



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

FIRST PARLIAMENT

THIRD SESSION

1962-63

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOLUME II

Comprising Period
9th—14th, 16th—19th April,
and 29th May, 1962

**Inclusive Price of Volumes I and II
Ten Shillings Net**

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION
LAGOS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 9th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Narrow Bridges and Culverts

O.207. **M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has for widening narrow bridges and culverts and generally improving our roads in order to minimise fatal accidents.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys (Mallam Usumanu Maitambari): The plans of the Ministry of Works and Surveys for improving the trunk roads in the Federation are set out under Head 624 sub-heads 142 to 300 of the draft Capital Estimates. Narrow bridges and culverts will be widened whenever funds are available for the reconstruction or improvement of a trunk road 'A', but it is not considered practical or economic to undertake a general widening of bridges and culverts outside these major programmes.

Shettima Ali Monguno: I hope that this Ministry will not forget the road between Benisheikh and Maiduguri.

Ikorodu-Shagamu Road

O.208. **Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will undertake the construction of a smooth surface on the stretch of road lying between miles 32-42 on the Ikorodu-Shagamu Road.

Mallam Usumanu Maitambari: The reconstruction of the Trunk Road A.1. from Yaba to Ikorodu is one of the projects which are included in the draft capital estimates, but this project will not extend to miles 32-42 between Ikorodu and Shagamu. Consideration will, however, be given to resurfacing special stretches of the road between mile 32 and mile 42, should they appear likely to become dangerous to traffic.

Mr D. N. Orosanye: Is the Minister aware that this stretch of the road is very dangerous and has claimed many lives and so requires urgency of treatment?

African Contractors

O.209. **Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether he will consider awarding major contracts to African Contractors who possess the requisite capital, equipment and skill.

Mallam Usumanu Maitambari: Yes, Sir.

Up-grading of Contractors

O.210. **Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many firms of Contractors, both expatriate and African, respectively have been up-graded during the period April 1959 to 31st December, 1961; in what categories they are placed, and what the criterion is for such up-gradings.

Mallam Usumanu Maitambari: The numbers of firms of contractors which have been up-graded during the period April 1959 to 31st December, 1961, are 278 African firms and 13 expatriate firms, a total of 291. They have been up-graded to the following categories:

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Category :	Ex-	
	African Contractors	patriate Contractors
B—£3,001-£6,000	.. 14	Nil
C—£6,001-£10,000	.. 59	Nil
D—£10,001-£20,000	.. 108	Nil
E—£20,001-£50,000	.. 60	3
F—£50,001-£100,000	.. 20	3
G—Over £100,000	.. 6	2

ELECTRICAL

Category :		
A2—£1,501-£3,000	.. 4	Nil
B—£3,001-£6,000	.. 5	Nil
C—£6,001-£10,000	.. 2	Nil
D—Over £10,000..	.. Nil	5
	278	13

The criteria for the up-gradings are that the contractor should have the necessary capital, equipment and skill to carry out contracts within the financial limits of each category of contractor.

Nigerian Contractors

O.211. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, to state the number of Nigerians who were awarded contracts from each Region and Lagos, the nature and value of the contracts between 1st January, 1960 and 31st December, 1961.

M. Umanu Maitambari : The following major contracts were awarded to Nigerians between the 1st January, 1960 and 31st December, 1961.

In the Eastern Region 10 contracts were awarded to the value of £397,341, whilst in the Western Region a total of 16 contracts were awarded to the value of £257,980. In the Northern Region 26 contracts were approved in the sum of £421,865 and in Lagos 14 contracts in the sum of £438,010.

With the exception of three contracts in the Eastern Region totalling £303,710 which were in respect of road and aerodrome projects, all other projects were general building contracts. These figures only relate to contractors included in the list of registered federal contractors and do not take account of the award of numerous minor contracts to Nigerians for amounts below £1,000.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE**Waterguard Officers**

O.212. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Finance, how many Waterguard Officers were recruited from January 1954 to October 1961, and how many of them come from each Region of the Federation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Prince T. A. Lamuye) : 248 Waterguard Officers were recruited between January 1954 and October 1961. Their Regions of origin were as follows:—

Northern Region 1, Western Region 97, Eastern Region 148 and Federal Territory 2.

The numbers originating from each Region are fortuitous, as it is the policy of the Board of Customs and Excise to select recruits according to their suitability and without regard to their Region of birth.

Idiroko Revenue

O.213. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Finance, what was the total revenue collected by the Customs and Excise Department at Idiroko during the year 1960.

Prince T. A. Lamuye : During the year ended 31st December, 1960, the total revenue collected at Idiroko was £67,859.

Smuggling at Idiroko

O.214. Mr D. K. Aihonsu asked the Minister of Finance, how many cases of smuggling were taken to court from Idiroko in 1960 and how many of the accused persons were convicted.

Prince T. A. Lamuye : In 1960, 43 cases of smuggling, involving 45 accused persons, were taken to court from Idiroko. All the 45 accused persons were convicted.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether any of these people is a native of Idiroko ?

Prince T. A. Lamuye : I cannot say whether these people are people from Idiroko, but they are Nigerians.

Mr D. Senu-Oke I beg leave to ask Question 215 of the Minister of Finance.

Prince Lamuye : For the information of the House, Sir, Questions 215, 216 and 217 will be dealt with by my Colleague the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Speaker : I understand that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are prepared to answer the Questions.

Government Hotel

O.215. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether there are any plans to build a Government owned Hotel in order to minimise the vast sums of money being paid by Government to private hoteliers in respect of Government guests.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed): The Federal Government has no plans to build a Government owned hotel. It has, however, made it a policy to encourage the development of the hotel business throughout the country. To this end, the hotel industry has been declared a pioneer industry.

The hotel trade is not entirely without some Government investment, and it may be of interest to hon. Members to know that the Federal Government is a shareholder of the Nigeria Hotels Limited, which owns and operates the Ikoyi Hotel in Lagos and the Central Hotel in Kano, manages the Bristol Hotel, Lagos and the Airport Hotel, Ikeja, and provides catering services for the International Airport at Kano and for the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Chief D. N. Abii: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell this honourable House why the Government has not gone into partnership with the owner of the Federal Palace Hotel?

Assistance to small-scale Businessmen

O.216. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if Government will consider granting financial assistance to small-scale businessmen.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed: Government financial assistance to small-scale businessmen is already available through the mechanism of the Federal Loans Board. The legislation under which this institution was established has been progressively amended to liberalise the availability of finance for small-scale development throughout the Federation.

Provision has been made in the First National Plan to increase the present funds by a further £500,000.

Federal Loans Board

O.217. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider establishing an Industrial Bank to give credit facilities to farmers and industrialists on more liberal terms than does the Federal Loans Board.

Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed: Provision has already been made in the Development Plan for the establishment of a National

Development Bank. The Bank, for which £8 million has been set aside, will aim to provide for the expansion of existing industries and the development of new industries which can contribute directly to economic growth. It will evaluate proposals on the basis of commercial principles, and will be primarily concerned with the development of large scale enterprise, though it will be in a position to assist other desirable projects whose risks make them unattractive for private financing. It is hoped that the Development Bank will have the support of other international development institutions such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

It will not be a function of the Development Bank to provide credit facilities to farmers. For this purpose, a separate Agricultural Credit Institution with a capital of £3 million will be established. The role of this institution will be the provision of medium and long term credit for agricultural operations.

These institutions will supplement the credit facilities hitherto available from the Federal Loans Board which will continue to provide loans for the establishment or the improvement of small-scale locally owned businesses.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Immigration

O.218. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many immigrants and of what nationality entered Nigeria during the year 1961, what was the purpose of their visit, how many have since left; and how many are still in Nigeria to date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs (M. Aliyu Zungun): The answer to this question is rather lengthy and statistical in nature. With the approval of the Speaker, it will be published in the Official Report of the House for to-day.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): Would the hon. Minister tell the House, how many of these immigrants are of negro race?

The answer is as follows:

In the year 1961, 51,302 immigrants entered Nigeria. They are nationals of most countries of the world such as Dahomey, Togoland,

Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Guinea Republic, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somali Republic, Chad Republic, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Britain, America, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Germany (East and West), Hungary, Italy, Poland, Russia, Canada, Australia, India, Japan, United Arab Republic, Lebanon, New Zealand, China, Israel, Cyprus, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, Switzerland, Korea, Argentina and Mexico.

2. They were employees of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, Statutory Corporations, Commercial Companies and other Established Bodies. They either entered Nigeria to assume duties or have returned from vacation leave to resume duties. Wives of some of the above-mentioned category of people invariably came to join their husbands and were usually accompanied by children. Experts, as Agents of the United Nations or other International Organisations, came on missions to implement the proposals of such Organisations. Others came for sports, holidays, business surveys, missionary and teaching duties, diplomatic and military services.

3. A total number of 51,914 foreigners had since left Nigeria in the same period and this is a larger figure than the one which shows the numerical strength of those who entered in the same year. But up to date there are about 11,481 foreigners who are still in the country.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Registration of Companies

O.220. M. Yusha'u A. Muhammed asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if in view of the increasing number of unregistered companies operating in the country he will take steps to check this evil practice.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (M. Usman Angulu Ahmed): The Minister is not aware that an increasing number of unregistered companies are operating in the country. A suspected case of non-registration of a business establishment is being investigated with a view to prosecution. If the hon. Member will provide data, the Minister will cause a

thorough investigation to be made into such instances as may be brought to his notice and ask for legal action against such unregistered companies.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Accident on H.M.S. "Nigeria"

10.25 a.m.

Minister of State (Mr M. T. Mbu): Sir, on Friday the 6th of March, the hon. Member for Asaba East (*Mr E. A. Mordi*) raised, on Adjournment, the question of the gratuities that are payable to the dependants of the Ratings who died as a result of an accident that occurred on board the H.M.S. "Nigeria" sometime last year. The hon. Member also raised the question of the neglected state of the graves of the deceased. Hon. Members will be reminded that sometime last year, the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) raised a similar question.

The accident which occurred on board the H.M.S. "Nigeria" on the 23rd of July, 1961, which resulted in the unfortunate death of five Ratings, had been the question not only of a Navy Board of Inquiry but also an Inquest. The Board of Inquiry established that the accident was due to a serious error in operating the boiler. The proceedings of that Board of Inquiry are secret, and it will not be in the public interest to disclose its contents or its findings.

The Inquest on the death of the five members of the crew, which was held in Calabar last September, showed that the death was due to misadventure. The proceedings of the Inquest of course, were published and there is no objection to anybody making reference to them.

Now, about the graves; the five deceased gentlemen were buried in a cemetery at Calabar which is under the control of the Calabar Town Council. Neither the Ministry nor the Navy Board has received any report that the graves had not been attended to. I am very grateful to the hon. Member for drawing this regrettable fact to my attention. I would like to assure him that immediate action would be taken by the Board to put the graves in proper state.

Gratuities.—As to the question of gratuities that are payable to the relatives of the deceased, the position is that full facts were put to the Pensions and Gratuities Section of the Ministry of Establishments last year, not long after the accident occurred. The calculations are still being worked out, and are the subject of checking—

Several hon. Members : Shame ! For how long ?

Minister of State : If hon. Members will listen to me, I think I will satisfy them.

The calculations are still being worked out and are the subject of checking by the Federal Audit Department. A payment voucher for the sum of £694-10s-8d has already been forwarded to the Ministry of Establishments—to be precise, this was sent on the 22nd February, 1962—for payment to Mrs Rose Ozegbe, the wife of one of the deceased. Already the sum of £50 has been advanced to Mrs Ozegbe, pending the full payment of the gratuity. The gratuities in respect of the remaining four are still being worked out by the Ministry of Establishments, and will be forwarded to the Federal Administrator-General as soon as possible.

The gratuity payable to the dependants of the deceased are worked out in accordance with a formula laid down in the Pensions Ordinance. The amount payable depends on the salary at time of death in relation to the length of service. Only one of the deceased had a lengthy service: namely, Paul Ozegbe, who had served for 25 years. The remaining deceased had only been in the Service for a few years: one for three years, two for two-and-a-half years, and the other one for eighteen months; and gratuities therefore will be paid proportionate to the length of their service.

Regarding the £17 alleged to have been paid to some of the deceased dependants by Mr Mordi, it will be interesting for hon. Members to know that a month's salary was paid to the relatives of each deceased out of the Navy Welfare Fund within a few days of the disaster. It may be that those ex-gratia payments have been mistaken for gratuities alleged to have been paid by Mr Mordi.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Much as the Ministerial Statement is not subject to debate, I would like to ask the Minister whether, apart from the pensions and gratuities payable to these deceased, they are covered under the Government's Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. The Minister should make a statement to this House that, apart from the fact that they receive pensions, the deceased's relatives will be paid whatever is their entitlement.

Minister of State : If the Pensions Ordinance under which the deceaseds' relatives are entitled to receive some gratuities also entitles them to other gratuities under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, every penny will be so paid. But I would like to remind the hon. Gentleman that the Ratings concerned belong to a disciplined force and may not be governed under the usual regulations binding on the civilian service.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL
(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY) : ADJOURNED DEBATE
ON SECOND READING (29TH MARCH)

Mr U. U. Eko (Obubra) : Sir on Saturday before the House adjourned, I spoke of the need for the Government to take over education. If Independence must have any meaning to the children of Nigeria, it is imperative that they must have free primary education. The Federal Government, as usual, must leave the beaten track. I therefore appeal to the Government to think seriously of giving grants to Regional Governments to promote free primary education as it has done in the field of agriculture by granting the princely sum of £25 million for agricultural expansion in the Regions.

The Government must stop putting up palatial buildings for our secondary schools. Simple buildings such as can be found in common places should be built. In this way, the Government will save quite a good deal of money which is so badly needed for development projects. Nigerian workers should realise now that they are working for Nigeria and not for the white man. They should therefore give of their very best for the good of their fatherland.

[MR EKO]

The workers in Lagos are groaning heavily under high rents. The Government should step in to help the workers. An attempt, a bold one at that, must be made to control rents. Government workers should also have a housing scheme. A housing scheme is a sound investment which would yield good dividends in the long run to the Government.

Foreign insurance companies have dominated insurance business in this country, and it would, therefore, be a welcome relief for the workers if Government takes over insurance. The Government should not be satisfied with the establishment of an insurance company mainly for export business, but it should also take over the whole business in order to save the people of this country from economic exploitation.

I would like to remind the Government that the rural areas form part and parcel of the Federation. Speedy and efficient means of communications are essential for economic development. People in the rural areas need good communications, too. I would strongly appeal to the Minister of Communications to provide telephone facilities for Obubra Post Office, and I suggest that the Postal Agency at Ugep, which is incidentally 34 miles from Obubra, be changed to a Sub-Post Office to cater for the 63,000 people of Southern Obubra who at present have very little means of communication.

Geological surveys should be carried out in Obubra Division with a view to tapping the mineral potentialities there.

Last but not the least, the Cross River should be dredged to make it navigable for all seasons and provide good communication for the people as a whole.

I beg to support.

10.33 a.m.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): I hope to have an opportunity during the proceedings of the Committee of Supply to deal specifically with any points that hon. Members may make regarding the activities of my Ministry. I have thought it appropriate,

however, to take the opportunity during this Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to give a general review of what my Ministry is doing and what it proposes to do in the future. The most important direct activity for which, as Minister, I am responsible is that of the Trunk Road "A" Development Programme.

Most hon. Members, during the course of this debate, have referred to the urgent need to develop our Federal Trunk Road system so that it can carry the traffic that the increasing economic progress of Nigeria brings to it. This is an aim that I heartily support and am doing my utmost to achieve. It must, however, be clearly appreciated that the main limiting factor is finance.

The debate on the Government Development Programme has recently been concluded and, hon. Members have, therefore, been in a position to understand the tremendous task that the Government is facing in allocating all available resources to the best means of furthering the economic progress of our country. It will be noted that the Government has felt bound to give greater priority than hitherto to agricultural and industrial development: this need, and others equally important, have of necessity left a smaller allocation for road development than I or any of my colleagues would like to see.

It will be noted, that under the Heading *Land Transport System* a total of just over £35 million has been allotted for roads and bridges during the Programme period. This may seem a substantial sum, but when I say that my Advisers, on the basis of a careful assessment, have calculated that, to bring the whole of the present Federal Trunk Road system to a standard that would adequately meet the traffic needs of 1972, a total sum of over £190 million would be required, this figure dwindles to one of only a modest size.

When I further point out that out of the £35 million some £11 million will be required for continuing works, namely, the Niger Bridge, the Shagamu-Benin Road, the reconstruction of the Tegna-Daura sections of Trunk Road A. 1, and improvements to the Sokoto-Jerade and the Funtua-Gusau Roads, the amount of money available for new projects is reduced still further.

I must also point out that the construction of the second Mainland bridge an essential, I repeat essential, improvements to the highways in Apapa and in the immediate vicinity of Lagos will require nearly £10 million, and hence the amount that is left for new projects in the rest of Nigeria is of the order of only £14 million.

I have dwelt on the broad financial aspects at some length since I wish to explain quite clearly how circumstances make it impossible for consideration to be given to the taking over of Regional roads into the Federal Highway network. Indeed, in order to reduce the programme to enable it to fall within the allocation, there has been no alternative to eliminating many proposals for road reconstruction that are regarded as of high priority.

I should now mention briefly the progress on the more important of the continuing works.

I am pleased to say that the work on the Niger Bridge is not only satisfactory, but is well up to schedule and I have every confidence that this good progress will be maintained.

As regards the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road, work is proceeding in a satisfactory manner between Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode itself and east of Otu. In the section, however, between Ijebu-Ode and Otu complications have arisen owing to unexpected difficulties regarding the stabilisation of cement with the local materials available, but it is hoped that these difficulties will shortly be overcome.

Work on the Tegina-Daura road has been continuing at full speed during the recent dry season in three separate localities. One team has been working from the road junction 12 miles north of Kano to the City and again immediately south of Kano. A second team is working northward to Zaria, and the third from Kaduna to the Mando road.

The reconstruction of the Sokoto-Jarede road which started some months ago, should be completed during the current financial year.

Work is also proceeding satisfactorily on the Funtua-Chafe-Gusau road and approximately 24 miles have been reconstructed; much of this work is not visible to the travelling public a new route close to the railway is being followed from Mai Ruwa to near Chafe.

I now turn to new projects. It has been possible to allot funds for the reconstruction of part of the Lafia-Akwanga-Bukuru road. It is intended to widen all the bridges to take two lanes of traffic and to open up a new and shorter section of road between Akwanga and Fadama Karshe. These long needed improvements will, I am sure, be welcomed, although I regret that sufficient funds are not yet available for bituminous surfacing.

The provision allotted to the Onitsha-Ihiala road will permit the reconstruction of this road with a 24 foot wide bituminous surface, a necessary improvement since it is anticipated that traffic will increase considerably once the Niger Bridge is opened.

It has proved possible to allot some money for a partial reconstruction of the Yelwa-Kontagora road and to provide new bridges wide enough to carry two lanes of traffic, Unless additional funds are made available it will not, however, be possible to provide a bituminous surface on this road.

On the Aliade-Makurdi-Lafia road it is intended to reconstruct all bridges to make them wide enough to carry two lanes of traffic.

Our international link with Dahomey is likely to be of increasing importance and funds have, therefore, been provided for the reconstruction of this road from Sango Otta to Idiroko; this will include a new bridge at Ajilete.

Work is proceeding on the survey of the Bauchi-Gombe road and plans are being made to reconstruct it to provide a 12 foot wide bituminous surface. Survey work is also going ahead on the Gombe-Numan road and designs are being made for a road having a 12 foot wide bituminous surface.

It has also been decided to include provision for the important Beni Sheik-Maiduguri road. Careful and detailed soils investigations have been taking place for some time past in order to find out the best way of reconstructing this section of road which happens to be particularly troublesome: the local material, known as *jigilin*, is not strong enough on its own to stand up to the weight of traffic and it is almost certain that it will be necessary to stabilise this with cement in order to provide adequate strength. I refer to these special investigations since it is not often realised what

[MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS]
detailed surveys and soils investigations are required before visible road building can actually start: we are proud of the efficiency of our laboratory work both at Headquarters and in the field and those concerned deserve this special mention of the value of what they are doing behind the scenes.

I now come to the Second Mainland Bridge. A special team within my Ministry has been engaged over a considerable period in preparing designs both for the bridge and for its approach roads. This project introduces particular complications and a tremendous amount of detailed work has to be done. Briefly, the proposal is that the bridge should cross the Lagos Harbour from opposite the end of Apogbon Street to the coal wharf on the Mainland. It will be connected with Oba Adele Road on Lagos Island by slip roads, and it will continue at high level over the valuable industrial premises at Ijora and join the causeway leading from Iddo to Apapa.

The rapidly increasing traffic in the Lagos area makes it essential for a second carriageway alongside the present one to Apapa to be constructed and for this to be extended to the end of Western Avenue, which itself will be provided with a second carriageway. In order to avoid the present serious delays caused by the level crossing where the Apapa Road crosses the Apapa-Ebute Metta railway line, it is intended to put a bridge over the railway at this point. As regards other roads near Lagos, it is intended to reconstruct the existing Agege Motor Road and provide dual carriageways as far as the northern boundary of Mushin near the C.F.C. factory. This should help to reduce substantially the present very heavy congestion.

The Yaba-Ikorodu road is an extremely busy one and has, unfortunately, bad records for serious accidents. It is intended to provide a second carriageway from Yaba Roundabout to Ikorodu, which incidentally will involve particularly difficult engineering problems in crossing the swamp sections.

In concluding this list of road projects, I should refer to the intention to provide a dual carriageway at the Port Harcourt end of the Trunk Road leading to that important and busy port and to build a second bridge over the Imo River.

Hon. Members will, I am sure, welcome the provision of £1 million for the replacement of sub-standard bridges. It is intended to start as soon as possible on replacement the more dangerous of the sub-standard bridges and, furthermore, it is proposed to construct or reconstruct bridges over the Donga River and the river at Mayo Belwa on the Yola-Takum Road; this work has been held up owing to the necessity to measure carefully the effect of flood waters in the river, an aim that was made impossible last year owing to the fact that for the first time for a considerable period there was insufficient water to be measured.

I should add that preliminary investigations and designs for other new major bridging projects on the Trunk Road A network will be started; in particular, the feasibility of a bridge crossing over the River Benue at Numan, and also possibly over the Atimbo River near Calabar.

Now to turn to that vital subject—water. My Ministry is responsible for the Lagos Water Supply and we are doing our utmost to keep the supply in line with the expansion in consumption caused by industrial development and increased population. As compared with the figure of 8 million gallons a day in 1957, the water supply has already been expanded to a daily consumption of approximately 15 million gallons. The first phase of the Expansion Scheme that was begun in the last Development Programme has now been completed and it is proposed that further expansion should proceed without delay. These include new piping to carry the raw material to the sedimentation and filtration plant and a number of other important improvements both to the pumping and distribution system.

It is estimated that between 30 million and 40 million gallons a day will be required by 1970 and the proposed expansion scheme should be able to meet this demand. I should also add that the need to plan still further ahead is recognised and that a detailed hydrological survey has begun in the Ogun River basin in order to investigate alternative sources of supply.

In passing I should mention that the recent lack of water suffered by those on higher floors in tall buildings in Lagos, such as the Victoria Island Flats, has been due not to inadequacy

of water supplies, but to the stopping of electric pumps in these buildings due to cuts in electricity.

Some publicity has been given to the closing of the Ijora Sawmills and I should like briefly to mention this matter both by way of explanation and in order to pay a public tribute to the staff. After the most careful investigations, which have included advice from expert sources, it was recently regretfully concluded that it was essential to close the Ijora Sawmills and the associated furniture workshops. These have been working at a loss for some time and substantial capital expenditure would be necessary in the immediate future if the Sawmills were to continue operation. It is quite clear that Government has no justification for continuing this drain on its resources, particularly in view of the fact that separate industrial development in this field is already sufficiently advanced to meet requirements.

The closing down of the Sawmills will release, in due course, a very valuable area for development in this congested city. My only regret is that it means that many employees will be leaving my Ministry who have served the Ministry and the former Public Works Department loyally for a very long period. Everything is being done, however, to find them alternative employment and to treat them fairly and I am pleased to say that we have received the full co-operation of the Union in this matter.

A most important aspect of the activities of my Ministry is the building work we undertake on behalf of the Federal Government. Since we act for other Ministries in this matter, it is not appropriate for me to comment, even if I had the time, on individual projects.

