. Ejukwa asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when he proposes to widen the bridges along the Yahe-Ikom Trunk Road A.

Mr Mapeo : Funds are not available for the reconstruction of the whole road ; but sections may be rehabilitated and tarred and bridges strengthened or reconstructed as funds permit.

Lagos-Kano Trunk Road

O.768 Mallam Muhammadu Gauyamma asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will widen and straighten the Lagos-Kano Trunk Road.

Mr Mapeo : I assume the hon. Member refers to the trunk road A1. The portion of the road between Ilorin and Tegina has already been widened and straightened.

The Tegina-Kano section is at present under reconstruction as part of the Tegina-Daura contract. Several miles of this section have already been straightened and widened.

When funds are released the Lagos-Ikorodu section will be straightened and widened.

Due to limited funds it has not been possible to make provision for the widening and straightening of the Ikorodu-Ilorin section in the 1962-68 programme.

O.769 Mallam M. Usman, Wazirin Kontagora asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he is aware of the poor condition of the Kontagora-Yelwa Trunk Road A, and if he will give its improvement top priority in his development programme.

Mr Mapeo : I am aware of the poor condition of this road and have taken steps to seek provision for its reconstruction in the 1962-68 programme. I regret however that due to shortage of funds provision made in the programme will only be sufficient for limited works which include the reconstruction of the bridges.

Already the preparatory work of survey and design is under way.

Molendo Bridge

O.770. Mallam Usman Wazirin Kontagora asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he has any plans for the widening and strengthening of the Molendo bridge near Yelwa.

Mr Mapeo : There are plans for strengthening and widening this bridge. The necessary surveys are at present being undertaken and work will begin when these are completed, and funds are provided.

Lagos-Asaba Trunk A Road

O.771. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will consider pruning the trees on the sides of the Lagos-Asaba Trunk road A as they contribute to most of the motor accidents on that road.

Mr Mapeo : I am not aware that the trees contribute to most of the motor accidents on this road. Our agents, the Western Regional Ministry of Works and Transport will prune any branches or fell any trees which are considered to endanger the road users, as part of the routine maintenance which they carry out on our behalf.

River Kari Bridge

O.772. Alhaji Muhammadu Kura asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he has any plans for the widening and strengthening of the bridge on the River Kari, about eight miles from Misau on the Kano-Maiduguri trunk Road A.

Mr Mapeo : No, Sir. The present bridge is adequate for present needs.

Tarring of Road

O.773. Mr U. U. Eko asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider as a matter of urgency the tarring of the trunk road A from Iyahe to Mfum.

Mr Mapeo : Funds are not available for the reconstruction of the whole road; but sections may be rehabilitated and tarred and bridges strengthened or reconstructed as funds permit.

Contracts Award

W.16. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many contracts were awarded in the period 1st April, 1962 to 28th March 1963; how many went to Nigerians and expatriates respectively, and what were their respective values.

Mr Mapeo : 63 contracts were awarded between 1st April, 1962 and the 28th March, 1963. 32 of these, valued at £611,791 went to Nigerian firms and 31 contracts valued at £3,643,477 were awarded to expatriate firms.

TRANSPORT**Apapa Wharf Extension**

O.739. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport, if he will make necessary arrangements to ensure that the proposed Apapa Wharf Extension will not interfere with the rights of fishermen who at present make regular use of the lagoon in their small craft and canoes on their way to Badagry.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I have been assured by the Nigerian Ports Authority that the Apapa Second Wharf Extension will not interfere with the rights of fishermen plying between Lagos and Badagry.

River Ogun

O.741. Mr J. O. Taiwo asked the Minister of Transport whether he is aware of the navigability of the River Ogun and the immense

potential transportation facilities that may arise therefrom, and if he will give first preference to the development of the River in the next phase of capital projects.

The Minister of Transport : I am not aware of the alleged navigability and immense transportation potentialities of the Ogun River.

The development of this river would, among other things, involve the deepening of its estuary at a cost which cannot be justified, having regard both to the many pending claims on Nigeria's scarce development capital and the transportation facilities already available in the area through which the river runs.

LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE**Training of Nigerian Labourers**

W.51. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what efforts the Spanish Authorities in Fernando Po are making towards training of Nigerian labourers to the level of special Labourers and Artisans.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : There is no provision for special or artisan training in the Agreement under which Nigerian Labourers are recruited to the Spanish territories of Fernando Po and Rio Muni.

Recruitment is only for general labour work mostly in plantations.

Expenses

O.774. Mr J. A. Akinyemi asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what is the total cost to Government of the travel, board and lodging expenses of the five men invited to discuss the Tiger-Fullmer fight recently.

The Minister of Labour : The cost to the Federal Government of the travel, board and lodging of the five men invited to discuss the Tiger-Fullmer fight is £2,311-8s-3d.

Dock Workers' Strike

O.775. Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, if he will state the loss sustained by the Government as a result of the last Dock Workers strike and what steps the Government has taken to avert any such future strikes.

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