I should however, like to say that I am very proud of the volume and the quality of the building work that my Ministry undertakes and to emphasise that the amount of work involved is not generally appreciated. Between the time that the requirements for a particular building project are decided upon and the date on which contractors can be invited to tender, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done. This work does not just involve architectural designs on paper; it includes the most

detailed working drawings, the preparation of bills of quantities and the detailed examination from a structural engineering point of view.

When my Ministry is criticised for building delays, I often feel tempted to suggest to those who criticise that they should spend a few hours in the buildings Branch of the Ministry to see what work is actually undertaken. If they did so, I am sure that they would come away in a more appreciative frame of mind. We are doing our utmost to reduce building costs and among the plans we have in mind is the creation of a special Development Group, that is a design and research team within the Ministry, to examine and advise on new design methods and uses of materials.

Before I close this section of my speech, I should refer briefly to the design work for the new Parliament Buildings. We have engaged as consultants an international firm of the highest repute and already preliminary work has begun under the general supervision of the Acting Assistant Director of Buildings, a senior and experienced Nigerian architect, who has had the opportunity to make a special study of parliament buildings. Although it will not unfortunately be possible for Government to allot funds for the construction of the Parliament Buildings in the National Economic Programme, at least the designs and full working drawings will have been prepared. As hon. Members are aware, there will be full consultation with the Legislature through the Committee of which you, Sir, are the Chairman.

I now must turn to the work performed by the Surveys Division of my Ministry. This Division has the task of carrying out all survey work in the Federal Territory, of undertaking national framework surveys and, in conjunction with the Regional Surveys Divisions, with mapping at standard scales the whole of Nigeria to modern standards. This task is a great one, for there is still so much mapping to be done, although progress has been rapid over the last few years and will be even greater in the future.

Carrying out mapping by modern methods is a highly complex, technical and expensive affair, and, furthermore, Nigeria is not an easy country to map; cloud and harmattan make aerial photography difficult and ground surveys are laborious and expensive. Nevertheless,

[MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS]
a determined effort is being made, and, as will be observed from the allocation under the Development Programme, the Federal Government is giving a high degree of priority to surveys.

The Division is, however, still very much understaffed and is losing many of its senior and experienced officers. We are, therefore, making full use of contractors to supplement the work of the Surveys Division itself. These contractors will obtain aerial photography, carry out ground surveys and the compilation by photogrammetric methods to produce maps of the highest standard under the general supervision of the Surveys Division. It is hoped that in the six years of the Development Programme, 100,000 square miles in Nigeria will be mapped through these means. Most valuable help has been given in this direction through Technical Assistance projects, and I am glad here to pay a grateful tribute to the work of the United Kingdom Directorate of Overseas Surveys which has already done so much to help us. This help will continue through the new Department of Technical Co-operation and the United Kingdom will cover about 44,000 square miles of work in the Eastern and Northern Regions. I also express my grateful thanks to the Canadian Government which is carrying out, through efficient Canadian firms, the aerial photography and mapping of about 28,000 square miles in Central Nigeria. I am most impressed with their efficiency.

The Surveys Division itself has a large mapping project based on Makurdi in addition to the extension of the geodetic levelling network. In Lagos, it is hoped that by the end of the present year, the whole of the Federal Territory will be covered by a new series of large scale maps based on new control put in by the Division.

In conclusion, special attention is being given to the training of staff and I hope that Nigerians will realise that, in Surveys, they have the opportunity of a worth-while and interesting career.

I cannot close without a brief reference to the general staffing position in my Ministry. Owing to the retirement of so many officers, both pensionable and those on contract, the immediate staffing problems are acute. This introduces many difficulties and the strain

on those officers, both Nigerian and from overseas, becomes increasingly great. Great though these difficulties are, I yet look forward with confidence. My Ministry has been fortunate in the expatriate officers it has had, and they have helped to lay a firm basis for the future. I thank them for their services and wish those who have gone or are going shortly all success.

I and my senior officers have, however, realised for a long time that it is essential that the Ministry be placed as soon as possible on a firm Nigerian basis, and that the Nigerian senior staff should only have their efforts supplemented by qualified officers—

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South): On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Gentleman who is a Parliamentary Secretary, is wearing an ordinary shirt; he is not properly dressed. Let him stand up and you will see him. (*Alhaji Koguna stands*).

Mr Speaker: He is ostracised. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Works and Surveys: Sir, as I was saying, I and my senior officers have realised for a long time that it is essential that the Ministry be placed as soon as possible on a firm Nigerian basis, and that the Nigerian senior staff should only have their efforts supplemented by qualified officers recruited on contract from overseas. Despite all the difficulties and the fact that we have in no way slacked our output, I am proud and pleased to say that great progress has already been made.

A Nigerian will shortly take over for the first time as my Permanent Secretary, and as regards the Works Division, both the posts of Assistant Director are held by Nigerians, one in a substantive capacity; in a few months it can be anticipated that the duties of Head of the Electrical and Mechanical Branch will also be performed by a Nigerian. There are, of course, many other Nigerians in senior and responsible positions, in all three Divisions of the Ministry and many more in training or recently recruited.

We have great tasks ahead of us but I look forward with confidence to tackling them, and perhaps I may also, with some justification, look back with a sense of achievement at what my Ministry has done in the past.

M. Abdu Kirim (Muri East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Federal Government's proposal for the Development Programme, 1962-68, and in doing so, I must congratulate the Prime Minister and his colleagues for working out such a wonderful Programme for the development of our great Nigeria. Through the leadership of these people who forgot their petty differences and jealousies and came together to work for the good and well-being of Nigeria, we have already attained high reputation in the eyes of the world.

Turning to the question of roads, I think the Minister of Works has just spoken about his programme. He laid emphasis on opening up the country by building good roads to link up every nook and corner of this country. In doing this, I would suggest to the Government that the greater portion of this programme be deployed in developing rural areas, especially places like Adamawa Province which have seen no change whatsoever since. There are only two roads linking it with Nigeria and on these two roads there are three ferries which only operate during the day time.

I was happy to hear a few minutes ago from the Minister of Works' speech that Donga-Takun-Yola bridge will be constructed soon to link the Province with Eastern Nigeria. River Takun and Katsina Ala from the northern side of the Province, the Road from Yola-Numan-Gombe, Jos-Kaduna and the Ferry on River Benue at Numan, these are the three rivers which cut out Adamawa Province from Nigeria.

Also, throughout the length and breadth of this Province, not an inch of the roads is tarred and the roads are rough and dusty. I am not exaggerating if I say that this Province is cut away from Nigeria from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Towns and villages could only be visited during the day time. The people of this Province are suffering from isolation and feel that they are neglected. For instance, when His Excellency the Governor-General was touring the country, he went everywhere, but could not reach Adamawa Province. It is quite understandable that our roads are not good, and we can not risk our Governor-General having to wait at least one hour or more for crossing ferries.

Another thing is that the purpose of His Excellency's tour was to meet the people of that particular area and to inspect development projects that are being carried out in that area.

Throughout the length and breadth of this province, there is only one hospital and not another single insitution of any kind so that it is not worth a visit by our leaders. Even the construction of a railway line which started at Zungeru stopped at Gombe.

Another thing is that nobody comes to trade with us as such. For all the goods we obtain, we pay three times as much as it is paid for in any other Province. I respectfully appeal to the Ministers concerned to give priority to opening up this isolated province on the border of the Cameroun Republic, especially to the construction of bridges on the rivers. This will be of material benefit to the Government for security purposes.

Before I conclude, I would like again to remind hon. Members of the concern of the people at the Government's present attitude of concentrating all its plans in developing certain areas alone. This I think is not fair. Identical treatment should be given to all, so that no part of this country is over developed. If this could be done, we would not have the problem of people leaving their localities to look for employment elsewhere, and there will be jobs and happiness for everybody everywhere in Nigeria.

This reminds me of an opinion once sounded in this House and that is the present Government's policy of putting all her eggs in one basket—that is Lagos. Why not distribute them throughout the country so that when there is a war our enemies cannot destroy them? As it stands now, if a bomb that could destroy the whole Lagos is thrown, Nigeria will have to surrender for we shall have nothing left in the country.

I therefore appeal to the Government to put aside anything having to do with the already opened up areas of this country, and take up to opening up Provinces like Adamawa in which I believe there are many resources.

For instance, there was a time when the Federal Government sent a team of geological surveyors to Muri Division in Adamawa

[M. KIRIM]

Province. This team carried out a survey in Manang, Zina, Pantisawa, Old Muri, Districts in Jalingo Muri Division in Adamawa Province.

Our people were extremely happy about this keen interest the Government have for once shown in opening up this areas. But the most disheartening thing is that up to now nothing is heard of the result of the survey. I am appealing to the Ministers concerned to let us be in the know of minerals discovered and how soon they will be worked upon.

May God bless our country with unity and understanding, peace and prosperity. I beg to support.

11.07 a.m.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. It is customary at this stage for Federal Ministers to give an account of the work of their Ministry during the previous financial year and in past years my Ministry has always buttressed these accounts with a wealth of statistics which, from year to year, have shown a steady increase in the number of patients treated in our medical institutions.

But, alas, these statistics have not stemmed the growing tide of criticism directed against our medical services. I therefore crave the indulgence of the House to make a departure from this well-tried routine in order to build for you a picture of our Health services as they are now and as we hope they will be within the next few years when our Development Programme is completed.

I think it is necessary that the House should know the complexities of the problems we face in the organisation and administration of our medical services. This is necessary if Members of this House are to give that measure of understanding and sympathy which our medical services require at this time, just when we are embarking on far-reaching changes which are bound to affect the future of the practice of medicine in this country. I wish to stress that in no other sphere of governmental activity is this understanding and sympathy more important for success than in the administration of our medical services.

The personnel of our medical services are daily facing human problems in their most baffling and sometimes in their most tragic

forms. And I wish honourable Members to know that some of their pronouncements in this House very often do make the difference between life and death for some unfortunate individuals. (*Some hon. Members: How some?*) This is the truth. By our pronouncements we can engender confidence in the patient and thus help him to take full advantage of the services of our medical institutions, and so recover. On the other hand, an injudicious statement can produce such panic and fear that patients who might otherwise have been helped, would stay away at great risk to their lives.

The history of our medical services goes back to the early days of the British occupation of this country, when a medical service based on the Royal Army Medical Corps was established for the treatment of both the civilian and military officers of the British administration. The service itself was rigid, top-heavy and ill-suited for treating a large civilian population. But this is still the pattern of our medical administration to this day.

When one goes to a hospital in Britain or in America, one does not go to see a "medical officer". Medical practitioners are called "doctors" or "consultants" all over the enlightened world. Here, we have "medical officers", "senior medical officers", "senior health officers" and we used to have a "director of medical services". We even went to the ludicrous length of appointing an "Inspector-General of Medical Services."

This service is financed from public funds and is supposed to be intended primarily for the treatment of the general population. But by the very nature of its organisation it has never fulfilled this role adequately, nor did the originators of this service seriously intend it to fulfil such a role as will be seen from the following extract from section 2 of what used to be called Medical Departmental Orders, but which happily, is now defunct. I quote:—

"Government hospitals are primarily intended for the care and treatment of the general public of the areas in which such hospitals are situated, but preference will be given to government officers and employees".

As a result of this ambiguous statement, in practice, even when the doctor had a queue of patients about fifty yards long, his attendant picked out for special treatment those who were

employees of P.W.D., P. and T., Customs, Police, etc., and of course, when these people happened to belong to what used to be called the Senior Service, which in those early days meant mostly expatriates, they just walked into the doctor's consulting room and demanded immediate treatment, which they invariably got. When we recall that in many Government medical stations like, say, Akure or Zaria, with populations of about a hundred thousand people, usually with one doctor and half-a-dozen nurses, and a limited supply of drugs, we will appreciate how little of the services available were shared between all the inhabitants of the area after the "government officers and employees" were treated.

It is necessary for me to paint the true picture of the services as they were when we took over before I go on to say what changes we intended to bring about. I have, myself, for over ten years, been a persistent critic of the organisation of our medical services, and I am completely unrepentant. I still believe that in such a system as we inherited, the patient is often an unwanted product in an institution in which he should be the focus of attention.

The service was never adequate, even for government employees, to say nothing of the general population. And with the growing demand being made upon it from our increasingly enlightened population, it is now strained to breaking point. This inadequacy, coupled with an archaic system of administration, is the root cause of the persistent and often bitter criticism to which the medical services in this country have for so long been subjected.

We hear of allegations of favouritism, malpractices of several kinds, and the like. But I would like to remind hon. Members that the men and women who man our medical services are human beings with human weaknesses like any Member of this House. They are Nigerians like ourselves, with attributes and moral values neither greater nor less than those possessed by any Nigerian. No-one can claim perfection for them, but the truth is that our medical services are at present hopelessly inadequate, and when a commodity or service is inadequate, there is bound to build up around it a black market. All too often, the rich and the affluent want to 'jump the queue' and secure for themselves a greater share of the rationed commodity. In such an atmosphere, even a Bishop might be corrupted.

I wish to assure the House that we are determined to deal ruthlessly with those of our officers who are found to be exploiting the present shortage to their private advantage. We are processing as vigorously as possible, plans designed to end the present inadequacy. In fact, the Federal Government has given very careful consideration to the organisation of our medical services and has come to the conclusion that the organisation of health services inherited from the colonial regime is unsuited to the present stage of the country's political and economic development, and has decided that it should be replaced by a greatly expanded and more flexible and progressive organisation.

The twin pillars on which the concept of our medical development programme for the period 1962 to 1968 is based are:—

- (1) A sharp increase in the provision of qualified medical and para-medical staff.
- (2) The establishment on a firm basis and expansion of existing facilities, particularly those dealing with preventive medicine.

This emphasis on the provision of medical staff and the strengthening of preventive medicine is reflected in the allocation, between various projects, of the £10.304 million at the disposal of the Federal Ministry of Health for the six-year period. It is estimated that about fifty-three *per cent* of the total capital expenditure on health will be devoted to the training of doctors, nurses, and other medical auxiliary staff, and about twenty-seven *per cent* to the expansion of preventive medical work. The other twenty *per cent* is shared between various other medical projects.

It is obvious that the basic need of our medical services to-day is the provision of more doctors and nurses, therefore, the allocation of more than half of the total expenditure towards this goal requires no formal defence. It is only by producing more doctors to man the greatly expanded medical service that some of the abuses in our present system could be removed. The emphasis on preventive medicine is also necessary because it is much cheaper to keep a person in health than it is to cure him when he is ill. The ancient Chinese had an admirable system: they paid their physician when they were in good health and stopped the payment when they were ill. There can be no doubt that when the battle against the

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

preventable diseases at present prevalent in this country is won, it should be possible to reduce recurrent expenditure on our medical and health services considerably.

There are thirteen different health projects to be undertaken in our six-year development plan :—

(i) We plan to expand the existing facilities at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, at a cost of £2.050 million to allow approximately one hundred students *per annum* to undergo clinical training, from October 1965. There will also be expansion of the intake of student nurses into the University College Hospital Nurses' Training School, so as to provide the necessary nursing complement for the increasing number of doctors we hope to produce.

(ii) We plan to complete all the phases of Lagos University Teaching Hospital at a cost of £2.820 million. This hospital was originally planned to provide much needed expansion of the hospital facilities in Lagos.

It will provide this, and more, because it will be used for the training of medical students. Already, the first phase of the new hospital is completed and that phase consists of 350 beds, together with the services required for a full 800-bed hospital. It is now the teaching hospital of the medical school of the University of Lagos. When the development of the medical school itself is completed, it is hoped that 150 doctors and 50 dentists will be trained there annually.

(iii) It is proposed to build a nurses' hostel at a cost of £.500 million. One of the principal problems in Lagos is the recruitment, training, and accommodation of student nurses to supply the ever-increasing need for nurses in our expanding hospital service. This problem will assume greater dimensions with the enlarged plan for the medical and health services. At present there is a Preliminary Training school in Campbell Street which has accommodation for a number of nurses, but as soon as they are posted to the General Hospital, or other units such as the Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, there is no accommodation for them. This has resulted in a high wastage rate among nurses-in-training who are obliged to find accommodation in the town. Accommodation in Lagos

is expensive, unsatisfactory, and hardly suitable for these young women, and it is considered essential that there should be a well-designed nurses' hostel which will be clean and salubrious.

(iv) The Lagos General Hospital is to be rebuilt and modernised at a cost of £1.269 million. The first stage of this project is now under way, and consists of the clearing and reconstruction of the area facing Broad Street. It comprises a new two storey out-patient department and clinics, a new kitchen, laundry and auxiliary services. When the whole project is completed, at the end of the plan period, it is hoped that the hospital will contain about 700 beds, a new and up-to-date pharmacy, casualty rooms, X-Ray departments, operating theatres, and other services.

(v) It is planned to spend a sum of £.650 million on improvements to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. This hospital serves all parts of Nigeria and cases are referred to it from the Regions. It is proposed to develop the hospital ; to enlarge it by adding four new ward blocks, as well as operating theatres, a new laundry, kitchen, a new limb workshop, and stores accommodation. This development will enable the hospital to keep pace with the demands made upon it as a result of the increasing number of road accidents.

(vi) Provision is made for the building of a 200-bed children's hospital at a cost of £.800 million. Members will recall that only last Friday, the 6th of April, the Massey Street Children's Hospital was officially opened. Our experience since the few weeks in which hospital has been in operation emphasises more than anything else, the need for more facilities for the medical treatment of children, of whom there are approximately 200,000 in Lagos. It is planned to site the new hospital on the mainland of Lagos, where it will also afford facilities for the training of medical students in paediatric medicine.

(vii) A 360-bed mental hospital, sited at Oshodi, will be built at a cost of £.800 million. The only Federal mental hospital facilities are at present provided by the Mental Home at Yaba, which is grossly over-crowded and

inadequate. The building of this hospital will result in the alleviation of mental health problems in Lagos.

(viii) The smallpox vaccine laboratory at Yaba is to be expanded at a cost of £.075 million. This laboratory is a project which is considered to be of very great importance, not only to the Federal territory of Lagos, but also to the whole country. It is the one revenue-earning project which my Ministry controls. Recent discussions with officials of the World Health Organisation concerned with smallpox eradication have revealed that the World Health Organisation hold the Yaba freeze-dried vaccine in very high regard, and has said that if production can be increased there will be a ready market for it. It is intended that during the plan period this project will be extended, to enable an annual production of 20 million doses of vaccine to be made available. I should mention that my Ministry is actively engaged on preliminary work leading to a vast project for smallpox eradication in the whole of Nigeria. We think this is immediately feasible because it is known that when over 70 per cent of the population is vaccinated, the chain of transmission of smallpox is broken and the disease ceases to be an epidemic problem. The success of the project will depend, among other things, on the availability of the dry vaccine from our laboratory.

(ix) A sum of £.200 million is earmarked for the expansion of the Dental Service in Lagos. This service provides not only dental treatment for the people of Lagos but also provides facilities for the training of dental technologists and dental hygienists. The school of dental technology has room for only twenty four trainees and the school of dental hygiene for twenty trainees. Students come from all over the country to attend these schools and it is intended during the plan period to expand these schools in order to give more room for students from the regions.

(x) It is proposed to expand the chemistry division of my Ministry, and also to establish a public health laboratory at an estimated cost of £.125 million. Before discussing in detail the proposed expansion of the chemistry division, it might be as well to state briefly the nature of the work being carried

out at present. During the three years ending with the financial year 1958-59, the chemistry division carried out 31,000 chemical and bacteriological examinations for various departments of Government. Requests for such examinations came in from various parts of the Federation and have steadily increased over the years. There is no doubt that with increasing industrialisation of the country there will be increasing demands upon the type of chemical and bacteriological work now being done by the chemistry division of the Ministry of Health. The intention is that the chemistry division should expand into a full Federal chemistry service. In addition to expanding this division, it is proposed to develop a public health laboratory service which will be used by the health centres to be built under this plan. These public health laboratories are essential to the successful working of the health centres.

(xi) It is proposed to start, at an early date, at a cost of £.150 million, an institute of preventive and social medicine. It is my belief that preventable diseases should be attacked on a nation-wide basis. Consequently, the proposed institute should be national in outlook, and it is hoped that it will conduct research into the incidence of various preventable diseases, test the efficacy of each preventive measure, and give direction to all the efforts being made to eradicate these diseases. The proposed institute will be run by research and field workers and will have up-to-date laboratory facilities for investigation purposes. The institute will be closely allied to the medical school of the University of Lagos.

(xii) A post-graduate nursing school is proposed at a cost of £.150 million. At present there is no opportunity in the whole of Nigeria for post-graduate training of qualified nurses. This has considerably slowed down the pace of training tutors to man our nursing schools. It is proposed that a post-graduate nursing school should be started in relation with the University College Hospital, Ibadan, or the Lagos University medical school.

(xiii) During the next plan period we intend to build at least one health centre in each of the wards into which the municipi-

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]
 pality of Lagos is divided. In fact, we have made provision for the expenditure of half-a-million pounds on some of these health centres in the current estimates. When these centres are built and functioning, they will cater for the health needs of all the people of the wards in which they are situated. Medical services will be available day and night. The present practice of closing a dispensary at 2 o'clock in the afternoon is highly unsatisfactory as well as being wasteful, because the buildings put up at such high cost are under-utilised. The Federal Government believes that by building these health centres within reach of the inhabitants of Lagos, much of the abuse associated with the medical services at present would be considerably reduced.

Quite naturally it is not possible to start all these new projects during the 1962-63 financial year. However, the following projects have been proposed for inclusion in the Capital Estimates for the 1962-63 year:—

	£
1. Vaccine production: 1955-1962 programme	25,000
2. Blood transfusion	1,000
3. Lagos General Hospital	260,000
4. Health centres	500,000
5. Lagos University Teaching Hospital	300,000
6. Vaccine production: 1962-1968 programme	75,000
7. Mental hospital	25,000
8. University College Hospital, Ibadan	100,000
Total	£1,286,000

When our health programme is completed a sound foundation will have been laid for the expansion of health services throughout the Federation, because trained personnel will begin to come out of our training institutions, and Lagos will have been given the most comprehensive health service of any town on the continent of Africa. The Lagos medical service would indeed be a model which the Regions and other developing countries might well copy.

However, it is obvious that any proposal which seeks to increase the level of existing medical services presupposes an increase in the

annual budget of the Ministry of Health. In the last financial year we spent the sum of £2,408,000 on medical services for Lagos, which worked out at just under £7 per head of the population of the Federal territory of Lagos. Viewed in isolation, this is an impressive figure, but compared with the Regions where the corresponding annual expenditure per head on medical services averaged 5s-0d, the expenditure in Lagos must be regarded as staggering.

If we are to have an expanded medical service, it will be morally indefensible to expect the Federal Government, in a struggling country like Nigeria, to spend more than it is currently spending in providing medical services for the people of Lagos. The population of Lagos is among the most enlightened in Nigeria and the demand for medical services is incessant and insatiable. This is so because Lagos is the meeting place of all peoples of the Federation and the majority of its inhabitants have long ago discarded their beliefs in traditional remedies in favour of scientific medicine.

Therefore, if we are to expand the present services in the way we have planned, the increased expenditure necessary for financing the expanded and modernised medical services must be found by the people who will directly benefit from these services. That is why, in the Speech from the Throne, His Excellency said:

“Plans will be laid during the coming year for the introduction of a contributory Health Insurance Scheme in Lagos.”

The Scheme will establish a health insurance fund which will provide free health services to all insured persons. To this fund the Federal Government will contribute an amount equivalent to its present expenditure on the Lagos medical services. All employers of labour will contribute, and all employees and the self-employed will contribute in proportion to their incomes.

The proposed contributory health insurance scheme has several advantages. In the first place, it will utilise hitherto untapped sources of revenue to enable the much-needed expansion to take place. In the second place, the scheme will ensure that employers fulfill their obligations under the Labour Code to provide medical facilities for their employees.

At present the Federal Government is subsidising all medical treatment of almost all employees of large commercial firms operating in Lagos because only a very few of these firms provide the standard of medical care for their employees required by our Labour Code. Finally, since the scheme is based on the principle of mutual aid, contributions will be on the basis of income and benefits will be on the basis of need; therefore the richer members of the community will help to subsidise the poorer members.

All this will require careful planning and a great deal of hard work. We are bringing about the necessary changes as rapidly as is humanly possible, and I appeal to the House to bear with us. The medical service is made up of human beings dealing with human problems. Unlike a mechanical device it cannot be taken to pieces and put together again overnight. That the services require overhauling is admitted. How smoothly and how painlessly this operation is carried out will depend on the forbearance of the House and the co-operation of the people whom we seek to serve.

11.37 a.m.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): During this meeting of Parliament, many hon. Members from this side of the House have spoken in praise of the various Government plans laid before the House, particularly in respect of the Economic Development Plan and certain aspects of the Budget. Consequently, suggestions have been made, particularly in the course of various interjections by certain Members of the House from the other side, that we, of the Opposition, are trying to compromise our position in order to curry favour with the Federal Government.

I want to assure this House that, whatever the imagination of certain inconsequential people in this House, when it comes to the interest of our dear nation we will continue to support such Government measures as are compatible with the establishment of a democratic, socialist welfare state which we profess and practice. We see the Federal Government gradually adopting policies enunciated by this side of the House on several occasions in this House. It is because of this that there appears to be a change in our attitude towards Government policies at this time. But, as long as we

discover a change in Government measures detrimental to the national cause, so long shall we lend criticism to such measures.

I want to stress at this juncture that the economy, foreign affairs and defence of a nation are, or at least should be, above the usual extremes of party politics which the nation cannot sometimes afford. When Government does truly practice acceptable economic, defence and foreign affairs policies, then it is the duty of every reasonable citizen to lend support to those acceptable portions of the policies concerned, and to criticise constructively and make alternative suggestions in respect of any controversial aspects of such policies.

This is how it should be; and that is the essence of parliamentary practice. It is not therefore our duty to continue to criticise or oppose relentlessly just because we are labelled *the Opposition*. For example, Mr Gaitskell's acceptance of Britain joining the European Common Market does not make him a fellow traveller of the Conservative Party Government, nor does it compromise the Labour Party policies.

This year has seen many changes in Government policies for the good. The Budget Speech—unnecessarily lengthy as it has in it some useful substance and, barring the provision to make Nigeria a perpetual borrowing country without showing that we shall make good these loans, one would have seen nothing controversial in the Budget. So much, however, has been said on this issue and it is only enough to support the important issues made by the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*). I will now deal with a few of the issues which arouse my interest. I will make some reasonable recommendations which I hope this Government will see fit to accept.

I think that Government has not done enough to encourage art and culture in this country. We have seen on several occasions countries like Western Germany and the United States and various other countries in Africa sending dancers and musicians to come and play in Nigeria. There is no justifiable reason why our Government should not do a similar thing by sending teams of our dancers

[MR TARKA]
and singers, native dancers and high-life dancers, and dancers of various kinds, to overseas countries to advertise Nigeria.

We are happy to hear that Government intends to establish an Air Force. This is what Government should have done long ago. The main handicap of this Government is lack of sense of priority on the part of certain Ministers in this Government. If Government really intended to form a real Nigerian Air Force, the best thing is for the Government to have started the training of the personnel years ago. Even before independence we had a Nigerian Government. What will now happen is that while the Air Force will be called a Nigerian Air Force when it is established it will, like the Army and Navy, be dominated by expatriate officers, particularly British.

The time has come when Government should start seriously to Nigerianise all the heads of the various units of the Army and the Navy. In addition the time has come when we should have a Nigerian head of the Army. If the strifetorn Congo could successfully turn over-night a sergeant-major and a journalist as general and Army Chief-of-Staff, then what prevents us from turning the only Nigerian Brigadier into the head of the Army at even a smaller, a much smaller salary, instead of appointing an outmoded, demobilised British soldier at great expense necessitating the recruiting visit of the Minister of Defence to London. Why could not the Minister pass instructions to the High Commissioner in London to do the recruitment on his behalf. In any case, the time has come when Government should recall the Military Adviser to the High Commissioner in London to come and understudy the present head of the Army with a view to taking over from him in the immediate future.

The job of a Military Attaché or Adviser can be successfully carried out by a Captain or a Major or any other rank. The age-long talk by Government of its intentions and continued intentions to Nigerianise the various ranks of the Army no longer holds water and does not receive the support of this House since it is a mere empty promise. Government should now start reposing confidence in the Nigerian officers by placing them more and more in their deserving positions.

We are glad that two or three Nigerians have so far been given key positions but that is just not enough. The present number of expatriate serving officers in our Army compares too badly with the number of Nigerian officers. Some of these British Captains, Majors and other ranks are retired Sergeant-Majors who have been seconded to us from the British Army.

It is a good thing that Government has thought it wise to plan the establishment of a Military Academy. But in the interim, arrangements should be made with various countries east and west to train our personnel for the armed forces. In this respect attempts should be made also to train most of the armed forces personnel in Afro-Asian countries. Soldiers trained in European countries tend to Europeanise themselves and some of them start adopting that expensive British mentality in their civilian dress and their food and other ways of life. This should seriously be discouraged.

I would also like the Government to effect drastic changes, in fact improvements, in the conditions of service of our soldiers. The armed forces have no trade unions. Their trade union leader is the hon. the Minister of Defence, but when anything escapes his observations the Members of this House should play the role of the Army's trade union secretaries by demanding for them things which in a normal Government department should have been demanded by the trade unions. I have in mind in particular the question of improved housing and quarters, particularly for those soldiers with many wives and who under the present conditions—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna): Why cannot the hon. Member from Jembar (*Mr J. S. Tarka*) leave that until we come to the Committee Stage? He is just on defence, defence and defence.

The Deputy Speaker : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be more audible please.

Alhaji A. A. Koguna : The hon. Gentleman is just speaking particularly on the Ministry of Defence. Why cannot he leave it until we come to the Committee Stage. He can speak on the general policy of the Government.

The Deputy Speaker : I do not think he is the first to be irrelevant on those lines.

Mr Tarka : In any case, I am not speaking only on Defence, I am speaking on other subjects as well. If only the hon. Parliamentary Secretary (*Alhaji Koguna*) will listen he will hear the voice of wisdom. I said in particular the question of improved housing and quarters for those soldiers with many wives who under the present position have only one room and parlour to themselves—

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) : Sir, lectern reading is only a privilege accorded to an appointed Minister of the Government and not to shadow ministers.

The Deputy Speaker : Order. I think the same provision made for the Government benches is also made for the front benches of the Opposition. I am sure that the lecterns are intended to be used.

Shettima Ali Monguno : I was in fact trying to say that the hon. Member was reading.

The Deputy Speaker : Well, I will keep a clear look-out for that.

Mr Tarka : It has also been generally alleged, that junior expatriate officers tend to ignore orders given them by Nigerian superior officers. This is a thing which the Minister should cause investigation made into and have the situation remedied at once.

Generally, the role of our soldiers particularly those in the Congo is most commendable. Gone are the days when people looked at the army as a thing for people who cannot get any jobs. This brings me to the question of the plight of Nigerian ex-servicemen who are grossly neglected not only by this Federal Government but by other Governments of the Federation. If however the excuse is that they served in a colonial army, then Government should make representations to the British Government to pay bonus to these ex-servicemen and to make special grants to the various Governments of the Federation to establish various industries in the rural areas so as to employ these drab and starving ex-servicemen, who though defending the British Empire, were as well advertising Nigeria in countries wherever they saw service.

The present arrangement for the establishment of fourteen new industries which will only absorb 4,700 people as stated by the Minister of Commerce and Industries out of a million unemployed people in this country is very good but inadequate. Unemployment is not seriously felt by Government because most Ministers come from rural areas where farming is the chief industry and therefore unemployment is unknown in the areas.

The problem of the influx from the districts and villages to big towns in quest of jobs is a serious situation. Government should therefore, see to it that the new industries are sparsely situated in the various provinces to encourage job seekers to work in their home areas.

Another question which needs immediate looking into is the issue of beggars and disabled persons swarming our streets, particularly in Lagos. Visitors who pay casual visits to this country may tend to judge us by the look of these beggars, blind men and lepers. The question of healthy strong men begging in our streets rather than working hard to earn a living is most disgraceful and ought to be checked both by the Lagos Town Council and by this Government.

It is not true that most of the beggars come from the Northern Region. This is most untrue. Some of them come from the West or are even Lagosians themselves. But the majority come from the North because of the strong and commendable action taken by the Northern Regional Government to discourage professional begging, so these lazy men come to Lagos to beg.

The question of blind men is understandable, and so is the question of lepers who beg in our streets in Lagos. Therefore the Government should establish more blind rehabilitation centres and expand the existing one in Lagos and also start a leper clinic in Lagos, and any leper or blind man found on the streets begging should be sent there at once.

As for the beggars, they should be sent to their respective homes at once, whether they come from the North, East or West. And the Government should try to discourage people who beat drums on the streets and molest people and try to take money from them by force.

[MR TARKA]

One other aspect, Sir, is that we are happy that the Government has cleared the air on the issue of Nigeria holding controlling shares in the proposed Oil Refinery. As we all know, "black gold", as oil is popularly known, is the chief cause of political unrest in the Middle East, and various other countries, through attempts by imperialist powers to control the economy of those countries. In the initial stage of this industry, the Government should block all loopholes in this venture and see to it that we have not only the controlling shares in this important future economic mainstay, but that we also control the directorate positions in the industry. Oil industrialists in this country must at once realise that it is in their own interests to train Nigerian personnel to hold key positions in the industry especially in the technical side of it.

Government's ultimate objective should be planning ahead to take over completely this industry when funds are available. This should also apply to the Tin Mining Industry in the Plateau areas. The tin miners on the Plateau have made no attempt whatsoever to plough back any part of their big gains into the areas concerned. They have built no hospital and no schools and they have provided no roads for the area. Compensation for land acquired by the miners is very low compared with the everlasting loss of farmland incurred by the landowners in the areas. This is coupled with cheap labour. And, worse still, no attempt is made to train Nigerians technically or administratively, except through the meagre efforts of our Government. But some of the fault lies with the African miners who refuse to group themselves into strong companies and receive Government encouragement to tap the mining resources. The indigenous African miner should be encouraged by the Government to come together rather than operate as individuals, which position does not now pay them.

The question of our roads has already been dealt with by the hon. Minister of Works. He has made an attempt to take the wind out of our sails on this issue. Since bad roads tell adversely on the economy of the nation, it is essential that every Member who speaks in this House should try to mention, briefly, the roads leading to his area or to other important areas.

Our road traffic dilemma is worsening day in, day out. Our roads need re-alignment, *i.e.*, widening and re-surfacing, and we are glad that the Minister has given us the reassurance that the Government is doing everything possible to improve the present position.

But we are not satisfied with the various promises made by Ministers on the Floor of this House which are not carried out. Some of these promises are carried over from one development programme to another. We read in the present estimates and in the development programme that most of these things which are said there have been carried over from the past development programme. We do not blame our Government for that because we understand the financial position of the Government, but more should be done to see to it that the promises made on the Floor of this House are not merely promises to satisfy the ambition of Members; they should be promises made to be implemented by the Government.

In the past, lack of planning on the side of expatriate engineers has resulted in narrow roads and bridges and, while thousands of pounds are lost in traffic congestion, apart from loss of life in road accidents, these retired engineers are enjoying fat pensions! The Government should embark on serious traffic planning in Lagos and also start widening and re-surfacing all trunk A roads.

We are disappointed that when the Minister listed the number of roads which he is going to have re-surfaced, he did not mention roads like the Eliede-Jos Road. He only mentioned that he was going to widen the bridges and try to improve the position near Akwanga. That is not satisfactory at all. Furthermore, a Member on the other side of the House, from Adamawa Province has rightly said that the road from Eliede to Adamawa Province and from Yola to the Northern Cameroons or the Sardauna Province is grossly neglected by this Government, as if Members from that area do not pay tax or are not entitled to amenities.

We would like the the Minister to remedy the situation at once and see to it that all trunk A roads in this country are tarred at once, particularly the roads leading to international boundaries, like the road in the Northern Cameroons. Roads under construction at present should now come in for readjustment from the old methods. We should also have

permanent concrete surfacing to replace the uneconomic bitumenous surfacing which, in years to come, will accumulate costs which will outdo the cost of permanent concrete surfacing.

We are all very glad that gradual progress has been made in the Bornu railway extension. The time has come when Government should implement the suggestions from *this* side of the House to install giant refrigerators in our railway trains to convey fresh rich beef from Ndama cattle and fresh goat and sheep meat from Bornu and other parts of the Northern Region to the Southern provinces where the people will be able to enjoy fully the discarded goat meat from parts of the North, particularly Bauchi, whose inhabitants do not eat goats because of the superstitious belief that goat-eaters contract leprosy.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): Point of Information. That statement is untrue. The hon. Member is not from Bauchi, nor am I; but that statement is untrue.

Mr Tarka: I have worked in Bauchi for eight years, so the information is for the hon. Member for Gwarzo East who has never been to Bauchi himself.

Mr Speaker: The point of information was directed to the Chair and does not call for any subsidiary debate.

Mr Tarka: Fresh refrigerated meat would help the country economically by stopping the growing consumption of imported chilled beef and other meat, apart from making it possible to have more nutritious meat by other means than the present inhuman process of marching cattle on foot to Lagos, Ibadan, Port Harcourt and Enugu, during which march the cattle become bony and lean and unfit for human consumption.

The time has come when the Government should give more pronounced and realistic accent to its African affairs policy. We are supposed to give a lead to the entire African continent, black and brown alike. But, while France was reportedly planning another Atom test in the Sahara (a thing which previously rightly broke the Franco-Nigerian diplomatic ties), our Minister of Information was busy telling the world of our Government's intentions to reinstate diplomatic relations, in a

manner which portrayed us as begging for it. After all, in our national pride, we do not need to beg France and similar countries who have no respect for world opinion. This is entirely ridiculous!

Furthermore, we claim to champion the noble cause of the great freedom fighters in the Central Africa Federation, and we claim to support the cause of African nationalism in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa.

But what is this talk about the Prime Minister planning to visit South Africa and Sir Roy's Central African Federation at the invitation of those self-imposed imperialist Governments, at this particular time? Worse still, while we support Kaunda, Nkomo and Dr Banda against the continuance of Sir Roy's pet Federation, we have foolishly and, perhaps blindly walked into British shoes by inheriting her recognition of the Central African Federation through our acceptance of Sir Roy's Envoy soon after Independence.

This is in fact one of the obligations which were mentioned in Viscount Head's letter to the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, and a portion of which reads as follows (I quote with your permission, Sir):—

"Nigeria undertakes all obligations and responsibilities of the Government of the United Kingdom which arise from any valid international instrument, in so far as such instrument may be held to have application to Nigeria".

Now, the cheek of it all is not merely the diplomatic recognition alone, it is the fact that Sir Roy Welensky is sending a stooge of an African to sell his dirty Federation to us. What price patriotism! Honestly, as soon as this man lands in Lagos, Government should politely ask him to go home.

As things now stand, we have on this issue and on the issue of the legal Algerian Government put ourselves in a position of being dubbed as traitors to the noble cause of African nationalism. While France has changed her attitude towards the Algerian Government our so-called Government has failed to recognise the legitimate Algerian Government.

We know that our Government has no territorial ambition to the extent of refusing to talk about Fernando Po in a more realistic

[MR TARKA]
way; but we Nigerians have territorial ambition. Our territorial ambition is the general emancipation of Africa from all forms of colonialism, the promotion of African nationalism and African unity. Nobody stops the Prime Minister from going anywhere he likes, but the money which is intended to be spent on his impending visit to South Africa should be placed at the disposal of the nationalist movements in those areas. (*Hear, hear*).

A lot has been said in support of the Government's economic measures and some of its adverse effects on the man in the street. For once, I associate myself with the compliments paid to the Minister of Finance, but I want to say that these compliments should not go to the Minister of Finance, alone, because anything done by him is the collective responsibility of the whole Cabinet.

I agree that something should be done to re-examine the tax on petrol, diesel oil, engine oil and trucks or goods lorries. Government should also set up the common man's shops, since we all understand that the lower income and the upper income groups of workers all buy from the same market, whereas their salaries are not the same.

I would at this moment invite the attention of the Federal Government to the general question of individual liberty in all parts of the Federation, and while I do not mention names and areas, I think that the Federal Government—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West): On a point of Order, Sir, the hon. Gentleman has read for more than 30 minutes.

The Deputy Speaker: May I draw the attention of Members to Standing Order 31 (2) which vests in this Chair the final opinion as to how long any Member has spoken.

Mr Tarka: While I do not mention names and areas, I think that the Federal Government, in the course of the preservation of the democratic principles which we profess, should work with all the other Governments of the Federation to preserve and practise the principles of Fundamental Human Rights as entrenched in our Constitution.

Sometimes it is the Police and sometimes it is the so-called *constituted authority* in their pretence to preserve law and order that clamp

down on individual liberty—and the legal process in Nigeria is so long that by the time one is free, one might have been detained arbitrarily for a reasonable period.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with your permission, I quote the talented Thomas Paine who said of the People's Government, in setting down his criterion of the right adjustment of the social system, that:—

"When it can be said by any country in the world—

The Deputy Speaker: I do not know for how long the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*), proposes to go on, but I think he should wind up within two minutes.

Mr Tarka:

"When it can be said by any country in the world, My poor are happy: neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them: my jails are empty of prisoners' (meaning innocent prisoners): 'my streets of beggars: the aged are not in want; the taxes are not oppressive: the rational world is my friend, because I am the friend of happiness.' When these things can be said, then may the country boost its constitution and its Government."

In conclusion, I would like to appeal to the Government to see to it that the complicated processes of the 1962 Census are made less complicating and interpreted into the various important and written languages of Nigeria and widely publicised. In the present world, apart from the economic and political application, the importance of any nation is determined by its population.

I beg to support.

Mr C. O. Chiedozie (Enugu): I must straightaway shower my congratulations for the able manner in which the hon. Minister of Finance had presented his "Mobilisation Budget"; from the "Peoples" Budget to one of "Responsibility" then to one of "Stability" then to one of "Sovereignty" and now we have the "Mobilisation Budget".

This Budget was aimed at harnessing all our resources, human material, financial and moral, in order to accelerate our economic progress and improve our standard of living and experience an industrial and agrarian re-orientation in our life-time.

Those who think that Africans could not manage their own affairs, would be ashamed of themselves, if they were present when the hon. Minister of Finance was delivering his Budget Speech. It was a display of a mature mind, a disciplined intellectual effort, a financial and budgetary masterpiece and an exhibition of a commendable economic wisdom. He has proved that all things being equal—(*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order ! There are far too many interruptions. Would Members who feel like going out please do so with decorum ?

Mr Chiedozie : The Minister of Finance has proved that, all things being equal, the black man can excel other races in many spheres of human activity.

Let me now deal with items raised in this very important Budget Speech :

The Minister must be commended for his present progressive Banking policy. The increased powers given to the Central Bank in order to guide commercial banks and to organise the control, expansion and contraction of credit, in order to preserve the country's monetary equilibrium, are praiseworthy. The Central Bank must closely watch the liquidity ratios and interest rates, because the 1962-68 Economic Development Programme will become a futility and ultimately prove a fiasco if the Central Bank fails to maintain monetary stability. Inadequate monetary measures will lead to an inflation : an economic cankerworm militating against a country's balance of payments and standards of living.

I am happy that the hon. Minister is tackling energetically our balance of Payments problems. It requires a dynamic and realistic approach if we are to solve the problems of imbalance in foreign trade. Let the hon. Minister look round again, and search for many other imported goods which are becoming conventional necessities and luxuries. He should apply his economic hammer, and prevent importation of these goods.

Doctors all over the world have testified that smoking causes various heart diseases and weakens the mental resources of those who smoke. Why should the import of cigarettes into this country not be considerably diminished ?

Importation of opium is illegal in this country but it is being said that cigarettes and opium perform similar debilitating effects on human physiological organs. Also to improve our export drive the Government should give an ultimatum to Japan. If they failed to buy our goods up to the same quantity that we buy from them, then there should be utter boycott of Japanese goods. An embargo should be laid forthwith on Japanese goods.

We cannot continue to depend on imported goods. Protection should be given to home industries. In this connection, I will appeal to the hon. Minister to consider, in due course, the advisability of waiving excise duties on home manufactured goods. Import duties on petrol, motor tyres, and motor parts should be revoked.

Also, we must open up trade with such countries as India, Russia, China, *et cetera*. In this connection, I must congratulate the indefatigable Zanna Dipcharima, when he said that in the International Fair to be held in Nigeria this year Russia, China, *et cetera*, will be invited. China has a population of 500,000,000 people, and it will serve as a very big market if our cocoa, palm oil, palm kernel, groundnuts, *et cetera*, are exported to China.

I must again congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry for his recent announcement about the formation of a West African Cocoa Alliance in order to increase the price of cocoa in the world market. This is what we want. Nigeria must proceed beyond her frontiers if we are going to achieve economic hegemony at all in Africa. Isolationism is one of the most dangerous diseases that can damage a country's industrial, economic and agricultural potentiality.

We must lead in Africa in the present race for economic unification. We hear of the European Common Market. We hear of the European Free Trade Area. We hear of the European Economic Community. We must have a West African or, if possible an African Common Market. Nigeria must lead in making this proposal a practical possibility. The countries in West Africa will suffer economic strangulation if they fail to unite now economically in this 20th century race for international economic leadership.

Our investments overseas must be repatriated. Many local councils or Native Authorities still have their assets lying overseas. It is

[MR CHIEDOZIE]
indeed economically absurd for an under-developed young country like Nigeria to have her assets lying overseas, while her people clamour for foreign capital. We must infuse economic dynamism into our future financial activities.

Internally, we must carry out an effective co-ordination of all organs that supply capital in this country. Marketing Boards, Development Corporations, must be made to have all efforts geared to one common purpose: that of consolidating our internal economy and of accelerating our economic, industrial and agricultural productivity. The Marketing Board prices must be co-ordinated with the overall Federal monetary policy, in order to achieve stability and avoid a diminishing standard of living.

In the sphere of wages, I support the hon. Minister of Finance, that wages must be increased side by side with increases in productivity. There must be a narrowing down of the gap between the incomes of the low paid and high paid. If there is a wide gap in the inequality of incomes there will be a corresponding degree of maladministration and maldistribution of the nation's economic resources.

In this country the salaries of workers in the low income group still require to be increased particularly in view of house rents, prices of foodstuffs, *et cetera*, which have sky-rocketed in recent times. In fact, if tariffs are levied on luxurious commodities enjoyed, by the well-to-do and more fortunate persons in order to increase the nation's wealth, efforts must be made by our Government to see to it that there is no general rise in the prices of necessities which affect the poor workers' livelihood. Otherwise the object of tariffs on luxury goods will be defeated.

The rich man will be richer, and the poor worker will continue to be poorer.

See what is happening at the moment! The austerity tax measures are now hitting the low paid harder. The prices of important consumer goods are soaring already. Prices of yam, gari, oil, pepper, salt and meat have risen. I want to appeal to our Government to pass a law making profiteering an offence. Let there be a realistic effort to control prices of imported goods. If this is done the prices of home produced goods will be more easily controlled.

The sellers in the markets do not understand what is meant by increases in the duties of imported luxuries. They take increases as increases, and only a wide publicity by the Government can help to reduce this degree of ignorance. The Government can appoint Price Inspectors who will be visiting markets in order to ascertain the tempo of price increases.

I come now to saving. If some of these anomalies affecting low income earners are eradicated, there is no doubt that people will save tremendously. In fact, even Nigerian workers are prepared to save. But no one can save if he is unable to meet the basic necessities of life. Apart from the desire to save, there must be ability to save. Our workers to-day are prepared to save, but in view of the economic forces militating against their existence, they have no surplus to save.

I support the present Government measures to effect savings through the issue of savings certificates and Premium Bonds. There must be national savings campaign. In economic parlance, saving generates capital formation, and a nation with considerable capital has built up enormous potential assets which will make future consumption possible, because no nation will ultimately survive if it continues to live on its own capital.

Surely, an under-developed country like Nigeria must try to save in order to make future production possible. In this respect, again, I must praise our hon. Minister of Finance, for his considerable economic wisdom in this direction. There is another aspect, about which I must congratulate him, and it is in connection with his battle against smuggling, and those who smuggle the goods.

Smuggling accentuates our balance of payments problems, and distorts our national economy. The Government must support the hon. Minister of Finance in his commendable efforts in this direction. Those who smuggle must be heavily punished.

Then there is the question of Investment in the Public Sector. Nowadays, the economic activities of Government are increasing but there is no doubt that our Government is doing its best to encourage investment in the public sector. I only wish to appeal to our Government to give more loans to our men in the private sector of our economy.

The Federal Loans Board is doing well in this direction in its functions to subsidise small industries. I will appeal to the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to see to it that more loans are given to industries catering for oil mills, groundnut mills, cotton, kola, *et cetera*, which are the mainstay of our economy. It will increase our export drive, and reduce our trade imbalance.

I wish now to discuss the implications, of the budget in its relationship with the various economic activities of the country.

Before I continue, I must congratulate the Prime Minister for the way and manner he had steered the ship of state in the past year. If we are going to succeed in the 1962-68 economic development project, we must relate our success to the meritorious services of the Prime Minister in seeing to it that Nigeria passed through one year of independence, under a tranquil, stable, peaceful and progressive administration.

I used to call this administration the *Abubakarian* administration because Sir Abubakar, our Prime Minister, has succeeded to implant in this era a statesmanlike administration, a cautious administration, a progressive administration, a dynamic administration, a democratic administration and above all, a peaceful, administration.

Search your hearts. Look round Africa and elsewhere the world over. Is there any country that can carry out a good economic programme without internal peace and good government? One of the results of this is that various international conferences are now being held in Nigeria because of her peaceful outlook. Tourist industry should be developed in this country. If this is done, the revenue to be derived from it will reduce the imbalance in our invisible trade. A country like Switzerland lives on her tourist trade. Our Government should now embark on a realistic approach to the promotion of tourist industry in Nigeria.

Before I leave the Prime Minister, I must say that his most recent plans to help the Dahomeans who are now stricken with famine and hunger are most commendable. It is only by a sympathetic approach to the problems of other countries around us that Nigeria can win universal admiration in Africa. Let the Prime Minister, therefore, go ahead. We are behind him in this direction.

I come now to another aspect. In order to continue to achieve peaceful economic progress, our Government must continue its commendable policy of improving generally the conditions of the Police as, without them, there can be no internal peace. But, much more improvements are still needed. At the moment, many police lance corporals, corporals, sergeants and even inspectors who have served between 15 and 25 years have no hope of promotions, even though their services are exemplary. Let there be investigation into these ugly promotion anomalies.

I suggested last year that there should be a system of continuing annual increments for all policemen, so that a corporal or lance corporal who had served for, say, 25 years without being promoted will continue to receive increments annually in view of his long service and experience. This is the practice in the United Kingdom, and it should be followed here, otherwise a lance corporal with 25 years' service will remain on the same salary for many years, and that will be a grave injustice to the people concerned.

Let there be a dynamic change in the psychological and humane approach to the rank and file of our Police Force. After all, concerning efficiency, our police have surpassed their counterparts in other African countries. In the Congo, for instance, they have displayed a marked mental, physical and disciplinary superiority over others. At the moment, we need more Nigerian Police Commissioners. There is no doubt that a Commissioner like Mr Edet is doing excellently well.

In the sphere of women police, we must praise our Government for its commendable efforts to encourage our women police officers. There is no doubt that they are discharging their duties with praiseworthy efficiency.

It is indeed opportune to tell the hon. Minister of Communications that his Department is doing well. Nigerianisation in that Department is almost coming to its final fruition and I want to urge the hon. Minister to hasten the transformation processes.

I wish to remind the hon. Minister, however, that no effort has been made to build the post office at Ogbete in Enugu which had been approved by the Government two years ago. Let the hon. Minister look into this

[MR CHIEDOZIE]
matter very soon. There is much congestion in the Enugu Post Office, and a Post Office at Ogbete will serve the heavy population there and thus relieve this congestion. The land had been surveyed and all plans completed, yet the Post Office has not yet been built. The P. and T. will earn more revenue if this Post Office is built. Let the Minister of Communications hurry up and do this.

I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Defence, Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, and the Minister of State in charge of the Army, Hon. J. C. Obande, on their hard work and zeal to improve the conditions of our military forces and so to improve our defence strategy.

I have noticed that half a million pounds contract has been awarded for the completion of building reconstruction in the Enugu Army Barracks. This is excellent. In the same way, efforts should be made to cater for the education of the children of the Army officers. At the moment, for instance, in Kaduna there is no elementary school where these army officers' children can receive education. At Enugu, there is one built by the Municipal Council. If the education of the children of these army officers is well catered for, I think it will draw more people into the army.

I have also noticed that the hon. Minister of State in charge of Naval Forces, Mr M. T. Mbu, is infusing dynamism into the Navy. No more second-hand or obsolete ships are to be purchased. This is very progressive. I suggest, in addition, that Nigerians should be sent to countries like Germany, Japan, the U.S.A. for naval training, and not only to the United Kingdom.

In the sphere of education, I want to tell the hon. Minister of Education, Mr Aja Nwachuku, that we appreciate his efforts to accelerate intellectual freedom in Nigeria. It is a token of broad-mindedness on the part of the Government to transfer the Regional Branches of the College of Technology to the Ife University, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the University of the North respectively. This is a magnanimous and patriotic achievement by the hon. Minister of Education.

The envisaged building of Inter-Regional Colleges to promote one Nigeria is very commendable. The free-primary education

up to Standard Six in Lagos is also commendable. The advancement of the University College, Ibadan, and the bringing of educational experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to Nigeria to assist in our educational progress is most encouraging. I want to suggest that a big college like the King's College, Lagos, should be made to produce 150 students annually with West African School Certificates. The great amount of capital poured into it must reflect a corresponding increase in output.

All efforts must henceforth be directed to technical education in Nigeria. This is the age of technology and mechanisation, and without technical education, there will be no trained personnel to handle the industrial and agricultural machinery.

I want to say a little about our foreign relations. I am one of those opposed to the idea that we should go all out to acquire Fernando Po, and I must praise our Government's avowed policy of non-aggression towards all countries, big or small. The indigenous inhabitants of Fernando Po have a right to self-determination and, sooner or later, it will be left to them to achieve their own independence and determine their future relations with Nigeria and other countries for that matter. The policy of our Government had eloquently been stated over and over again—that Nigeria will not, because of her size and population, seek to dominate, acquire, or attack any other country, however big or small. We must adopt the same attitude towards Fernando Po, otherwise we will let down many other countries of Africa which look upon Nigeria as the bastion of democracy.

I must congratulate our Minister of Foreign Affairs on his brilliant performances at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. There is no doubt that Nigeria is gaining world-wide respect and admiration.

I must also congratulate the Minister of Information on his efforts to publicise Nigeria abroad. I want the Minister also to see to it that the recently installed television service in Lagos plays its part creditably. I am one of those who believe that there should be one over-all television service throughout the country. The East has its own television, the West has one, the North will soon have one, and now the

Federal Government has one. If there is no co-ordination between all these distinctive television services, I am afraid that the whole thing will amount to economic waste, especially in these days of austerity measures.

I have nothing but praise for our Judiciary. Our judges are absolutely independent and impartial in their dispensation of justice. Surely our Judiciary is a pride to all of us. If one looks round somewhere in Africa one will behold a sorrowful spectacle of how justice has been trampled to the ground and its dispensation shamefully based on political and personal considerations. In Nigeria it is not so at all, and I must wholeheartedly congratulate our Prime Minister on his present stand that the administration of justice must not be tampered with and that the hands of the law must be allowed to move untrammelled and unpoluted.

I now come to labour. Our Minister of Labour needs wholehearted commendation for the way he handles labour affairs generally. I support his stand in the way he is handling the affairs in connection with the Nigerian labourers in Fernando Po. I agree that all is not well there. But even in Nigeria, is it all well with our workers? Why do we cry wolf about Fernando Po? If the conditions are as bad as reported, why is it that thousands of Nigerian labourers continue to move to that place?

In the last parliamentary delegation to the Fernando Po, some arch-critics in the Opposition like hon. E. O. Eyo, hon. P. E. Ekanem and others were in the team. None of them returned to confirm that everything in that Island was unsatisfactory. I challenge them to tell the country what they saw there, otherwise critics must allow sleeping dogs to lie.

Economically, certain geographical factors are always responsible for mobility of labour. Labour moves to places where there are incentives to higher earnings, greater rewards and profitability. Our labourers move to Fernando Po because the conditions there are fairly favourable to them. Let our labourers go over to Fernando Po in hundreds and if possible to naturalise there. In fact it is said that Nigerians constitute 80 per cent of the total population. I also understand that the Bubis, the original owners, love Nigerians and would like to socialise with them. In due course the people's independence will be determined by the majority of the population.

While I admit that some criticisms are well-meaning, I also believe that some critics simply want Nigeria to go to war with Spain! This must be resisted by our Government.

The National Provident Fund established by the hon. Minister of Labour is one of the greatest achievements of this Government. There is no doubt that the Government is doing its best to alleviate the sufferings of the workers.

Let the hon. Minister see to it that the rift in our trade union front is finally settled. In this connection I must congratulate our respected Speaker and Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe and others who are doing their best to bring peace on our labour front. It will be a national calamity, in fact a national disgrace, if we continue to advertise to the outside world that our trade unions are not disciplined and are chaotic and full of factional bitterness.

I must also appeal to the Minister of Labour to probe into the conditions of workers in the Federal Palace Hotel. There is racial discrimination, there is victimisation, there are all sorts of anomalies going on there. Let the Government acquire this Hotel, if possible, and remove that image planted at the gates of the Hotel, as it does not reflect Nigerian dignity. Let a beautiful black image be placed there instead of the present white one.

While I congratulate the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, I wish him to see to it that the condition of houses of the Prison Warders is improved. The Warders' dwelling houses at Enugu are very old—there is no ventilation, no adequate accommodation. A person with a family of six or eight lives in quarters comprising only a room and a narrow verandah. Let there be a dynamic progressive housing policy for these Prison Warders.

The Deputy Speaker : May I remind the hon. Member that in all dynamism he should wind up in three minutes?

Mr Chiedozie : I must congratulate the hon. Minister of Mines and Power in his efforts to make indigenous participation in oil industry a feasibility. The controlling shareholding in favour of Nigeria in the proposed oil refinery to be built at Port Harcourt is most commendable.

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

In conclusion, I like to say that the progress so far made by our Government in all spheres of activity is most encouraging. The Government's fiscal and monetary measures are progressive. The 1962-68 economic development plan will place Nigeria on the first rung of our economic revolution. We must be proud of these achievements of a country which first won her freedom barely one year ago.

I beg to support.

The Deputy Speaker : May I remind the House that with the vast number of Members who want to speak, I do not think that a fair proportion will be able to speak if those called upon insist on using up the whole of thirty minutes.

12.33 p.m.

The Minister of Communications (Hon. Olu Akinfosile) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

A vitally important and extremely interesting stage has been reached in the progress and development of the Ministry of Communications which is now poised between two major Development Programmes, the one which has extended over the past seven years, 1955 to 1962, and the other which will extend over the next six years, 1962 to 1968. It is therefore a convenient and opportune time to survey the achievements of the past and to consider our hopes for the future. I should like, therefore, to take the opportunity presented to me in this debate to acquaint the hon. Members with the achievements of the past seven years before proceeding to a general outline of my policy intentions for the next six years.

My Ministry's main responsibilities lie in the field of Postal and Telecommunications Services. As hon. Members will recall, our Postal and Telecommunications Development Policy for 1955 to 1962 was detailed in Sessional Papers 4 and 8 of 1957. These papers ushered in a period of development without precedent in the history of the P. and T. Division; development which cost the huge sum of approximately £14 million. Before the commencement of that programme, an expert commission appointed to look into the affairs of the P. and T. Division had indicated that the organisation of the P. and T. Division and of P. and T. Services was in such a parlous state that, and I quote,

"It was extremely surprising that the whole P. and T. Services of the country had not collapsed".

The report went on to say that much of the equipment was out of date, buildings were substandard in many cases, overhead lines were suffering from lack of maintenance, and the standard of staff efficiency was extremely low. This was a very serious state of affairs which required drastic and radical action to rectify. It was for this reason that the Federal Government in 1955 embarked on a major programme of re-organisation and development of Postal and Telecommunications Services in Nigeria.

As a result, there has been a dramatic improvement in these services over the past seven years. This has been particularly apparent in Telecommunications services where there has, for example, been achieved an increase of no less than 520 *per cent* in the trunk channel miles. This great expansion in the trunk network has been achieved mainly as a result of the establishment of the VHF main line trunk system which now forms the backbone of our national telecommunications trunk network. Trunk development on this impressive scale has made it possible to achieve a threefold increase in the number of exchange lines and telephone instruments in use and a fourfold increase in the total number of trunk calls made *per annum*. During the Programme a total of 124 telephone exchanges were completed including twelve major automatic exchanges. In addition, a number of important new techniques and facilities have been introduced, such as subscriber trunk dialling between Lagos and Ibadan, rural carrier systems and rural automatic exchanges, a high-speed torn tape relay system to expedite telegraph transmission, and telex services both internal and international.

During the same period great improvements were made in postal services including the opening of 27 new Post Offices of full departmental status, 27 sub-Post Offices transacting a full range of postal business and 373 Postal Agencies. The introduction of the sub-Post Office system in 1957 to bridge the gap between the Postal Agencies and normal departmental Post Offices has been a complete success and has proved very popular with local communities.

It is significant and, I think, praiseworthy that these improvements in postal and telecommunications services were effected at the same time as the implementation of an effective policy of Nigerianisation by the P. and T. Division, and hon. Members will be pleased to note that during the seven years under review there has been a fourfold increase in the number of senior posts held by Nigerians. In 1956 60 per cent of the senior staff were expatriate; now only 20 per cent are expatriate and 80 per cent are Nigerian.

Apart from a very few projects which, owing to financial stringency and a lack of executive capacity will have to be carried over into the next programme of development, where they will be given priority, all the objectives of the 1955-62 Programme have been attained. I think hon. Members will agree with me that the achievements of the past seven years reflect considerable credit on the P. and T. Division.

Although the achievements of the past have been impressive and the telecommunications and postal services of to-day are so much better than those of 1955, it must be frankly admitted that our present Postal and Telecommunications services have still not yet attained that standard which is necessary to meet the stringent and growing demands of the modern Nigerian economy. We certainly cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

Even the considerable increases in postal and telecommunications services during the last seven years have not been sufficient to keep pace with Nigeria's growing demand for these services, and this demand must be met otherwise Nigeria's economic programme and development will be seriously hindered.

Therefore the future calls for even greater efforts on the part of the P. and T. Division. Fortunately, as a result of the achievements of the past seven years, we are well placed to mount the next programme, and we have a very firm basis upon which to build.

However, I wish to be perfectly frank with hon. Members and make it clear that, until the effects of the new Development Programme begin to be felt, there will be a difficult period when our already over-stretched telecommunications system will have to carry an even greater load. My engineers are constantly studying methods by which our present system

can be utilized to the maximum capacity and I have taken steps to cut off many telephones in the houses of Civil Servants and thus release more telephones for the use of the business community. (*Hear, hear*).

I am also, with the co-operation of my colleagues, bringing in measures to reduce the large number of trunk calls being made by Government Officers during the peak hours of 8 a.m. to mid-day; it is estimated that over 40 per cent of the trunk calls being made during this period are made by Government Officers. This is far too high a percentage and must be reduced if the commercial life of the country is to be adequately served.

I should now like to turn to consideration of our policy proposals for the development of postal and telecommunications services during the next six years. The Federal Government during this period proposes a capital expenditure of nearly £30 million upon these services of which £27.4 million will be spent on telecommunications and £2.3 million upon postal services.

Expenditure of this magnitude is essential in order to expand postal and telecommunications facilities sufficiently to cope with the rapidly growing needs of Nigeria. The expansion of the national telephone system is of particular importance to economic development and it is therefore proposed to instal 60,000 new telephone exchange lines during the period which will permit of the connection of over 100,000 additional telephones by the end of the programme. Major emphasis will be placed on the expansion of telex services, both internal and international, and on the extension of subscriber trunk dialling facilities to all the major commercial and industrial centres.

The initial phase of the programme will involve expenditure of £7.4 million. A major project to be included in this phase of development is the conversion of a national trunk telephone system from V.H.F. radio transmission 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.

The existing V.H.F. equipment will not of course be wasted but will be used on feeder trunk routes linking with the main trunk system. Other development during this initial

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]
phase will be concentrated upon major urban areas where commercial and industrial needs are acute and where the inadequacy of telecommunications could seriously endanger the success of the Government's Economic Programme on the whole.

The development proposed during this initial phase is of vital importance as it is an essential pre-requisite to the general expansion and improvement of telecommunications services throughout Nigeria, including those serving rural areas, on the tremendous scale envisaged during the latter stages of the 1962-68 Programme.

As regards postal services, it is proposed to continue to develop and expand these services during the next six years. The new programme involves the building of about 40 new Post Offices and the extension and modification of many others. The establishment of more sub-post offices and postal agencies will be encouraged so that postal facilities can be made readily available to as many people as possible. It is of course recognised that postal services must always be capable of meeting the needs of commerce and industry and to cope with the demand resulting from the rapidly growing literacy rate in this country.

Hon. Members will appreciate that at this stage only a broad and rather general indication of my development proposals can be given.

I and my staff have for the past few months been busily engaged in collecting data and information for the preparation of a detailed development plan covering the next six years. This is a formidable task which will not be completed for many months. However, it is my intention at the August meeting of this House to put before the Members a White Paper which will set out in some detail my development proposals for the 1962-68 period.

I can assure hon. Members that these proposals will be based on a most careful assessment of postal and telecommunications needs throughout Nigeria and in this connection I am proposing to undertake an extensive tour of the Northern Region and to visit all regional capitals in order to gain first hand knowledge of the requirements of the Regions. (*Hear, hear.*)

Hon. Members will be aware that I have recently paid official visits to a number of overseas countries. These visits have enabled me to obtain much information which will be extremely useful in the preparation of the Development Programme. I have learnt how countries with problems somewhat similar to ours are developing their postal and telecommunications services. I have also taken the opportunity to examine various types of telecommunications equipment which we are not familiar with in our own telecommunications system.

As hon. Members will know, over the past years we have concentrated upon the use of British telecommunications equipment in Nigeria. This equipment has served us well, but there is no reason why we should restrict ourselves to one source of supply; we should, I am convinced, regard the whole world as our market and we should endeavour to drive the best possible bargains we can in the purchase of our telecommunications equipment. (*Hear, hear.*)

I have also taken the opportunity, whilst in these countries, to study the organisation of their postal and telecommunications services and have gleaned many careful ideas which I hope to introduce during the course of the next Development Programme here in Nigeria.

I propose to expedite the preparation of detailed plans for the Development Programme by calling upon the assistance of international telecommunications consultants who will work under the direction of our senior Nigerian telecommunications engineers in the preparation of a detailed survey of our requirements and the drawing up of the necessary technical plans and specifications. It is necessary to utilise the services of consultants because the task of planning the £30 million Development Programme is far beyond the technical manpower resources at the immediate disposal of the P. and T. Division.

The P. and T. Division will certainly have to face a very difficult staffing problem during the period 1962-68. It will be extremely difficult to find sufficient staff of the right calibre and to meet the requirements of the capital development programme and also to meet the rapidly expanding recurrent commitments. Some use will be made of technical assistance personnel from foreign sources but their contribution though significant, will be of a marginal nature.

There is no doubt that the P. and T. Division will have to meet its staffing requirements almost entirely from Nigerian sources and this will involve a very heavy training commitment, requiring a major expansion in the training programme of the Division. Fortunately, this need was anticipated when the new block of buildings was erected for the P. and T. Training School at Oshodi during the 1955-62 Programme and this will be adequate to meet most of our training accommodation needs during the forthcoming development period. Moreover, territorial training schools were established in the Regional capitals during the last programme which will help to carry some of the burden during the next few years.

The training of technical officers is of great importance in view of their highly skilled and specialised duties, and during the course of the next Development Programme the training school at Oshodi will have to produce approximately 560 fully trained technical officers each of whom will have had a 3-4 years' course of intensive training in various aspects of telecommunications maintenance. In addition P. and T. training schools will have to cope with an annual intake of 800 technicians for various courses ranging from four to 13 weeks duration designed to familiarise them with the techniques essential to their duties. A variety of courses will also be run for postal staff, telephones, telegraph and telegraph operators.

The expansion of training envisaged will necessitate a three-fold increase in the training capacity of the P. and T. Division; and the gearing of the training schools to meet this commitment will involve a major reorganisation of training facilities in which particular emphasis will have to be placed on the Nigerianisation of the instructor cadre.

There will be very important developments in Nigeria's international telecommunications services in the 1962-68 Programme. The Federal Government has already decided that it is both politically and economically necessary for these services to be subject to effective governmental control and discussions are being held between the Ministry of Communications and the present operating company Messrs Cable and Wireless Limited, with a view to the transfer of the responsibility for Nigeria's international telecommunications services as

soon as possible to some suitable body in which the Federal Government will have a controlling interest.

The recent Conference of African and Malagasy States and also discussions with individual West African Governments have revealed a strong need and desire for the improvement of telecommunications facilities between Nigeria and certain adjacent and nearby African countries. This is a matter of considerable political and economic importance which will receive priority attention in the forthcoming Programme.

Priority will also be given to the expansion and improvement of telecommunications services with overseas countries generally; Nigeria's participation in world affairs, both politically and economically, will be seriously hindered if these services are neglected. Provided they are developed wisely, they are capable of providing a fruitful source of revenue.

I am particularly anxious that the Post Office Savings Bank should play its full part as a convenient and safe repository for small savings during the forthcoming development programme. Certain steps have already been taken to improve the attractiveness of the Bank for potential savers and I intend to introduce further measures in consultation with my Colleague, the Minister of Finance, to improve the facilities of the Bank. These measures will include the raising of the limitation on the amount which may be deposited during any one year in a personal Savings Account. I am, however, convinced that the Bank cannot be operated successfully unless steps are taken to improve its organisation and management. This matter is under careful consideration at the moment and I hope I will be in a position to introduce necessary measures within the next few months.

There is one final matter I should like to mention concerning the P. and T. Division. The Division, although a department of Government, is nevertheless a quasi-commercial organisation providing a range of services necessary to all sections of the community, and of particular importance to commercial and industrial interests. I and my advisers are convinced that the Postal and Telecommunications Services cannot be properly developed

[MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]
to meet the requirements of the Nigerian economy and that proper standards of courtesy and efficiency cannot be achieved unless the P. and T. Division is operated on sound and progressive commercial lines. I have therefore accepted this as a major policy objective during the forthcoming Programme, and, as it is a matter of such crucial importance for the future, I propose to introduce a White Paper before the end of this Budget Meeting containing a detailed policy statement on the adoption of commercial principles in the Division of Postal and Telecommunication Services.

In conclusion, I should like to turn briefly to the affairs in the Meteorological Division of my Ministry. This is a small Government Department which has no direct contact with members of the public and so as a result rarely gets any publicity or recognition for its services which are literally of vital importance particularly to international aviation.

Let me place on record here and now my thanks to those who provide these services—a group of small but efficient officers and I would go so far as to described them as dedicated personnel.

During the forthcoming Programme Meteorological Services will be expanded to provide additional services for aviation and particular attention will be given to the provision of information for the purposes of hydrology and agriculture.

Hon. Members will be pleased to know that the African Regional Association of the World Meteorological Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations Organisation, has recommended that a training school for Meteorologists should be located in Nigeria based on our Meteorological Training School at Oshodi to serve the needs of African countries in this part of Africa. This, I consider, pays a high tribute to the standard of our Meteorological Services in Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to support.

12.59 p.m.

M. Umaru Gela (Mubi) : On behalf of the entire people of Sardauna Province, I congratulate the Federal Government on its achievement since the present Government came into power. It is also my responsibility to speak on the problems and requests of the people of my constituency.

I wish to speak on the problems facing us in this new Sardauna Province with respect to agriculture, communication, transport, education and health. I am sure hon. Members and you, Sir, Mr Speaker, are aware of the problems facing us in that part of this great country.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mallam Umaru Gela (Mubi) : I wish to remind you, Sir, and hon. Members of this House of the reasonable, well-thought out, well presented and highly exciting plan for the development of our great country, the cornerstone of the continent, presented to us recently by His Excellency, the Governor-General. We all know the problem of development which confronts this country, and we must solve that problem on a national basis.

I intend only to speak for my own constituency, albeit in the hope that thereby, I may render some slight service to my province and my country.

I wish to call attention to the following matters of concern to the people of my constituency. There is a dire need for the establishment of agricultural research facilities in my province, so as to determine most definitely the best means to work for the progress of my people and the country. I would like the Federal Government to establish a survey mission in order to determine the ways and means by which such an agricultural research programme may be put under way.

The people of my constituency suffer gravely under the terrible agricultural handicaps imposed by soil erosion. The North Regional Government is fully alert to the problem of preventing this natural disaster, and, as is well known to you, Mr Speaker, as well as to hon. Members of this House, it has already undertaken certain investigations into the ways of redressing this calamity. It is my belief that the onslaught of soil erosion is a national disaster, and I respectfully suggest that the Federal Government should take over from the Regional Governments the task of arranging to eliminate this local and national evil.

There is an acute need for the precised determination of the boundaries of the Sardauna Province. There remains a question in my

mind as to whether the present-day boundaries of the Province are as they were in the past. I suggest that, in the name of justice and national righteousness, a Federal survey be instituted to redress errors or to still the fears of iniquities in the current boundary demarcations.

I humbly suggest that the Federal Government should institute programmes to enhance the quality of veterinary service in this great nation. This is of considerable concern to me and to my people, as Members know in this House. My Province has contributed greatly to the quality and quantity of cattle-rearing and the supply of beef to the Eastern and Western Regions of Nigeria as well as to some other areas in and about Lagos. The welfare of these cows is of no small concern to me as a representative of the people of Sardauna Province.

I further suggest that, with the proper care of our cattle herds, there will be little need for the importation of Argentina beef, as was condemned by the hon. Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) a few days ago.

I wish to point out that my great Province, if given a proper veterinary service, will be in a position to make Nigeria self-sufficient in beef products. I wish to call the attention of this House to the fact that the progress of the nation in this regard depends to a large extent on access to markets and on provincial and inter-regional road communications.

I wish to enlist the co-operation of the House in the realisation of national progress. I believe that progress will be made and the nation will be well served by the building of roads as follows: Bama-Mubi road *via* Gwoja-Madogali-Miciku, Damaturu-Mubi road *via* Little Gombe. Another road from Mubi-Maiha Sarau Bellel to connect Nigeria with the Camerouns Republic at Garuwa—the nearest road to Mubi from Cameroun Republic.

As we have observed often, and as His Excellency the Governor-General's Message to this august body so ably pointed out, education is a vital need in our country. Educational facilities mean progress for our people, and to have educated people is a resource of the nation second to none. Educational facilities in my

Province are lacking both in quality and in quantity. I therefore appeal to the Federal Government to take steps to help the Sardauna Province to improve its educational facilities. If a detailed survey of this is carried out, then the education needs of my people will be brought to a higher level commensurate with the needs of the nation predestined by history and geography to become the leader of Africa, if not the world.

Despite my previous remarks as to the importance of education as a national resource, I must admit now that a second aspect of society's state is at least equal in importance to that of education. The health of society, the eradication of disease, and the teaching of better health habits are of vital concern to all thinking people, and it is so in my province, in Nigeria, and to everyone in the whole world. The facilities for the promotion of health and for the prevention of disease in Sardauna Province are meagre indeed.

There are but three General Hospitals in the whole area, and the clinics and dispensaries are few and far between—far too few to serve effectively the needs of people. I appeal to the Government for its sympathy and aid in giving us additional clinics and dispensaries in the Sardauna Province.

I beg the indulgence of this august body for mentioning one additional matter of considerable concern to me. It is industrialisation in the Province. It is undoubtedly well known to you that the Sardauna Province abounds in the growing of pepper. What is the sense of importing large amounts of foreign pepper if we have the advantage and proper facilities for refinement and preparation? We can produce the commodity ourselves. (*Hear, hear.*)

I appeal to the Federal Government to help the Sardauna Province by helping to establish a pepper factory at Mubi, as well as banking facilities through which to finance and serve the growing industry if brought into being.

I beg to support.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot-Ekpene South): The Prime Minister should tour the whole Federation, because of the proverb which says that charity begins at home.

[MR AFANIDEH]

I would like to say that many of the Ministers have the tendency of leaving their places instead of remaining in the House to listen to the debate and the contributions of the Members. They have the tendency to disappear. I feel that they should stay here and listen to the points raised by various Members. This helps the Government to know the various points raised by Members before they consolidate their plans together and implement their policies.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana) : On a point of information, even though some Ministers may not be here, it will interest hon. Members to know that everyday Ministers go through the *Hansard* and know what each Member has contributed to the debate.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Further to that point of information, I think that the Parliamentary Secretary should be ashamed of himself for suggesting that Members should come here to speak to empty Bench. When Ministers are not here how can they consider all the points raised ?

The Prime Minister, who is the head of this Government, is here already but the Ministers under him are not here. Are we joking with this gigantic Programme of Economic Development ? The Leader of the House is here. Will he tell us the reason why Ministers are not here ?

Mr Speaker : Is the hon. Minister of Finance raising a point of information or a point of order ?

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House : I am raising a point of information, and my hon. Friend has yielded. Quite honestly the Member for Ijebu South who had been hibernating for a long time, has come again with one of his mischief making. He knows quite well that we have collective responsibility on the Government Bench, and that whether my other colleagues are here or not, at least at the time of speaking I have here my hon. Colleague and Friend, the Attorney-General, right with me and, apart from that, I have my colleagues the Parliamentary Secretaries as well as the Government Chief Whip. They are all here.

Therefore I think that my hon. Friend can say why the Leader of the Opposition has vanished from this House. He has vanished from this House for days now, and we hope that he will resurrect on Wednesday.

However, I am sure that my Friends on the Opposition will appreciate that the Government is quite aware of its responsibilities. My colleagues have other duties to attend to, and besides, I have implicit confidence in the ability and brains of the supporters of the Government here and there to reply to any points raised.

Several Opposition Members rose—

Mr Speaker : Order ! I think we have taken enough of Mr Afanideh's time.

Mr Afanideh : I am sorry that they have wasted my time. Before I proceed with my speech I have a few observations to make.

First of all, I want to elucidate some of the points made by the Members of the Government, that the Opposition Members are pouring words of encomiums on the Government. It must be understood that during the 1960-61 Budget Session the Leader of the Opposition and many other Members of the Opposition reiterated on the Floor of this House the importance of forming a national economic programme, and I think it was this suggestion put forward by the Opposition that spurred the Government into taking this step.

If we are to give praise to the Government therefore the first praise should go to the Opposition, and at the same time the next goes to the Government. We must say that we are prepared to criticise the Government if they go wrong and to praise the Government if their policies are conducive to the wishes of the majority of our people in Nigeria.

One of the things which make us commend the Government is the production of the Economic Programme, and we must call a spade a spade and not an agricultural implement. Hon. Members are aware that many Members had not been given the opportunity to speak and so I am calling on the Government to suspend the Standing Order, so that Members may be able to have time to present the wishes of their constituencies.

I hope that Members will agree with me that the obnoxious order of the Ministry of Communications, that 24,000 units should be the volume of work to be produced from any postal agency before it is fit for consideration should be amended, because many rural areas have not been privileged to benefit by these postal services. I am calling on the Government to amend this.

I hope that distance should not be the criterion of a consideration; rather I think that when the people have the need for postal services it should be very well understood that they should be provided with these amenities.

There is another point that I want to bring to the notice of the Government. It is the question of radio communication, that is, radio licensing. The Minister has laid it down that everybody who owns a radio should pay a sum of ten shillings every year. I think this is a complete failure, because only very few people pay this, and this is a loss to the Government. This law is nothing. It is very sad that it does not help the Government to realise the revenue which it envisages.

Therefore, I suggest that this should be left in the hands of Local Councils, so that as soon as they collect this they will pay to the Divisional Treasury for onward transmission to the Government Treasury. A sub-committee should also be formed in each of the district or divisional headquarters, and perhaps a few policemen should be employed to do this job.

We are happy that the Government has listened to the wishes of our people, and is prepared to encourage Agriculture in rural areas. I would like to warn that wherever the Government sees that an area has enough land, they should go to establish a farm settlement there and not play politics with it. Let us remember that we are all Nigerians.

Also in our National Anthem we say that we want to build a nation where no one is oppressed; but I want to say that at the moment we are trying to follow a policy where the rich is becoming richer and the poor is becoming poorer. We must try to eradicate this.

We are happy to see that the Government has done a lot for the Lagos area. The people of Lagos enjoy a lot of amenities. They have free primary education and many other amenities.

Those of us from the provinces are not jealous of them, but rather we hope that the Federal Government would co-operate with the Regional Governments to see that they extend equal benefits to the areas under the Regional Governments. It is gratifying to see that the children in the Federal territory of Lagos are receiving free Primary Education.

An hon. Member : Unlike the East !

Mr Afanideh : In the Eastern Region the parents of school children are suffering. I am sorry to refer to this Mr Speaker. I hope that I will not be ruled out. I am only doing so in order to advance certain points which will help me to substantiate my point.

In the Eastern Region children in Standards V and VI pay £8 a year while children in Standards III and IV pay £5. The parents of these children find this very difficult to do as they also have to pay their taxes.

Mr Speaker : This is a matter you should raise when we reach the Committee Stage. At this stage we just want general talks on the financial policy.

Mr Afanideh : The aim of the National Economic Programme is to mobilise agriculture and industry; to accelerate the diversification of our economy; to extend employment opportunities; to strengthen community development spirit and to strengthen the present structure of our economy. We are very grateful to our leaders who were responsible for its formation. But we shall go a long way if our leaders will unite and see to it that they have the same educational policy in all the Regions of the Federation because I do not think that the unity of Nigeria is at the moment complete since the various Regions have different educational policies. I urge our leaders, therefore, to see that this error is corrected. We shall be very grateful if they do so.

Loans should be given to the people irrespective of their political affiliation. I will go on to say that whatever money is given to the Regional Governments by the Federal Government should be used by the Regional Governments to help the people in their regions by way of loans.

The Government should establish a *gari* industry in the Eastern Region because there is a lot of cassava in that Region. The establish-

[MR AFANIDEH]

ment of such an industry will provide employment for a lot of our youths there and they will be able to earn their living in that way.

I want to suggest that there should be more excursions among our secondary and teacher training colleges throughout the Federation. This will give birth to the formation of a national educational council for the entire Federation and the beginning of unity among our people.

Adult education should be encouraged in all the rural areas. A higher teacher training college where secondary school subjects are taught should be established in each of the twelve provinces, if possible, so that our Grade II teachers could be trained to become efficient tutors in our colleges.

It appears that Teachers' Certificate examination results are delayed. I appeal to the Government to see to it that the results are released much earlier to enable candidates who might be unfortunate to be referred to have enough time to prepare for a second attempt.

The proposed University of Lagos is very much appreciated. I associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by many speakers who have spoken before me. But I hope that this University is intended to be second to none in Africa and, if possible, in the whole world.

I wish to talk a little about Lagos. The people of Lagos must be very happy that God made them to be Lagosians who have enough of amenities. I want to say, however, that Lagos has become a place where hooligans and people who have no trade have come to stay. These people do not pay tax and it appears that internal revenue collection in Lagos is not effective because many people except those working in offices do not pay tax.

An hon. Member : How do you know that ?

Mr Afanideh : It is a fact and if the Inland Revenue Department carries out an extensive and effective investigation it will find that many people except the working class have not paid their taxes. Such people should be taken to court and prosecuted.

Many hon. Members have already spoken about this question of the Federal Palace Hotel. It was my belief that this Hotel belonged to the Federal Government. I do not know why the Ministers who were respon-

sible for the matter allowed A. G. Leventis to possess it. Such an action is not certainly in the interest of this country and I think that the sooner the Government takes it over the better it will be. If they had named the hotel A. G. Leventis Palace Hotel, it would be understandable but I do not know the interpretation attached to the present name. Was it so named to deceive visitors that the hotel belongs to Nigeria when it in fact belongs to A. G. Leventis ?

I want to speak briefly on defence. I am happy that the National Defence Council has been formed. I appeal to the Government to ensure that Ex-servicemen have their representatives on the Council. After all, they are the people who can help to defend this country, more effectively than those of us who are hon. Members. Not many of us can run ; most of us are too big ; and we cannot even defend ourselves. (*Hear, hear*).

I want also to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that some of our soldiers ought to be posted to the border towns in our Federation like Calabar because I think that we are not very well protected. It is a fact that Nigeria is not an aggressive country but we should be on the alert. One of the ways in which this could be done is by posting our soldiers to our borders.

I think that the training of our soldiers should be intensified and I have, at the same time, to thank the hon. Minister of Defence for the efforts that have been made to improve the conditions of their service. I hope that this will help to entice some of our secondary school leavers to join the Army.

I would like to say a few words about commerce and industry. The people of the rural areas have suffered enough in this direction and I think that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry should try as much as possible to see to it that industries are established in the rural areas. Many hon. Members have also spoken in this vein. It is not only Ibadan, Lagos, Onitsha, Aba, Umuahia, Kaduna, Kano, Zaria and other big towns which make up Nigeria. In actual fact, a lot of the hon. Members of this House are from the rural areas which are also part of Nigeria. I urge the Government to extend amenities to people in the rural areas because they also pay tax.

The hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry should also try to visit Ikot Ekpene. There is a very good *rafia* industry which has been going on there but owing to lack of funds the industry is not faring well. This *rafia* industry could be one of the ways by which Nigeria could project its personality and advertise itself to the outside world. One needs only to see the articles produced to be convinced that they are of very high quality and that the people deserve some kind of encouragement as they are doing a lot to project the Nigerian personality.

I would like to say a word about the vocational schools. I hope that when the Government will consider the question of establishing a vocational school it will consider Central Annang as one of the important areas. There is water supply from a big river and I am sure this will provide electricity for some of the neighbouring towns.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that one of the things it must do for the citizens of this country is to raise the prices of their produce. One of the products I want to emphasise is the palm produce. Our palm oil is not sold for a good price. Therefore, I would like the Government to see that the prices are raised for oil, cocoa, groundnut, *et cetera*. At the same time, I want to say that the buyers of palm oil in the East have a method of buying it—they deceive the women by rejecting good oil and saying that it is bad and persuade the women to throw it away. I do not know into which river they throw the bad oil. But these buyers go to buy the good oil they say is bad and sell it for a higher price. I want the Government to see that this practice is stopped.

Last year, I said that there was a great need for providing the people of the old Calabar Province with a railway line. I think it is better for the Government to extend the railway line from Aba to Ikot Ekpene, Uyo, Abak and Oron to link Calabar because this will help trade and industry to improve.

I would like to say a few words about the Ministry of Information. I hope that after the forthcoming census the Government will be able to know the number of people from the various tribes who reside in Lagos. I think there are many Efiks in this town, so I want to

urge the Minister of Information to see that these people also enjoy the news in their own vernacular. This means that if possible Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation should extend the time for the news broadcast so that the illiterate citizens may be able to enjoy this privilege too.

My next point is about the supply of electricity which is proposed for Ikot Ekpene next year. I would like to tell the Minister of Mines and Power that we would very much appreciate it if this amenity could be extended to the neighbouring towns such as Uyo, Abak, Opobo, Eket and Oron.

I wish to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of Police to the fact that the police quarters in Ikot Ekpene is very bad and the offices are old and need to be rebuilt. It is high time the Government provide the Police Post in that area with a land rover so that the police may be able to use it as their local transport.

Mr Speaker : Order. All this is not speaking on the general financial policy.

Mr Afanideh : I congratulate the Minister of Finance for the Budget Speech which he has presented and I say that it is the Opposition that is responsible for such a good budget speech.

I beg to support.

3.43 p.m.

Mr N. N. Onugu (Nsukka East) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which was ably and eloquently moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. One does not need to be a trained economist to see the great future that lies ahead if this grand idea of the Government becomes a reality. On the other hand, the failure of the plan is bound to bring disaster and untold hardship to the millions of people in this country.

The purposes of the Government are shown in both the speech of the Minister of Finance and that of the Minister of Economic Development. These are to raise the national output and make our nation prosperous and great. It is also the intention of the Government to distribute the national income in such a way that some people are not excessively rich while

[MR ONUGU]
others are miserably poor. These are fine ideas if only they can become a reality. My only fear is that the purpose which the Government wants to achieve can be defeated by the too stern measures which the Government has adopted.

The purpose of taxing every imaginable commodity is to raise money for the repayment of the loan. Unfortunately, this does not work out like that. Every section of the community has raised the prices of its production: the prices of *gari*, yam, meat, all types of cotton clothes, *et cetera*, have been raised. These are just those things which the so-called poor persons need. There is no special market for the poor and none for the rich. The tax measures therefore hit the poor harder and defeat the purpose of the Government.

Take another example of the structure of the African family. If one person has the means, tens and hundreds of his relatives and near relatives depend on him. If one renders him poor by imposing excessive taxes one is directly punishing the ordinary man. If a wealthy man sends ten children to secondary schools and then one renders him poor by imposing heavy taxes the only way open to the man is to adopt the European family system by catering only for his own wife and children. The thousands who depend on him will all be thrown off to constitute a problem to the Government. Crime wave will be increased, street begging will be increased and juvenile delinquency will be the order of the day. How is the Government guarding against these obvious and inevitable evil consequences of the austerity measures?

Another point I want to raise is the concentration of amenities in townships like Lagos. Townships must grow, I agree, but it should not be the policy of the Government to concentrate industrial developments in few towns.

Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North): On a point of order. Quite often the main criticism of this hon. Member is against any Member reading his speech. Could he show good examples?

Mr Speaker: I have already asked hon. Members to refrain from reading their speeches.

Mr Onugu: New towns must be created to solve the problems of high rents, congestion and

the social evils that accompany them. Nigeria is big enough to take the increasing population, but this can only be evenly distributed if industrial projects are carried to the villages.

Moreover, I have a few observations to make on the whole scheme of development as they affect my Division, Nsukka, a Division of half a million people: it is both the largest Division in the Eastern Region and the most spastic in growth.

I take this opportunity to remind the Federal Government that Nsukka is inadequately served by telephones and telegraph facilities. At the moment only a single post office has a regular telephone line. There are no telephones at the following Council Headquarters: Enugu Ezike, Ikenu and Ozuwane. These Councils offices are long over-due for the supply of these facilities so as to facilitate contact between them and other Government offices.

Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North): On a point of order. Will Mr Speaker please take the paper away from him?

Mr Speaker: Order. That might make it impossible to make the speech.

An hon. Member: The hon. Member of the Opposition (*Mr Odebunmi*) is too much in the habit of raising points of order.

Mr Onugu: I was saying that telephones should be installed in order to facilitate contact and consultation with other offices. I need not stress too strongly the need to provide these amenities in the ever growing community of Nsukka. As I said, apart from its pride of population—the largest Division in the Eastern Region—it now enjoys the name of a university town. Hon. Members will, I am sure, realise what this means.

I would like the Minister of Communications to take special note and to consider my request that telegraph lines be extended to these Council Headquarters. Since the establishment of the University two years ago, there has been increase of communications in the academic and social fields. There have been occasions of international visits to Nsukka. Such visitors often like to go to the surrounding countryside on sight-seeing. It is therefore desirable that the administrative headquarters

of these local government institutions which virtually provide the basis for contact in the areas, should be provided with telephones and telegraph facilities. Apart from the initial cost of installation, the local authorities are quite prepared to meet the cost of running these amenities with their own funds.

It is also regrettable to note that the university of Nsukka does not enjoy a 24 hour—telephone service. I therefore appeal very strongly to the Minister of Communications to introduce forthwith a 24 hour-telephone service at Nsukka.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Sanni Gezawa (Gezawa): I should like to associate myself with those who congratulated the Minister of Finance. Certainly the Budget shows a marked and progressive improvement when compared with the previous year's Budget. The Budget Speech left no stone unturned and really shows that the Federal Government has a genuine intention to help the people of this country. I assure the Government that the people of this country are all out to co-operate.

We welcome the Federal Government's intention to take part in the national insurance business of this country. It is only by doing so that the Government will be in a position to know all the secrets of these insurance companies that have been making huge profits in our country. It is also my sincere hope that the Government will not only take part in this insurance business, but will eventually Nigerianise the insurance companies.

I congratulate the Federal Government on giving such a large place to agriculture in the Economic Development Plan. Nigeria is naturally an agricultural country and every Nigerian is by nature a farmer, so the Government's proposals on agriculture as contained in the present scheme have received overwhelming welcome from the public.

Nigeria has a vast and uncultivated area of land which is left fallow due to lack of modern methods of farming. I therefore hope that the money earmarked for this project will not only be spent on research alone, but will also be put into practical use. I mean that farm centres should be established

all over the country whereby local farmers should be drawn in to learn modern devices of farming.

That is not all that should be done in this regard. These farmers should also be financed in the form of loans so that they can put what they have already learnt into practice on their own piece of land. This assistance should only go to the farmers who show determination and willingness to put into practice what they have learnt. The Northern Region, being the largest Region and one of the biggest areas of fallow land, should receive priority in this project.

Turning to education, it is always the wish of our sister Regions to help the Northern Region to catch up in order to make the forward march of our country a little bit faster. In fact, some parts of the country have said that they will help us and have promised that they will allocate University places to our Northern brothers. Here is a simple solution to their wish. The Federal Government has put aside a large sum of money for education all over the country. Instead of wasting our own resources, let them allow us to take a large share in its scheme. This is necessary. This is true patriotism and not the mere repetition of the political slogan of "one Nigeria", "one Nigeria" when one part of the country is not allowed to be happy on this occasion.

Turning to communications, we are not very happy, especially in the North, about what is going on in the Ministry of Communications. The other day, questions were asked about how many sub-Post Offices have been converted into Post Offices and how many sub-Post Offices were established in the Northern Region: the answer was nil. I would like the Minister to consider the North as part of the country. It is, in fact, a shameful thing. We know that a very large new Post Office was built recently at Kano. But having a Post Office without sub-Post Offices is just like having a University without Secondary Schools and Primary Schools to feed it.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

4 p.m.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : I wish to support the Appropriation Bill ably presented by Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, the Federal Minister of Finance. In doing so, I will like to take advantage of the undertaking which he gave to this House, that those Members who had no opportunity of contributing to the debate on the Speech from the Throne would be privileged to do so during the debate on the Appropriation Bill.

Various Members have paid tributes to the Government, and I cannot do otherwise but to follow suit. In doing so, I will like to start from our Prime Minister under whose reign this country is living in peace, without victimisation and deportation. People have given causes in this country to be deported, and if things were to go as in some other countries, I am sure that many people would have been deported. As we are still living in peace in this country, I think that all honour and glory should go to the Prime Minister. As I have always said, the ambition of our Prime Minister is not to build a financial empire around himself ; his aim and ambition is to see that this country is united (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order. There are far too many interruptions to be tolerated. I think that Members should co-operate in this respect. There should not be any more interruptions.

Chief Okunowo : The Prime Minister believes in contentment, which is next to Godliness. It is share waste of time trying to tell the world what sort of a Prime Minister we have, but as far as I am concerned, I believe that he is doing his best. He is the one who is going to bring these people together to live in peace and harmony.

On this occasion, I must speak about the Speaker of the House for his sense of humour and impartiality. But I think that the time has now come for the order by which we speak in this House to be amended. When this House started some two years ago, we know the number on the Opposition Side ; but now, the number is going down because there have been so many carpet-crossers who have deserted *these* seats. I think that what we should now do is that there should be a ratio or proportion by which we speak, so that there should be two speakers from *this* side as against one from the

Government side. At the moment, if we allow things to go in this order, no Member of the Opposition will have any opportunity to say anything.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : This ratio will come into force when people have stopped crossing the carpet. They have not stopped yet.

Chief Okunowo : I cannot but also pay tribute to the Members of the Civil Service, Public Boards and Corporations for their services.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : Very honestly, this is the Budget Speech and not the Speech from the Throne, and the hon. Chief is completely out of order by pouring praises on people who are not in the House.

Chief Okunowo : The members of the Civil Service have also contributed their quota towards the smooth running of this Government and on an occasion like this, I do not think that we should leave them untouched. I think that they deserve the praise of this House for the services they have done.

I must also pay tribute to our Defence Forces, the Ministry of Defence, the Navy and the Police, and in particular our indefatigable Inspector-General of Police who, we understand from the Press, will be leaving this country very shortly. I am sure that the whole House will wish him well in his retirement.

I also like to mention the members of the Diplomatic Service abroad. They too, wherever they are stationed, are also contributing to the smooth running of our Government, and on an occasion like this, we must remember those at home and abroad.

I also like to thank the Prime Minister for appointing Senator Majekodunmi as the Minister of Health. (*Interruptions*).

Mr K. Giadom (Ogoni West) : Will the Opposition Members, especially the front benchers, allow the hon. Gentleman to speak and not to have him mortgage his conscience.

Chief Okunowo : I also like to mention the Minister of Economic Development. When one listens to the Economic Programme of the Government, one sees that there is a lot of substance in our Minister of Economic

Development and also in Senator Majekodunmi. These two Gentlemen are the right men in the right places. One sees that the Minister of Economic Development is a pure businessman who knows much about business. In the same way, one sees from the Ministerial Statement by the Minister of Health that he knows what he is talking about with regard to the Ministry of Health.

I appeal to the Prime Minister to ensure that our Ministers do have regular consultations with their counterparts in the Regions. We have started to see the beauty of consultation which exists in the Economic Programme. *United we stand, divided we fall.* It has a lot of beauty that commends itself to the House, and I would like the Government to intensify these consultations.

Also, we have heard the policy of our Government to be that of non-alignment. As I said two days ago, I would like this policy not to be on paper only but to be something practical. We say that we do not hate people abroad. I would go further to advocate that we open our doors to people, but not at the expense of our sovereignty. In the same way, I like to ask our Government to insist that this policy followed not only in words but also in deed. The Government has not given us the reason why they did not invite Eastern Germany and Russia to participate in our exhibition. We would like to have all countries.

When we say that we have no animosity against anybody we must prove it. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to see that these people are allowed to participate in our exhibition. After all we can trade with any country. Even now, it seems to us that the people whom we are fighting for are not appreciating it.

Western Germany, for example, gave us more money than Great Britain that we have served for almost one hundred years. We should open our doors to those who are willing to be our friends. And we should not force ourselves to only one nation all the time. We should go to Czechoslovakia to see the Bata Shoe Company there.

I would like to appeal now to the Government to reconsider our relations with France. We sent them away from this country. And now that things are changing we should reconsider our stand. We must consider the stand now taken by General de Gaulle on

Algeria. General de Gaulle is now fighting for Africa, and as such we should be able to show to the French people that, since we now see that they are friends to the African people, we too are prepared to be their friends. If we think that the French are going to apply we should not lose sight of the fact that they may not, for prestige reasons. We sent them out and if we feel that they are doing what we like we should recall them.

An hon. Member : But they have been here. Do you want to go and beg them ?

Chief Okunowo : We are not begging. It is a friendly issue.

I would also like to appeal to the Prime Minister to ensure that all the Ministers in charge of public boards and corporations take a more vigilant attitude about the boards and corporations under their Ministries. I remember very well that when the Prime Minister was the Minister of Transport he discovered that something bad was going on in the Ports Authority and he never allowed any public inquiry to be held in that corporation. He took immediate action which made it unnecessary for a public inquiry to be conducted.

There can never be smoke without fire. At the moment we hear hon. Members attacking some Boards and Corporations. I feel that there must be something wrong somewhere. They are not doing that for the fun of it. The Minister in charge may defend the Board on the Floor of this House, but I feel that there must always be something there.

The Prime Minister should tell these Ministers: "Look here, you are in charge of Ports ; you are in charge of the Railway, and so on. You must go and see that there is no complaint. When people begin to complain about your Ministry it shows your inefficiency". The Ministers should follow the example of the Prime Minister by ensuring that there is no cause for Members of the House to be calling for an inquiry into the affairs of the Boards which they are responsible for.

I do not know whether what I am going to say now will be to the dislike of my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, but I cannot help it. On this particular occasion I must pay special tribute to the Prime Minister for taking the bold stand which he took when there was a

[CHIEF OKUNOWO]

false rumour that law and order in the Western Region had broken down. But for the Prime Minister there would have been more troubles.

If on that occasion he believed that law and order had actually broken down, there would have been more trouble. It is indeed a good thing that the Prime Minister stood by his conviction that he was not going to do anything about the rumours.

I now want to turn to my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance. We all know that the man that is commonly criticised in this House is the Minister of Finance. I think that one of the reasons why people criticise him so much is because not many people knew him before he became the Minister. But he should not expect everybody in this world to like him. I am sure that as a Christian he should have known that some will hate him while others may like him. He must try to sift some out and look above them.

In this world people criticise a person, whatever he may do. People might have been thinking that since Chief Okotie-Eboh is the Minister of Finance he controls all the money of the country and as such stands to be attacked every now and again. But once his conscience is clear he should carry on with his work and I am sure that the Government is always behind him.

Mr P. E. Ekanem : Is the hon. Gentleman supporting him or what ?

Chief Okunowo : I am supporting him and he will continue to have my support.

Chief A. F. Odulana : My hon. Friend, the Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief E. O. Okunowo*), said that quite a number of us did not know who Chief Okotie-Eboh was before he became the Minister of Finance. But I happen to have known him since 1950. He has not changed ; he still retains his usual size. But I can assure him that if we go into the ring I will give him a technical knock out !

Chief Okunowo : I think that the hon. Member for Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) is confirming what I said earlier about the Minister of Finance. He has known him for many years and, according to him the Minister has not changed. So he remains to be the good man that he has always been.

I would now like to make some few suggestions to the hon. Minister of Finance. Many things have been said about smuggling and false declarations to the Board of Customs. But if there were no buyers there would be no sellers. Now we should ask the Government to legislate that if anybody is found in possession of smuggled goods, both the smuggler and the receiver of the goods smuggled are equally guilty.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of information, if the Government were to adopt Chief Okunowo's suggestion on smugglers and their agents, the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) would not be here !

Mr W. O. Briggs : On a point of order, I protest at what the Minister of Finance has just said ; it is very unparliamentary.

Chief Okunowo : It seems that the people engaged in these bad practices have been let off with fines that are not creating any repressive effects on them. I would suggest that if a man were to be found in possession of smuggled goods the Government should seize those goods and in addition ask him to pay something which would be ten times the value of those goods. If he has got ten houses it should be assumed that those ten houses are ill-gotten ones. But when they know that when they are caught it is not only the goods found in their immediate possession which will be siezed but also that what they had before will be confiscated, I am sure that they will think twice before they engage themselves in this bad business.

Furthermore, the people who deal in the business of smuggling should be given long term imprisonment. If, for example, a man has made a business of £10,000 and was caught and sentenced to three months imprisonment he will just consider that when he is discharged he will come back to meet his £10,000 safely. Thus, he will say that it pays him to go to jail for three months rather than give up the money. The Government should therefore see to it that these people are asked to pay heavy fines and in addition serve a long term of imprisonment.

I can assure the House that this is the only way to rid this country of this bad business of smuggling. Giving them three or four

months' imprisonment will not suffice. The Government must put its feet down to drive this bad practice away from this country, and it must be eradicated despite the fact that it is a chronic disease which has eaten deep into the root of our economy.

There is another practice going on in the Customs. Take the case of alcohol; items 1 to 4 were not dutiable, items 5 to 8, and so on, were dutiable. So people knew when they were importing items 1 to 4 that they were not dutiable and they declared on the invoices those undutiable items. It is only quite recently that the Minister of Finance changed those items, but there are still some anomalies of that nature that I would like the Minister of Finance to pay attention to and to see that they are removed.

Not only that; the question of examination in the Customs leaves very much to be desired. Some people will order curtains and declare that they are second-hand and by that they get away with the customs duty. The Government should not allow Customs Officers to stay longer than is necessary in any one station; the longer they stay there the more they get into bad practices. (*Hear, hear*).

Coming to this question of profiteering, I am afraid I cannot agree with the statement made by the Minister of Finance. If there is any cause for profiteering the Government started it. Four or five days before the announcement was made, no boat was allowed to come alongside the wharfs, so business people knew that, by these boats not coming to the wharfs, something was going on. So Government started the profiteering by not allowing these boats to come alongside the wharfs!

Now coming to the people taking advantage of the new increase in prices, I disagree entirely with the Minister of Finance. Some five or six years' ago, Customs duty was raised by 50 per cent. I paid £5,000 then—this is a thing that happened to me personally. Two or three days later Government reduced the duty by 50 per cent, in which case I lost £2,500 immediately; thus I could be undersold by my competitors by £2,500. Now I went to see Mr Hall, who was then the Director of Commerce and Industry. He said "It is

unfortunate you know, but you have got to bear it. Suppose the Government had increased the duty, what would be the position?" Now they have increased the duty, why do they now interfere with the business people? They should leave them alone; they have suffered in their own time and this is the opportunity now for them to make their own profits. Government should not interfere, for they are supposed to protect both the interests of business people and not only of the consumer. The Government never protected our interest when they increased the duties—

The Minister of Finance : On a point of information, the hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) forgets that Mr Hall has gone.

Chief Okunowo : There is a limit to which the Government can interfere with the business people. There are the times when they have had their bad days. I am not suggesting that people should make profits at the expense of the people, or squeeze the blood of the people, but if they make their profits, if the Government can keep the boats at bay and not allow them to come in, then this was meant tenable the Government to have more revenue on the boats already in the country. Why does the Government interfere with what they do? The Minister of Finance cannot dispute the fact that he never ordered that no goods should be—

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West): The hon. Gentleman from Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is encouraging bad practices.

Mr Speaker : I do not think you have properly heard him.

Chief Okunowo : On Commerce and Industry, I think I have also words of praise for our Minister of Commerce and Industry. He is a man who has got courage of his convictions, and I believe he is the right man in the right place. Although the Zana the hon. Dipcharima is a Northerner, he knows no North, no East, no West, no Lagos; all he is concerned with is the progress of this country. (*Hear, hear*) I have had a lot of transactions with the Ministry and I can testify that he is the right man in the right place.

[CHIEF OKUNOWO]

I think the Ministry of Economic Development needs expansion; it requires a lot of expansion to carry out the Development Programme before us. And in the same way there should be expansion also in the Regions. The Minister must engage himself actively now in touring the whole country to enable him to assess the requirements of each and everyone. He must go to the East, he must go to the North and I will give him accommodation if he comes to Ijebu-Ode.

Talking about the Development Bank, I would like to associate this with what people have been calling 'window-dressing directors'. I do not know of any Member of this House who, if he is called upon one day and is made a director of a company, and is paid £2,000 without him doing anything, would refuse.

Let us be frank with ourselves. It is one thing to criticise people becoming window-dressing directors. There is always one thing in this country: if you are going to take one thing from your daughter, you must give her something in substitute. What substitute is the Government making? If we say that we do not want people to become window-dressing directors, what are we going to give them?

We cannot just rise up on the Floor of this House and say that these Europeans are exploiting us, we do not want people to become paperweight directors; we must give them something concrete.

On the issue of this Development Bank, there are a lot of good business people in this country. What we want is capital: we are short of capital, we have not got money to do business with. When the Syrians first visited this country a long time ago we saw them along *Ereko*, they were just selling small wares. But when the banks trusted them and gave them advances they were able to develop their businesses. But here now the banks in existence will not give us such facilities. Therefore we must start a Nigerian bank.

An hon. Member : The Central Bank !

Chief Okunowo : No, a National Development Bank to entrust people with money.

We have all been praising the Government for the good work they have done. No one will claim that he has been a Minister before. We have made an experiment and we are

making a success of it. In the same way we should make experiments by giving our people money to work with and see what happens. You cannot just rise up and criticise that they are paperweight directors. Give them facilities to work; if they fail it is our common failure; if they succeed it is our success. But to rise up on the Floor of this House and criticise blindly is wrong. If we do not want them to be directors, we should give them something else to do.

I still maintain that we require the services of some expatriate firms in this country. I will refer to U.A.C., John Holt, U.T.C., P.Z., Olivants, S.C.O.A. and, last but not least, C.F.A.O. If you look at the number of Nigerian employees that these firms are carrying, it is enormous. So when we say that we are going to drive them away from the country, we are going to nationalise, what is meant by nationalisation? Is this Government out to rob people of their possessions? That type of nationalisation I do not subscribe to.

An hon. Member : We give them compensation.

Chief Okunowo : What kind of compensation?

Mr T. S. Tarka (Jemgbar) : I am beginning to agree with the hon. Member from Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) that some Members might cross the carpet from this side—I see Dr Chike Obi in reverse!

Mr Speaker : I do not think that Chief Okunowo has declared for the Dynamic Party!

Chief Okunowo : It seems that the hon. Member from Jemgbar (*Mr Tarka*) is trying to seek trouble where none exists. If anybody were to cross the carpet, I think the hon. Member from Jemgbar would be the first. I am one of the founders of the Action Group and I will see that Mr Tarka goes to that side; I will remain here and if I—

Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) : The hon. Member from Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is an obedient boy of the British Empire.

Mr Speaker : We all belong to the Commonwealth. The hon. Member (*Chief Okunowo*) has exhausted his time. Order, order! With so many Members wishing to contribute to the

debate and with the time left, I think it is advisable that Members should avoid repetition of what they have said or what other Members have said and also avoid introducing irrelevant matters. There are certain matters that can be referred to the Committee Stage because as the Constitution states detailed observations of the various heads are better left for the Committee Stage and I think, to save the time of the House, I shall be rather strict on the orders.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On the representations made to me by the Government Chief Whip and Whips, and after consultation with some of my Friends of the Opposition, I have had consultations with the Prime Minister as to the desire of hon. Members who have not had time to contribute to the debate for some kind of prolongation. But in view of the fact that we feel that by the end of the month the House should adjourn, the Prime Minister has agreed that I should move a Motion later to have night sitting on Wednesday. If that is acceptable to the whole House I will move the necessary Motion later so that we can have night sitting on Wednesday to allow hon. Members to speak.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Minister of Finance has only raised a point of information and unless you are raising a point of order, I do not think you should be given opportunity Mr Briggs.

4.32 p.m.

Mr K. Giadom (Ogoni West): It is only natural and a normal thing to do, not minding the frailties of human nature, that after a person has done a nice piece of job that person should be congratulated in order that he will be encouraged and spurred for more and better achievements in the future.

The Minister of Finance has worked very hard to get this Budget out for us. So, he deserves the cheers that have been pouring out from both the Opposition Members and the Government Bench for this epoch-making Budget. These cheers are indications of acceptance and appreciation of the Budget now before this honourable House. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker: Order. I have a message from the Reporters that they cannot hear what

the hon. Member is saying due to hon. Members conversing loudly, many of them forming a large volume of noise.

Mr Giadom: I was just saying that the hon. Minister of Finance deserves cheers from both sides of the House for the good work he has done in producing the Budget.

We have what we call "collective responsibility" in our Cabinet system of Government. This is so, because all Members of the Cabinet work together like a body or a team. It is therefore proper that I congratulate the Cabinet as a whole through which the Minister of Finance has worked out his Budget for the nation. If co-operation and the spirit of team work were lacking among the Members of the Cabinet, I am sure that the Minister of Finance would have been demoralised and frustrated and would not have been able to present such a master-piece of job as we have before us to-day.

We have just accepted with great enthusiasm and applause the Government White Paper on the Development Programme of this great country of ours for the years 1962 to 1968. The Development Programme and the Budget now before us are so inter-related that it is difficult to see how any orator can talk on one without referring to the other. I have been looking for an opportunity whereby I can say 'thank you' to the Minister of Economic Development and the team of experts that worked with him to get out for us *The most ambitious exercise which this country has ever undertaken* as our Head of State, the Governor-General described the Programme in his Speech from the Throne. So, may I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to the young and dynamic Minister of Economic Development and all those who worked with him to produce the White Paper.

In our Government, the Prime Minister may be likened to the head of the body and the other Members of the Cabinet, the neck of the body. The questions are, the head and the neck, which is more important in their functions? Can the neck survive without the head on it and *vice versa*? One may be tempted at first sight to say that the neck is more important than the head when one sees the neck turning the head to whatever direction

[MR GIADOM]
it wishes. The answer is that the head is more important, because if the neck has not got a cool head on it to make judicious judgments, the neck will not exist. So I would say at this juncture that we are proud to have such a cool-headed Prime Minister at the head of the Government that has given us this Budget of hope that we are considering to-day. I wish him more of God's wisdom for the great task he has for the nation.

The last but not the least is that all the hon. Members of this Parliament have every reason to be proud and to congratulate themselves for being part of the Government that has formulated the fiscal policy embodied in the Budget this year for our nation. To have their names written in the present chapter of our national history is something to be proud of.

The budget is called "The Mobilisation Budget". In mobilising all our resources in order to make the Budget and the Development Programme work, the Minister of Finance has adopted certain fiscal measures. No human being is perfect. Perfection can only be attributed to God.

The Minister of Finance has imposed and increased duties on several commodities as a measure to raise funds. Austerity measures have also been taken. These are all good steps to take. But if the aim of the Budget and the Development Programme is primarily to improve the lot of the common man in this country and also to promote certain economic activities that will lead to a higher standard of living among our people, I have seen three dead flies in the ointment that make the picture of the ointment not so good. For the first dead fly in the ointment may I refer to two publications. The *Daily Times* of Saturday, March 31, 1962 on its front page has this to say and with your permission, I quote :

"The 'Mobilisation Budget' presented to Parliament on Thursday by the Minister of Finance, Chief Okotie-Eboh, is easily the best budget we have had in this country for many years. It is dynamic, it is realistic, it is far-sighted. Side by side with the six-year Development Plan, it should place Nigeria on a sound economic structure.

"Just two points in its disfavour : the increase in the prices of commercial vehicles, petrol, motor tyres and tubes and spare parts, added to the recent increase in motor licence fees, is bound to affect the cost of living of millions of people who eat gari, vegetables, rice, beans and many other local foodstuffs.

"Secondly, it is an error of judgment to have increased the excise duty on locally brewed beer. This should have remained as it was to encourage local industry while duty on imported beer could have been increased much more than what the Minister did."

These articles speak for themselves. I think it is going too far, raising duties on petrol and motor spare parts after we have just increased licence fees.

We all see that the running of schools is a non-profit making project. It is what we call a humanitarian project, to serve humanity. Therefore, I do not see any reason why duty on laboratory equipment should be increased. Just recently the principals of the country's schools, especially in the Eastern Region, complained against this. As a school teacher myself I do not see why duty should be placed on laboratory equipment when we are seeking improvement in scientific studies in this country. So I think the hon. Minister of Finance should look into this matter and see that duty is not imposed on scientific equipment for our laboratories.

The second dead fly I refer to here is in connection with the Niger Delta Development Board. In the budget speech the Minister of Finance said, and with your permission I quote :

"The Plan offers great opportunities for us and for all who come after us. It does not hold out the promise of a better future as a sort of birth-right or gift to be achieved without pain, sacrifice, toil or preparation."

By "The Plan" here, I understand the Minister of Finance to mean the Government Development Programme for 1962-68. I am going to say how the Niger Delta Development Board included in the Plan affects our budget. If we refer to the statement on page 10, paragraphs 34 and 35 in the White Paper, we see that a lot of stages have to be passed before the Niger Delta Development Board can be implemented. From the Governments obser-

vations on this Niger Delta Development Board we see that investigations have to be made and the building of staff quarters carried out before the actual projects of the development of the area can be carried out.

I think the Government is wasting more money and time by passing through all these stages. I do not think that when we had the Lagos Executive Development Board and other Boards in the country, these stages were gone through before the Boards were put into operation. So, I think that quarters for the staff could be hired in a place like Port Harcourt and the work could then commence instead of building quarters and making several investigations before the work of the Board is begun.

Moreover, if this Development Board is, as I understand, a temporary one, that is the more reason why permanent buildings should not be put up before the Board commences its work. Hired quarters should be used for the temporary measures. Even if the Board is to be a permanent one, it would be wise for these quarters to be built in the area concerned so that the buildings will add to the physical development of the area. Why saddle Port Harcourt which is already developed according to our standards, with an extra project, while the whole area concerned suffers? It is, in my estimation, robbing Peter to pay Paul. I think Port Harcourt is fully developed, according to our standards, and if any quarters for this Niger Delta Development Board are to be erected, they should be in the area concerned.

As I said, our policy for the year is sound but there is one thing we will have to look into. There are a few cities in the country which have gained Government attention and I think it is time the Government started to look to the rural areas. After all, ninety-five per cent of the population of the country is in the rural areas and whenever we talk of any fiscal measures in the country or the development of industry we talk in terms of Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu, Port Harcourt, as if only these places constitute Nigeria. There are other places in the country which should be given more attention.

At this point I think I should be mortgaging my conscience if I do not say anything about the point I am going to raise now. We are

in the year of austerity and it is the general responsibility of all Nigerian citizens to do all they can to make the sacrifices required for the development of the country. In this respect one of our Ministers saw that supplies were being wasted in the Cafeteria meant for the Members. In doing his duty and trying to mobilise our resources he told some people whom he found there and who were not Members of the House, to please leave the place so that tea, coffee and other supplies would not be wasted as we spend money in getting these things. Unfortunately, some members of the Press were among those whom the Minister was addressing, what happened the next day? We saw the newspapers the next day attacking the Minister and saying all sorts of things against the Members. They went so far as to say that Members of this House did not understand the Bills they were passing.

These are the people who accuse the Government of extravagance and yet when a Member of the Government tries to conserve our resources and some members of the Press happen to be affected, they retaliate by abusing their privileges and attacking the Government. We have seen from the pages of Lagos newspapers where the Government is attacked and some even go so far as to try to incite the citizens against the State. I would say that it is time the members of the Press realised that they are Nigerian citizens. It is also their duty to work for the country. They went as far as saying that Members spent money on cars, and gave the impression that Members were given car free. I want everybody to understand that Members paid for these cars; they were not given free. Also, the impression created now in the country is that whenever we talk in terms of waste, Members of the Legislature are the first target. There are some who think that hon. Members will not be able to eat in their lives if they do not come here. I can tell those people that there are thousands of Nigerians who have a lot of money and who are not Members of the House, and that there are Members here who can become what God has written for them to be without becoming Members of the House. I can see the point in the Press—anything they write is meant to incite the public against Members of the Legislature. We pay our tax; we pay for our petrol—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I think the hon. Member has wondered rather too far away from the Economic Policy of the Government.

Mr Giadom : Thank you, Sir. The Minister was trying to do his duty in order to uphold the idea of mobilization and austerity, and because some members of the Press were affected, they used their newspapers to incite the public against the Government and the Members of this House. I do not think that is the proper thing to do. The Press should try to co-operate with the Government and see that we reach our goal.

The last point that I want to make is in connection with the revenue and expenditure of our country. It is true that once a person has contributed to the revenue of any organisation, that person must want to derive some benefits from the organisation. We have seen that the history of our country will not be complete without reference to what our mineral resources contribute to it, and to-day, I can say that whenever we talk of our mineral resources, one of the first things which come to mind is the mineral oil, which contributes a lot to the coffers of the companies. It is true that this mineral, according to our Colonial Mineral Ordinance, belongs to the State, because in those days ordinances were enacted in the interests of the colonial masters. That is quite true. But we should also remember that the owners of the land in which this oil is found have been displaced, and even though they are compensated for their crops, we should understand the basic fact that the land itself has also been taken away from the owners. Something must therefore be done for them because their land now contributes so much to the coffers of the companies and the Government. In this wise, I am saying that the Government should please think of the people from these areas and resettle them in a division where they will be able to live in harmony in their country and as Nigerian citizens.

Mr Speaker, I think that the Budget we have before us is very gigantic, ambitious, and comprehensive, and I do not think that any expert brain can say here that he is able to attend to every point raised in it. All that he can do is to contribute whatever he thinks he can in some aspects and that is exactly

what I am trying to do now, since criticising every point in the Budget means reproducing another budget, and we have no time for that. I therefore join the rest of the House to welcome the Budget and to thank all those responsible—the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Minister of Finance, *et cetera*.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Mahammadu Sagir (Katagun West) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I wish to make some observations.

The step taken by the Federal Government to set up an Insurance Company of its own is a step taken in the right direction, and I hope that when this company is set up people will realise its importance and patronise it by insuring in the company.

I also welcome the idea of repatriating our foreign investments in order to finance our six-year development projects.

In his speech, the hon. Minister of Finance mentioned about internal savings by introducing saving certificates. This is a challenge to the low-income group which, I hope, they will willingly accept.

The greatest achievement of the present Government, to my mind, is the setting up of our Central Bank. This has greatly helped in controlling our economy, and all I would like the Minister of Finance to do is to see that similar banks are set up all over the country side by side with other foreign banks.

Generally speaking, I welcome the new tax measures, especially as far as they fall on luxury articles. But there are certain aspects of these increases which I feel will bring suffering to the ordinary man in the street. My inference here is the increase on petrol which has automatically made foodstuffs to cost more. I would like to suggest two solutions to the Minister of Finance. The first is to scrap the duty on petrol, and the other is to devise a means whereby the cost of foodstuffs will be controlled.

Turning to the other Ministers, my congratulation goes to the Minister of Defence on his timely decision to expand and improve the Nigerian Army and the Navy. In his speech, the Minister of Defence mentioned the setting up of a Nigerian Air Force. It is necessary for

every independent country to have its own Air Force, Army and Navy equipped with modern weapons so that she can defend herself in time of aggression.

And to the Minister of Economic Development, I say "bravo". The idea of improving our agricultural industry is of great significance, and the Minister's decision to revolutionise our agricultural system is a most welcome measure.

My views on our Civil Service, as I pointed out last year, have not changed. The gap between the so-called super-scale officers and the junior civil servants is too wide. This gap is like one to a hundred. Nobody can find such wide and fantastic gap in the salaries of civil servants in any civil service in this world. After all, Mr Speaker, those who are holding these high posts in Nigeria climbed there automatically because of Nigerianisation. I want the Minister of Establishments to find ways and means of narrowing this wide gap.

Another point is about the payment of rents by the senior civil servants. In the General Orders it is said that any officer occupying Government quarters should pay $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of his salary, and a limit is made by providing that an officer should not pay more than £150 a year. This means that whatever an officer is earning, he cannot pay more than £12-10s-0d a month as rents. I feel, Mr Speaker, that that part of the General Orders should be amended so that any officer should pay $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of his salary, without any limit. It is not logical at all to make such a limit. If it is to be $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, let it be $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent throughout. As it is at the moment, some are earning more and paying less while others are earning less and paying more.

Before I go far in discussing the affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have to mention this one important point first. I have seen in the Estimates that an Embassy will be opened in Cairo, in the United Arab Republic, but we have learnt that one country, through the influence of another country, is insisting that this Embassy should not be opened unless and until Nigeria opens an Embassy in their own country.

Last year, Mr Speaker, we made an appeal to this House that the United Arab Republic should be endorsed in our passport, the reason being that this country is in Africa and

at this moment we are still talking about Pan-Africanism. How can we come together with such barriers as are existing now between us? If there is any fault which the United Arab Republic has with us, let us tell them; but it is not good at all, just because the United Arab Republic is not in good terms with a certain country, to deprive them of our friendship. I hope, Mr Speaker, that whenever these Embassies will be opened, and even before they are opened, we should consider including the United Arab Republic and endorsing it in our passports.

Turning to the Foreign Ministry itself, I would like to say that since the present Minister took over this Ministry from the Prime Minister, its affairs are continually degenerating, the reason being the high-handedness and lack of co-operation of the Minister. Firstly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs must realise that, like any other Minister he is an elected public servant. This being so, he should realise that in a democratic society—to be specific, in a democratic Government like our own—he has his portion of duty to perform and the officials, big or small, have their own portion of duty to perform.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): It is out of order for the hon. Gentleman to be discussing the conduct of the Minister of Foreign Affairs as it is not part of the Bill.

Mr Speaker: In accordance with the ruling given earlier this afternoon, hon. Members should make more of general remarks and leave detailed and concentrated discussions on particular Ministries until the Committee Stage.

M. Muhammadu Sagir: I think I am making a general remark about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I am discussing the general welfare of the Ministry. In this modern and democratic world, nobody can say that he knows everything and that he can do everything himself alone and that, therefore, there is no need for him to require help or to take advice from anybody. We cannot agree to leave anybody to do what he likes or what he pleases with the public assignment which has been entrusted to him to perform simply because everybody is small before his eyes. As a Minister of Foreign Affairs, he usually represents Nigeria abroad,

[M. SAGIR]
such as at the United Nations and in the present Seventeen-Nation Disarmament Conference and some other important conferences like that. It is from his utterances and activities that the outside world judge Nigeria's prestige and dignity.

Mr Speaker : A ruling has been made on that point. I appreciate that it is difficult to get away from set and fixed speeches, but I will appeal to the hon. Member to kindly modify the terms of his speech to be in keeping with general remarks.

M. Muhammadu Sagir : I will reserve some of my speeches until we come to the Committee Stage. But, anyhow, I have to say that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the demonstration of the Minister signifies that he is always dictating to people and expects them to take this dictation. Even senior officers who have specialised in their divisions have to take dictation on their initial and routine duties. If they give routine advice, it will not be taken.

Mr Speaker : Do I understand the hon. Member to persist in discussing exclusively the Minister of Foreign Affairs? If this is the case, I have to appeal finally to him to desist from this. Will the hon. Member please turn a new leaf.

Several hon. Members : Fire ! Fire !

Mr Speaker : Will hon. Members please refrain from making things difficult for the hon. Member.

M. Muhammadu Sagir : Mr Speaker, I ask your indulgence here to allow me to explain in detail the misunderstanding which exists between our Southern brothers and their Northern counterparts who have joined the Federal Public Service. Most of our Southern brothers assume that any post that the Northerners get in the Federal Public Service is given to them because they are Northerners. That is not true at all. The Northerners get any post because of their hard work. If our Southern brothers could look back and trace history, they would see that they were in touch with Western education fifty years ahead of the Northerners. But, that long period notwithstanding, we are able to work shoulder to shoulder with them. I think they will realise that we have done very well.

I know that Mr Speaker, a Northerner, has no degree, but he has a sense of duty and a sense of responsibility and he can work shoulder to shoulder with any of his Southern counterpart. I would like to cite two examples, even in the foreign Ministry, to show that we can work shoulder to shoulder with our Southern counterparts. The two examples concern two gentlemen—Aminu Sanusi, the Chiroma of Kano, who is the Head of Research Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Isa Wali, who is the Head of African Division in the Foreign Ministry. These two gentlemen, by hard work and with their won knowledge and experience, have proved to be among the best in the Ministry.

Mr P. O. Akpan (Uyo South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, under Standing Orders 63 (3)—

"After the motion for the second reading of the bill has been made and seconded, the debate thereon shall be adjourned for not less than two days and when resumed shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the Government's financial policy...."

The hon. Member has not been discussing the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the Government's financial policy.

The Deputy Speaker : If the hon. Member now speaking has departed from the Standing Orders, I am sure he is only following a beaten track, and the less we carry on with this sort of point of order, the more time there will be for others to speak. I would appeal to the hon. Member to kindly endeavour to lift up his jaw a little better, so that others in the House can enjoy the beauty of his speech.

M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar : I wanted hon. Members to inquire how these two gentlemen are doing, and also to inquire how the rest of the Northerners who are in the Federal Public Service are doing. It will be found that they are doing well—as well, if not better than their Southern counterparts. Therefore, our Southern brothers should not assume that Northerners are ignorant, or that they are taken into the Federal Public Service only because they are Northerners. To have a degree, without experience, hard work and a sense of duty, is nothing.

When a Northerner is given a post here, the Southern papers begin to say that the man has no *this*, that he has no *that*; therefore he cannot

Federal Parliament Debates

1221 [Appropriation Bill :

9 APRIL 1962

Second Reading]

1222

do the job. I can remember the post of a Passport Officer which was given to a Northerner recently. The Southern papers criticised it by saying that the man has no *this* and no *that*. After all, what is there in the work of a Passport Officer which calls for a degree? Is it not checking and signing documents? What is the magic in that, which a Northerner cannot do?

Even in this House I can cite one example among many where a Northerner, although not a lawyer, is able to discharge his duties efficiently—this gentleman is the Speaker of this House. Even among our Southern brothers there are those who have never been to a university and who have no degree, but who, by their hard work and experience, are able to do better than those who have degrees—I refer to our able Minister of Finance. It is obvious, therefore, that the possession of a degree or the fact of having graduated from a university means nothing without hard work and experience and a sense of duty.

I am appealing to our Southern brothers to study us carefully before criticising. We are naturally and culturally a quiet people, but that does not mean that we are not intelligent. We do not boast and we are not selfish people. If we Northerners join the Federal Public Service only because we are Northerners, things will not be as they are now in this Government, because we have every right and power to be many in the Federal Public Service.

Because of our quietness and shyness, our Southern brothers think that we are unwise and think also that we do not know the sweetness of anything. We only follow these fine cultures so that we will not be accused; but in spite of all that, we are accused. So I think that the time has come when our Northern leaders here will come out frankly and openly to help their Northern people in every aspect of this Government, as the Southern leaders do.

After all, the Easterners have their Government in the East, the Northerners have their Government in the North, the Westerners have their Government in the West and the Mid-Westerners will soon have their Government in the Mid-West; but the Federal Government is the Government of all of us, in which the Northerners, like any other tribe, have every right to have a fair share. Our quietness and our shyness are dooming us,

and we must drop that part of our culture so as to suit the modern times. We need to cry and demand everything for our people.

One day I visited the Foreign Ministry, I went to enter the lift, but I was told by the operator that I must not enter, because he had been instructed by the Minister that nobody should use this lift between one and two o'clock—that is the time when the Minister uses it. I am not quarrelling with a Minister having a lift of his own in his Ministry, but—

The Deputy Speaker : I think we are having a bit too much of this Foreign Ministry affair! If the hon. gentleman cannot continue his speech without reference to the Foreign Ministry, then I think he should find a more convenient way of concluding it.

M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar : I am speaking generally of this Ministry, because it is the most important Ministry in this country; but I will reserve my point until we come to the Committee of Supply.

Before I take my seat, I wanted to ask a question. I wanted to know which of the two black *Cadillac* cars belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Is it LG 222 or the other one?

The Deputy Speaker : Under Standing Orders you can table a Question, whether for written or for oral answer, on any matter affecting the business of the House. And please take note that under Standing Order 34 a ruling from the Chair can only be challenged by a substantive Motion, and unless you are willing to comply with the ruling so far given, I am afraid I may be obliged to ask you to resume your seat.

M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar : We know how these cars are bought, and therefore I call upon the Prime Minister to use his strong hand to put things right, if necessary by a reshufflement of the Cabinet.

The Deputy Speaker : Is the hon. Dada in his seat?

Mr G. K. Dada (Ekiti North West) : Yes.

The Deputy Speaker : I am afraid that according to the seating arrangements, Mr Dada is not sitting in his correct seat, and therefore he cannot be called upon.

5.10 p.m.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): The Minister of Finance in his Budget has tried to buttress himself with sufficient arguments, so that the criticisms levelled against him might be to no avail, but like a man—

Mr G. K. Dada (Ekiti North West): On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I have been sitting here since last Session. I think the Clerk of the Parliament knows about it as well as the Chief Whip. This is my seat, but it may be that the change has not been entered in the record.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order! Your point of order is noted. If perhaps some discrepancy has occurred in the recordings, the error is regretted. It is noted, but in the meantime, Mr Ajasin is to continue his speech and we will find another opportunity for you to speak.

Mr M. A. Ajasin: I was saying that the Minister of Finance had forestalled all criticisms in the way he presented his Budget Speech. I would say that he is just like a man who puts on a coat of mail in an effort to make himself impregnable to any attack; but he forgets that there are openings for ventilation, for breathing, and for sight. Through these openings, he could still be attacked.

The Budget Speech, in a way, can be described as progressive and for that the Minister of Finance should be congratulated. But he must have to accept also that many of the proposals he has put forward had come from the Opposition in the past. The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech gave a long talk on the Six-year Development Programme, and I would like to refer briefly to that.

In the Development Programme, what we have is a general and broad outline. I would like the different Ministries to submit a White Paper to this House which will be debated later on. It is necessary that every Ministry connected with the Development Plan should submit a White Paper putting down what they will do within the period of six years. For instance, the Minister of Commerce and Industry told us here a few days ago that it would not be until the year 1970 before the Iron and Steel Industry would be in operation, whereas it is put down in the Development Programme that it would come into operation between 1962-68.

I would like the Ministry to submit a White Paper setting out the number of industries that the Government would undertake during that period and also the places where these industries would be sited. It would be necessary, as has been suggested by many hon. Members, that these industries should not be sited in the urban areas of the country alone, and that the rural areas should not be forgotten.

The same thing applies to the Ministry of Mines and Power. We have been told that there is going to be a Niger Dam which will supply electricity all over the country at a cheap rate. We would like to know the number of towns that will be benefited by this Dam. It is not sufficient to say that it will be spread all over the country and, after all, to find that the proposed supply of electricity is spread to only few places. If the Minister of Mines and Power, at the next meeting of the House, will submit a White Paper stating where the electricity will be installed during the period of six years we shall then be able to debate the paper.

The Minister of Communications also puts down that 42 post offices will be built during this period. Where are these post offices going to be? We want to know. We would like to know where the automatic telephone exchanges that he has proposed will be built. All these are contained in the Six-year Development Programme, and we would like a White Paper to be submitted to this House so that we may know where these things will be located.

The Minister of Finance also gave a long speech about the Central Bank of Nigeria. The Central Bank is just performing its function. All that the Minister of Finance has told us—

Mallam Garba Turakin Paiko (Minna South): On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am compelled to raise this point of order because I do not know how Mr Deputy Speaker arrived at that ruling—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order! If the hon. Member wishes to make a point of order, he should refer specifically to the Order he is trying to cite. I am afraid that if he feels rather uncomfortable with any ruling from the Chair, he is at liberty to table a Motion. He can continue with his point of order if he has any point of order to raise.

Mr Ajasin : I say that all that the Minister of Finance puts down in his Budget Speech about the Central Bank is just the usual function that a Central Bank should perform. All that we could say about that is that it is a good thing that the Minister of Finance has made the Central Bank to perform its statutory function. There is nothing extraordinary in this; this is not different from what a Central Bank should do. The Bank is just performing its statutory function.

I would say something about the banking system; this concerns the liquidity ratio of the commercial banks. The Minister of Finance told us that the liquidity ratio is just 25 per cent. I would say that the liquidity ratio should be reduced to 15 per cent so that a large sum of money will not be tied down in the banks. This is a developing country and we want our businessmen to have money to do business.

If the liquidity ratio is reduced from 25 per cent to 15 per cent, there will be more money for the Commercial Banks to give out on credit. The work of the Central Bank is to control the fiduciary notes. In England, the liquidity ratio of the Commercial Banks is between 6 per cent and 8 per cent. If there is no Central Bank, we can agree to a 25 per cent liquidity ratio, but we have one now. The Central Bank will come to the aid of the commercial banks if there is a run on any of them. We should be able to reduce the liquidity ratio to 15 per cent so that much money should not be tied down.

The next point about the banking system is that the Minister of Finance proposes that, in the future, before one can start a new bank one should be able to provide £250,000. I, think that that amount is rather too high. Very few Nigerians at present can afford that sum to start a bank, but if the Minister of Finance insists on that, it means that he wants the banking operation in this country to go into the hands of the foreigners. I think he should leave it as it is at present.

If one can start a business with the sum of £10 and make a success of it, why do we say that not until that person has got the sum of £50 can he start the business? It is too much to ask a Nigerian to have the sum of

£250,000 before he can start a bank. Once that is done, the banking business is being transferred to the hands of foreigners.

We should know that foreign banks do not give credit as much as our own indigenous banks give to our own people. We hear people talking about Syrians and Lebanese in this country. They have been able to get on very well because the foreign banks give them credit; whereas they do not give our own people. It is our own banks that can extend credit to our own people. If we raise that amount before a bank can be started, that means putting an embargo in the way of our businessmen.

The next point I want to talk about is the decimalisation of our currency. It is over five years now that the question of the decimalisation of our currency was first raised in this House. When I say this House I mean the former House of Representatives when the Central Bank was about to be established. Hon. Members at that time suggested that we should change our money to the decimal system because of its convenience and because it agrees with our own traditional way of reckoning.

The Minister of Finance only mentioned in his Budget Speech that he is going to pursue the matter. It should be vigorously pursued. Sierra Leone is going to start using decimal currency soon and the British Government is going to adopt the decimal system too. We should not wait until we see that England or Sierra Leone has started it. We should get the economists in the Ministry of Finance to start work on it right now and we should provide the few thousands of pounds that will be required to change the currency we have now into the decimal system. England and Sierra Leone are preparing to do so now and we should not wait until they have done their own. It is a long time that we have been talking about it and the Minister of Finance should take it up right now.

I will speak also on the different methods by which the Federal Government proposes to raise internal loans. They are all very good but I want to say something about saving certificates. The people in the rural areas should be encouraged by allowing savings bank facilities to be provided at many of the postal

[MR AJASIN]
agencies and post offices where they do not exist at present. There are many postal agencies and post offices all over the country without savings bank facilities. If we want these saving certificates to go round, if we want people in the rural areas to buy them the Ministry of Communications should allow savings bank facilities to be provided in many of the postal agencies and post offices in the country.

The officers in the postal agencies and post offices should be warned not to be indifferent or rude to the members of the public because these people can be scared away. They should encourage members of the public to buy these saving certificates and a lot of money will be realised by the Government. All those who are going to handle the sale of these saving certificates should also be told the uses of these saving certificates so that they can tell the people who are going to buy them. They should be told right from the beginning that their main job is to encourage the public to buy these saving certificates.

The Minister of Finance also mentioned in his Speech the question of pegging wages. It is a good thing that wages should be pegged but there is a group of workers whose wages I think should not be pegged at present. Their salaries and conditions of service should be reviewed. This set of workers are the teachers. Teachers have not been well paid at any time. Looking through the Government Economic Programme one finds the amount of money voted for the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and other Government projects but one finds nothing about the review of the salaries and conditions of service of teachers. Almost all the recommendations of the Ashby Commission Report have been adopted. The Ashby Report however, stressed the importance of paying teachers well and yet in all these programmes and arrangements nothing at all has been said about the condition of service of teachers.

Still on the conditions of service of teachers, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Education to the pension constant of teachers. The retiring benefits that teachers get are not as high as those paid to civil servants. The pension constant of teachers is calculated at the *ratio* of one over ninety whereas that of a civil servant is calculated at

the *ratio* of one over sixty. This makes the retiring benefits of teachers very poor indeed. I would like the Federal Minister of Education in collaboration with the Ministers of Education in the Regions to see to this and see that there is improvement in the salaries and conditions of service of teachers.

The Minister of Finance also spoke about the diversification of our exports. He mentioned that articles are now being manufactured from our agricultural products and are being exported and, that would more or less lead to the diversification of our exports. I would say that some other products should be found for export in this country. Before the separation of the Southern Cameroons from Nigeria we had banana as one of our exports. Now that the Southern Cameroons is no more part of Nigeria we should grow banana in this country in commercial quantity in the Delta and Calabar provinces and in the Lagos area. This will help us regain what we have lost by not exporting banana any more. The growing of coffee for export should be encouraged. By doing this we will be diversifying our economy and not depending only on cocoa and palm products.

I learnt that some valuable drugs can be produced from yams. If our Research Departments can look into it and find out the type of yams that produce these drugs it will add to the export of this country and will be another source of revenue to this country.

Mr Speaker in the Chair.

The Minister of Finance said that there will be new markets; he also talked about geographical diversification. With regard to that, I do not quite agree with him that there is anything like geographical diversification—that is, the carrying of some of our products to other countries; that should come under what he puts down as new markets. I think that that is not diversification. I would call that diversion—that is, we divert our export products to other countries. I would say that the diversion should be to places like India, Russia, Japan and China. China has a very large population that can consume a large quantity of our cocoa. If there is an agreement with China, with India and with Russia, arrangements would be made in this country whereby they would be able to buy large quantities of our cocoa for consumption,

That is what I would call for diversion of products to these countries.

The Minister of Finance made a plea for enterprise and inventiveness. It is a beautiful saying that we should develop the spirit of enterprise and inventiveness. I think we should agree with him in what he says. But I would ask: what has the Government done, in any way, to encourage this enterprise and inventiveness by our people? Look at the whole of the Development Programme. There is no one place in it where scientific education is mentioned. Technical education is mentioned, secondary schools are mentioned; there should have been at least a paragraph indicating that scientific education would be developed, and that so many laboratories would be built, and encouragement would be given to the teaching of science in the schools. But there is nothing like that in that Programme.

No mention has been made of high schools. Even the Emergency Science Training School in Lagos is going to be converted to a National High School. You may have the National High School teaching little or no science. The encouragement should be mentioned in that Programme. It is necessary we should have something definite about the teaching of science. Only very few schools at present are able to teach science. I think the Minister should have been able to mention that we would go all out for the production of science teachers for these schools. What we have at present is expatriate teachers on contract for a year or two teaching science in the schools. There is no continuity in the teaching; the teaching therefore, is not as effective as it should be.

We should remember, that Russia in 1917 was just a race of poor, primitive peasants; but through the study of science within a generation, they are able to go to the moon. And we see the great things that Russia can perform. We can do the same thing in this country. The encouragement should be given to the teaching of science in this our Programme. It should not just be mentioned that there will be secondary schools, that there will be technical schools, but that definite steps would be taken in the production of science teachers for our secondary schools.

The Minister said that economics is not an exact science. I think that is true; and that is the reason why the Minister, perhaps with the advice of the economists in his Ministry, has raised the duty on petrol which he did not expect would affect the common people...

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East): On a point of Order. The speaker has exhausted his time.

Mr Speaker: Order. Order. He has in fact. Will the hon. Member therefore resume his seat.

And it being 5.45 p.m., Mr Speaker interrupted the Business pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).

Debate to be resumed—Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT).

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

5.46 p.m.

Mr D. O. Ahamefula (Okigwi South West): Quite recently rumours have been circulating that there is a move in certain quarters for the formation of a national government, in which the Action Group Opposition will have to participate. This issue featured prominently in the last General Conference of the Action Group in the Western Region; and immediately after that Conference, the National President of the N.C.N.C. was confronted with a series of press interviews on the matter as a result of which he made this statement—

Mr Speaker: Order. Order. If the hon. Member will please speak as loud as he can, I think we shall be able to hear him better.

Mr Ahamefula: I was trying to say that quite recently, rumours have been circulating that there is a move in certain quarters for the formation of a National Government in which the Action Group Opposition will participate. This issue featured very prominently in the last Conference of the A.G. in the Western Region; and immediately after the Conference, the National President of the N.C.N.C. was confronted with a series of press interviews on the matter for which he made a

[MR AHAMEFULA]
statement. Newspaper speculation notwithstanding, in one of my week-end holiday camps last week, there was a heated argument between me and some of the top members of the Action Group, in which the latter strongly maintained that arrangements for this have been concluded; they went further to say that the recent visit of the N.P.C. National President to Lagos was to give it the final touch.

Several hon. Members : Sit down !

Mr Speaker : Order, order !

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West) : If there is any necessity for a national government, it is up to the Leaders of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. and not for the Members of the Opposition—

Mr Speaker : Order !

Mr Ahamefula : I would therefore like the Prime Minister to make a statement on this issue.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Two hon. Members, I think from the Government side, asked leave to raise this matter. I allowed them so that I would take the opportunity to tell them that this is none of their business. This is a matter for the Prime Minister, and if I feel, in the interests of this country, as I felt in 1957, that a National Government will be better for the country, I shall have a National Government.

I think people should at least trust my judgment, and these rumours should not be circulating. I do not do these things in secret. I would not be expected to be discussing National Government or things like that in secret. If I want to do it, I will come out to the country and do it. It is not the business of any hon. Member. It is my business, and if I intend to have a National Government, and if anybody does not like it, he can get out of it, because this is my business. I hope these rumours will not continue to be talked about in this House.

PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSED AFRICAN TOUR

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) : It is with the greatest sense of responsibility and anxiety that I wish to bring before this hon. House the very important and sudden news that our beloved Prime Minister is intending to

visit Southern Rhodesia and South Africa at the invitation, firstly, of the assassin and murderer, Mr Welensky, and, secondly, at the invitation of the worst negrophobist known in history, Dr Verwoerd, and great is my fear of the consequences of his visit.

Chief M. A. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West) : Point of order. I am very much surprised. Are they not members of the same Government? Why are they trying to talk things in this way?

Mr Speaker : That is a question.

Mr Muojeke : Mr Speaker, this is my anxiety, because of the consequence of the visit. For one thing, Mr Welensky and Dr Verwoerd are people who take delight in murdering Africans. Is there any guarantee, to put it bluntly, that the life of our beloved Prime Minister will not be in jeopardy? In the circumstances, may our beloved Prime Minister assure this hon. House that the proposed visit to these countries will not adversely affect the high prestige which we hold on the continent of Africa?

The Prime Minister : I do not know how people read their newspapers. Perhaps they sometimes read them upside down, because I think the newspapers reported that the Prime Minister of the Rhodesian Federation invited me to visit the Federation. Well, it is true that I was invited, and I have accepted the invitation in principle.

Not long ago, during the present meeting of this House, this Parliament passed a Resolution that the Prime Minister should visit all the countries of Africa, South Africa included. I must say that I am not afraid to visit South Africa or the Rhodesian Federation.

I think that it will be a wrong policy for the Federal Government to follow if, simply because we do not agree with the policy of others, we do not try to change them. As the *West African Pilot* of to-day put it, the idea is that because we have differences of opinion with Governments such as that of the Rhodesian Federation we should not exchange representation with them. I think that is wrong, because exchanging representation does not mean that we agree with the policy of the Government at all.

Federal Parliament Debates

1233

[Adjournment]

9 APRIL 1962

[Adjournment]

1234

We have also got other Governments' representatives here; it does not mean that they all agree with all our policies, and in spite of this we will continue to have many ambassadors from the different parts of the world.

I am quite prepared. The House endorsed the Resolution here that I should visit every part of Africa. If I have the opportunity I will visit every part of Africa. But this, I hope, should not be regarded as changing my attitude towards things which we do not like at all. Our views on racial discrimination and the policies in South Africa are well known.

One hon. Member, I think from the Opposition side (though I think he was told to cross soon to this Side, I think it was Mr Tarka) was saying that he could not understand this question of the Prime Minister visiting Rhodesia or South Africa. Of course, why not? I have not got the time yet. If I am invited to South Africa, I will definitely think of going if I can spare the time.

If I am invited to any part of the world, I will go if I can spare the time, but this does not mean that, because I go, I have completely changed my views on these things. Perhaps, if I could, I might be able to contribute something towards those countries changing their policies.

I think, that when we read newspapers we had better try to read them properly, because

even the newspapers, for once, seem to put it clearly as I said it, that I did not say that I was going, but that I received an invitation from the Prime Minister of Rhodesia. I have never received any invitation from the Prime Minister of South Africa. But if I receive the invitation, I will consider it.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): After one week's absence from the House Mr Briggs has come back with a changed coat.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): The hon. Minister of Finance is wearing a blue *agbada* for the first time. He must have got it from Southern Rhodesia.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): We have listened on this side of the House with interest to what the Prime Minister said about his impending or proposed visit to South Africa or Central African Federation in the event of an invitation.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki): On a point of order, I do not understand what the hon. Member was speaking about. He said "impending". The Prime Minister did not say that he was going to visit those countries, so there is no question of an "impending" visit.

And it being 6.00 p.m., Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (7).

Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 10th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
DEFENCE

U.N. Nigerian Soldiers

O.221. Mr S. A. Yerokun asked the Minister of Defence how many Nigerian soldiers serving with the United Nations Organisation in the Congo have been reported dead or missing to date.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (M. Ibrahim Tako) : I have to refer the hon. Member to my answer to a previous Parliamentary Question No. O.89 on the same subject which appeared in the *Hansard* of 27th March, 1962.

TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

National Shipping Line

O.222. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Transport if he will state when the National Shipping Line will operate Mail Boat services.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor) : A similar question was asked sometime ago and my hon. Friend's reply then was that the resources of the Nigerian National Line have so far been directed towards the profitable development of its fleet of marine cargo liners. This has clearly been the most prudent policy to adopt since it satisfies an urgent need of a sovereign Nigeria and can be fully justified on strategic and economic grounds.

The passenger trade is more fickle, however, particularly since a tourist trade to West Africa has not yet developed and the capital and recurrent cost of the modern passenger liner are very considerable. Nevertheless, the Nigerian National Line is not unmindful of the value to Nigeria of an efficient passenger service and the possibility of the company participating in this sector of the shipping trade is being examined.

Mr D. N. Oronsaye : Is the Minister aware that the question referred chiefly to the carriage of mails and whether the carriage of mails would not be more profitable than even the cargo that he spoke of.

Mr Offor : No, Sir, it is not more profitable than cargo.

Extension of Railway Line

O.223. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Transport, whether the Government has any plans of extending the railway line to Katsina.

Mr Offor : There are no plans for extending the railway line to Katsina at the present time.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed : Does the Minister assure us that the Federal Government will in future consider extending such a railway line to Katsina ?

Mr Offor : If funds become available.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : There is no question of undertaking any further extensions of the railway line until the Bornu extension is complete.

Air Transport Companies

O.224. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Transport, how many countries operate air services in this country directly or through companies of their countries' origin.

Mr Offor : In replying to this question, my hon. Friend the Minister, assumes that the hon. Member would wish him to make a distinction between services to and from Nigeria.

The air services within Nigeria, including Nigeria Airways : the number of countries all operating air services in this category is twenty-four, of whom eleven are African States having a joint interest in one air line.

No country other than Nigeria operates air services in the second category. There are, however, four air line companies operating air services in the second category which have their origin in four foreign countries.

Onitsha Aerodrome

O.225. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Transport, how soon work will begin on the Onitsha Aerodrome.

Mr Offor : There is provision in the Second Economic Development Programme for the construction of new aerodromes, including

Onitsha. The hon. Minister of Transport has not yet finalised the programme of construction and cannot at this stage inform the hon. Member how soon the work at Onitsha will start.

The hon. Member, however, can rest assured that provided there is no difficulty over the acquisition of land, Onitsha will receive a high priority in the Programme.

Mr S. J. Umoren : Would the Minister please tell the House what has become of the project for the opening of an aerodrome in Uyo, a project which was suggested some years ago?

Mr Speaker : That is a new question.

Dr Okeke : In answer to this Question, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the Minister was not quite sure of what arrangements have been made and how soon the work would start. I want the Minister to clarify this point.

LABOUR

Nigerian Labourers in Fernando Po

O.226. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Labour, whether there is any agreement between any Regional and Federal Governments about recruitment of Nigerians for employment as labourers in Fernando Po.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) : The recruitment of Nigerians for work anywhere outside Nigeria is the Federal Government's responsibility. As the labourers for Fernando Po are recruited in the Eastern Region, the Government of the Region was consulted.

MINES

Nigerianisation in E.C.N.

O.227. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will take all necessary steps to ensure that the Nigerianisation policy is being vigorously pursued in the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (M. Ahmadu Fatika) : Yes, Sir. Indeed, the Minister is aware that the Electricity Corporation is already pursuing a very vigorous policy of

Nigerianisation ; this can be seen from the fact that, out of a total of 227 senior officers, no less than 143 are either Nigerians or from other West African territories.

But the carrying out of this policy is hindered by the present lack of Nigerians with the necessary qualifications and experience, particularly on the electrical engineering side ; it is also aggravated by the very high rate of expansion of the Corporation.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : Would the Minister assure us that a Nigerian would succeed the retiring General Manager ?

Mr M. C. K. Obi : I would like to know what plans the Minister has for supplying Auchi, Uzairue and Afuze with electricity.

Mr Speaker : That is a new question. May I remind hon. Members that supplementary questions must be relevant to the original questions.

Ajegunle

O.228. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will consider advising the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to erect a full powered electric plant to serve the whole of Ajegunle.

M. Ahmadu Fatika : The Minister is informed by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria that Ajegunle is already partially reticulated with low tension distribution and is, to all intents and purposes, a part of the Lagos undertaking.

Further, arrangements are in hand to install a larger transformer and extend the low tension distribution to provide a general supply to the built up areas in Ajegunle.

Chief A. F. Odulana : Further arrangements—When or how soon? Would the Minister please do that quickly?

Mr A. U. D. Mbah : While talking about Ajegunle, is the Minister aware that the blackout in Lagos is getting unbearable, particularly for those of us in Ikoyi? Why can he not comb the whole world and get us all those other plants?

Mr Speaker : That is an irrelevant question.

Mr Senu-Oke: I would like to know whether the new arrangement is embodied in the present Estimates.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tin Industry

10.15 a.m.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Hon. Maitama Sule): I am sure that what comes most obviously to the minds of hon. Members whenever the tin industry is mentioned is not the fact that the price of tin varied between £800 to £950 per ton throughout 1961, nor the fact that for the first time, Nigerian ore was smelted on a commercial basis in smelters erected in Nigeria in 1961. Rather, it is the recent cries against service conditions and the demands in certain quarters for the nationalisation of the tin industry that are apt to come most readily to Members' minds.

Only yesterday the Member for Jemgbar, *Mr Tarka*, said something about this and complained about the poor conditions of service in the tin mining industry area. It is only natural and proper that it is the visible effect of the industry on the lives of the workers and the amenities and benefits that the workers derive or do not derive from their labour that should come most vividly to Members' minds. It is on the working conditions of Nigerians in the industry, therefore, that I propose to make a statement.

With regard to the demand for the nationalisation of the tin industry, I have repeatedly made it clear that Government's policy is that of Nigerianisation rather than nationalisation.

I would like to make it clear to this House that this has been the policy. As for the conditions of service on the minesfield, however, I would not be true to my conscience if I refused to admit that the conditions do not reflect the trend of events both politically and economically in the present day Nigeria; a Nigeria that is independent and sovereign; a Nigeria that is in a hurry to catch up with the most advanced nations; a Nigeria in which we are determined to develop a way of life of which our children will be genuinely proud.

It is my firm belief that agitations for nationalisation come, not because the people directly affected feel that it is the best and only

way out, but because they are dissatisfied with existing conditions and are prepared to welcome any alternative system irrespective of its merits and demerits.

For more than a year now I and my officials in my Ministry have been looking into the whole industry and have been holding various discussions and negotiations at different levels with the employers and their association in particular and with the workers and workers' association in general. I have not hesitated in the least to point out to the Chamber of Mines that it is the oldest industry in Nigeria and that I expected the industry in its own interest to set the pace in ensuring a fair and reasonable remuneration for all workers.

I have not minced my words in expressing to all employers my disappointment at the way the industry had lagged behind others in promoting Nigerians to senior posts, and I have pointed out that I was not going to be impressed by what amounted to eye-wash promotions of Nigerians without responsibility and conditions of service and privileges equal to those of their expatriate colleagues.

I have impressed on the industry the high premium which I placed on adequate provision for the training of Nigerians for senior posts. It is indeed a sad commentary that the oldest of industries in Nigeria can boast of having trained only one Nigerian mining engineer who has since died.

The thirst for education in this country is insatiable and I have insisted that the industry should arrange suitable educational facilities for the children of workers and should consider the provision of a secondary school which will take the best from the primary schools and form a reservoir for training schemes and scholarship schemes for advanced studies.

Considering the large labour force employed on the Plateau, I have requested that dispensary, clinic and pharmacy facilities be improved and that a hospital of a suitable size be provided for the workers.

I have expressed my dissatisfaction with the housing of minesfield labour, as the majority of the houses can at best be described only as ramshackles. The laws dealing with the conditions of service in the minesfield, one must admit, are outdated. The existing

requirements for housing under Labour and Health Areas Regulations, for instance, are more suited to the circumstances of the first and second decades of this century than to the needs of 1962.

I propose to hold discussions with my hon. Friend, the Minister of Labour, who is as much concerned as I am in this question, with a view to bringing relevant regulations into line with modern trends wherever necessary.

As a result of my meetings and my communications with the Chamber of Mines certain definite steps have been taken to bridge, as it were, the great gap which seems to exist between my thinking on the subject and theirs.

The Chamber has called on all its members to subscribe a special fund which will be used for welfare and educational projects. Scholarships have been granted on the Mines School at Jos and more have been promised for professional training abroad. Schools have been built by some of the Mining Companies and handed over to the local educational authorities free of charge and there are proposals for the construction of a Technical Institute.

Some of the companies have improved housing for the general labour by providing cement blocks with pan roof in place of the round huts with grass roof required by the law. Several companies have promoted or recruited Nigerians direct to the senior staff grade.

Representatives of the Chamber of Mines have had discussions with the various Regional Authorities on how best to meet my requirements. There have been talks of offering a portable X-ray equipment which will be of considerable assistance in TB preventive work on the Plateau, but I am pressing for a hospital.

These are new and welcome trends and I shall see to it that they are kept up so that the industry keeps pace with other industries established in Nigeria. I sincerely believe that the employers are now fully with me in my efforts to improve conditions in the industry and I believe that they will maintain their new-found co-operative attitude and so make it unnecessary for Government mandatory legislation.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY STATION AT SAMARU

10.25 a.m.

M. Saidu Zango (Zaria Central) : I rise to move the Motion which stands in my name on the Order Paper which reads as follows :—

“That this House calls upon the Federal Government to advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to construct a new Railway Station at Samaru near Zaria.”

This Motion is timely and non-controversial. Therefore, in making this urgent request, I feel that I need not elaborate the fact that Samaru is daily growing from strength to strength. In the first place, it should be remembered that Samaru has for many years been the Headquarters of the agricultural research station of the Northern Region.

In recent years important institutions were established there including the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. As a result of the establishment of these institutions it has become necessary to have a railway station near the villages of Shika and Samaru.

It is true we cannot have new stations without a line running nearby. We are fortunate, however that the Zaria-Gusau line runs through this area. So I am not asking for something which is impossible. Having a station there will certainly reduce the hardship caused to hundreds of people wanting to travel by train.

At present if one wants to join the train one has to cover a distance of seven or eight miles to Zaria railway station. Many hon. Members of this House who have visited the nation's best institutions will bear me out that it is essential to have a railway station at Samaru. This station, if built, will serve the same purpose as its counterpart the Sawa Station. Sawa Station, however, cannot be compared with Samaru, because Samaru surpasses the Sawa station in all respects.

It is no exaggeration to say that Samaru Station, if built, will be better than many out-stations up country. It will not be out of place if I mention the fact Samaru is densely populated while many other stations are situated in remote areas which are intended to serve the people living nearby.

[M. ZANGO]

Now that tourism is rapidly expanding in Nigeria, it will be appreciated if the existing Catering Rest House at Samaru is used by the ever increasing number of travellers from all walks of life. At present when these travellers arrive at Zaria Station they have to detrain and ride or trek for eight miles to Samaru.

With these few points and explanations, I beg to move.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central): I beg to second this Motion which has been ably moved by the hon. Member for Zaria Central (*M. Saidu Zango*).

The explanations given by the mover of the Motion are, I believe, sufficient to justify the construction of this railway station at Samaru. But I must re-emphasise the fact that the importance of Samaru in the developing new Nigeria cannot be over emphasised. Less than thirty years ago Samaru was a modern village in the making, only about seven to eight miles from Zaria, and it was selected by the Regional Government as the headquarters for agricultural research while Zaria was also chosen as the centre of high education in the North. Gradually Samaru is becoming more and more important. To-day it does not claim its importance just because it is the headquarters for agricultural research in the North but also because it is so lucky as to have the highest educational institutions.

It will interest you to know that not very far from the place where we propose that this station should be built, the Railway Corporation itself found it essential to construct a temporary line from where cattle are railed to various destinations. This, in fact, is a proof that if this railway station is constructed, it will ease traffic congestion at the Zaria railway station. Zaria, as you know, is a junction of three railway lines, one leading to Nguru *via* Kano, the other to Kaura Namoda *via* Funtua and Gusau and the third one running to the South.

You will understand from this that apart from the fact that we need this railway station to be constructed owing to the growth of Samaru, it will in the end help the Railway Corporation to solve another problem.

The Government itself is so anxious to see Nigeria developed that it has been so generous as to hand over the Nigerian College of Arts,

Science and Technology to the Northern Regional Government to be absorbed in its proposed University of the North. The Government is so generous and one can see that it is timely for the Government to make itself more anxious and more generous to construct this Railway Station in Samaru in order to achieve its undertaking.

I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: I am not proposing to call the Amendment because it is not relevant to the original Motion.

Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central): On a point of order, if the proposed Amendment is not relevant to the original Motion, may the Mover of the Amendment be allowed to speak generally on the Motion.

Mr Speaker: You are now suggesting that we should go beyond the Standing Orders of the House which at this moment I am not prepared to do.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I want to say that the Government accepts this Motion in principle. The station which is being asked by the hon. Member for Zaria Central (*M. Saidu Zango*) to be constructed is a railway station but from what I will say I hope that I will convince the House that a halt station will be adequate for the purpose.

Samaru is near the line between Zaria and Kaura Namoda, a stretch of railway 137 miles in length. The traffic offering on this line is not very heavy. There are three trains in each direction every day and on this line, goods traffic is even more important than passenger traffic because it is from goods traffic that the Railway derives most of its revenue. Samaru is only six and a half miles from Zaria and it is about half-way between Zaria and the first station up to Zaria on that line, the station of Guga. Guga is about fifteen and a half miles from Zaria.

I think that it will be appreciated that for a distance of six and a quarter miles, unless there is a very big industry in the neighbourhood which will require heavy traffic or from which the Railway will derive a lot of heavy traffic, it is considered uneconomical to construct a full-blown railway station. We are quite prepared to accommodate the people who live in Samaru and in the vicinity because

Samaru is an important educational centre. Therefore, the General Manager of the Nigerian Railway Corporation has caused investigations to be made and is satisfied that a halt station built half-way between Zaria and Guga, the first station which is only, as I said, fifteen and a half miles from Zaria, will be quite adequate.

At the moment, there are three spots in this neighbourhood which the Railway consider to be suitable. One is four and three quarter miles from Zaria, the other is five and three quarter miles, the other is eight miles and the next is nine miles. The Railway is now seeking the co-operation of the people in the area to help them to find out which is the best spot which will serve the people who live in that area and in the vicinity of Samaru best, and I will very much appreciate it if the hon. Mover and the Seconder who come from this part will give us suggestions as to the best site.

There are a number of villages between Zaria and the next station, Guga, and we would like to build a half station between these two stations to enable them, as the hon. Mover says, to get on the Railway near their village at the station instead of having to travel all the way to Guga or all the way to Zaria.

That is the reason why I say that this Motion is acceptable to Government in principle. We realise that this is a period when we are harnessing all our necessary revenue and spending it in the best possible way, a period during which we are applying as much economy as possible, and I am sure that the hon. Members in this House will agree with me that to build a full-blown station with all the building accessories that are necessary, six and a half miles away from Zaria on a line where the traffic is not very heavy, will not be justified.

I, therefore, as I said, accept this Motion on behalf of Government in principle and I want to assure the hon. Mover and Seconder that the Railway Corporation will be advised to build a halt station near Samaru as soon as possible.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): Much as the Government has accepted the Motion in principle, I would like to say that we on this side of the House are not opposed to the Motion. We support it whole heartedly but I do not know what the Government means by this language which comes always from them.

It is so old that I think it should not even have been used again. They say everything 'in principle'. 'In principle' may take a thousand years. We would like the Minister to give us a definite time within this six-year period when this work will be done.

I have been to Samaru myself, this place is very important educationally. Not only is education important but also the number of people there and the products from that place justify the building of a station. I quite agree that a halt station will be built there but I hope that their acceptance 'in principle' will mean that within this six-year Development Programme, that is from now to 1968, the Government will think seriously with a view to converting the halt station into a real railway station to serve the needs of these people.

With these few words, on behalf of this side of the House, we accept this Motion.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): May I first of all express my appreciation for the manner in which the Minister of Transport accepted the Motion in principle and also add that there is definitely a genuine case for a railway station at Samaru having lived there myself for a couple of years.

I beg to support.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): I would like to thank the Government for the reply given by the Minister of Transport this morning to the Motion tabled by the hon. Member. I think that this Motion is an important one. It is important in that those who knew Zaria some years ago and know it at the present time will see that there is a lot of change there. There are such notices as *Rooms to let* on the buildings and I think that having a railway station at Samaru, which is about six and half miles away will ease this problem of unemployment. As the Speaker is aware, some years ago, the railway headquarters at Zaria was removed to Ebute Metta. As a result of that, a lot of problems fell on the people of Zaria. At present it can be seen that many people have become mere labourers. The Ebute Metta railway station could not absorb all the workers who were employed at Zaria, so, I hope that if a railway station is established at Samaru the problems will be solved.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Zakari Isa (Kaduna): I rise to support this timely Motion which was humbly moved. I am grateful that the Government has accepted it in principle, and hope that they will speed up the building of this important station. I am sure that the station will help many people who reside near it.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House calls upon the Federal Government to advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to construct a new Railway Station at Samaru near Zaria.

TAKE OVER OF THE FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL
BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

10.42 a.m.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East): I rise to move,

That the Government of the Federation should take over the Federal Palace Hotel.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): On a point of order. The hon. Member for Kano East (*M. Aminu Kano*) said that he was moving, that the Government of the Federation—I do not know whether he meant “the Federal Government” or “the Governments of the Federation” which, of course, is not in terms of the Motion on the Order Paper.

Mr Speaker: I think that when one says “The Government of the Federation” one means the only one Government.

M. Aminu Kano: I would like to advise my hon. Friend, Chief Akin-Olugbade, to read the Motion as it appears on the Order Paper properly.

In moving this Motion, I am purely prompted by strategy. I think that it was last year that a Member of this House mooted an idea to control the issue of licences to foreigners either to enter into Lagos or to occupy Government quarters. The Federal Palace Hotel is situated in a very strategic area, and I think that the policy of our Government must be that any land in Nigeria which is strategic should be retained by the Federal Government. The Federal Palace Hotel is built on the very entrance into Lagos and the Government must therefore take it over. The Government must take over the particular piece of land notwithstanding what building is put up there.

I am not asking the Government to take over the Federal Palace Hotel over-night. What I am trying to say is this, that in order to be able to acquire that land, whatever building may be on it, and since the Federal Palace Hotel is on this particular piece of land, the Government must investigate the operation of that hotel. If it is a paying concern let the Government go into it, either in partnership or by complete take-over so that the land and the hotel may be government property simply because of the strategic importance of that particular area.

However, if the Government has any intention to bring a Bill on it, they should first of all have a committee to investigate the finances, the way and manner the hotel is functioning, and see if it is a paying concern. If the Federal Government feel that it is a well paying proposition, they should enter into it. I will not ask the Government to buy a dead horse for the sake of buying it. I am not, therefore, calling on the Government to take it over-night simply because we want to take it over. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: There is too much interruption.

M. Aminu Kano: I am not, of course, advising the Government to frighten away investors. I am only saying that the hotel is built on the gate-way of our port of call. And because of the feeling, especially against the allocation of land to certain foreigners on the entrance into Lagos, I feel that the Government must enter into negotiation with the management of the hotel with a view to taking over this place purely for protecting the interests of Nigerian security and peace.

I beg to move.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South): In seconding this Motion, I wish to digress a little by protesting to you, Mr Speaker, since I have no desire to bring a substantive Motion on the grievance against a policy of arbitrarily threatening the time of Members' speech, because it is not palatable. This system is certainly below the dignity of this House.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please speak louder?

Mr Ememe: I am therefore appealing to you to advise the Deputy Speaker to refrain from such a practice in future.

Federal Parliament Debates

1249

[Federal Palace Hotel]

10 APRIL 1962

[Federal Palace Hotel]

1250

The Motion calls for the taking over of the Federal Palace Hotel; it does not say 'nationalise' since some people in this House have sworn to oppose anything like nationalisation in any form. It is not the intention of the Mover of this Motion to call for the nationalisation of all the hotels in Lagos, nor does he mean to ask the Federal Government to run the hotel while a private businessman owns it. He wants the Government to purchase this Hotel and control its administration. It would not have been necessary to demand the purchase of this Hotel if its present administration were to be in the best interests of this country. But that administration leaves much to be desired. If I might not hurt some people here, I make bold to say that what the country really demands through us is to nationalise the Federal Palace Hotel, with adequate compensation.

An hon. Member : There is no money yet for the Development Plan.

Mr Ememe : Yes, but we must call a spade a spade and not a shovel.

But why must the Government nationalise the Hotel? The primary reason is that the Hotel is a national hotel, built at the request of the Government to serve its accommodation requirements, especially during important occasions. Even though the Federal Government had interests in the Nigerian Hotels Limited, yet the type of hotel facilities needed to match the independence status of Nigeria were not available, nor were they provided by the Nigerian Hotels Limited. Therefore a first-class hotel like the Federal Palace was imperative and was definitely needed. Hence the Federal Government invited Mr Leventis to build one.

It must be appreciated that in accepting this request to build this hotel, Mr Leventis was doing a national service. What is funny about the whole thing is, how Mr Leventis could afford to build such a hotel and the whole Federation of Nigeria could not! However, Mr Leventis built it, partly with the money given him as a grant, and partly with the loans he raised, possibly, from the same Federal Government or the banks. He built it, he owned it, and he ran it. To show how important this Hotel is to the Government, the Minister of Works almost became the works'

supervisor during its construction! When it was completed, the national character of the Hotel was also demonstrated by two of our Federal Ministers lodging in it for one week. Yet, in spite of the national and public character of this Hotel, the Government allowed a private businessman to own it.

What is really pathetic about the whole business is that, because of this Hotel, the Federal Government classed the hotel industry under pioneer industry. By this move the Government gave Mr Leventis a heavy grant. In addition, a tax-free period granted to a pioneer industry was also allowed to the Federal Palace Hotel.

One would have expected that with all these concessions, the proprietors of this Hotel would have been showing gratitude to the Federal Government by way of high discounts on its accounts. But what do we find? The Management of this Hotel inflate their rates and service charges when the payment is to be made by the Federal Government. For example, there are records to show that the Minister of Foreign Affairs was billed, on the 18th November, 1961, the sum of £60 for what should have cost the Federal Government only £31-10s-0d—£60 for a £31-10s-0d bill—almost double! Similarly, during the Independence Celebrations and the Governor-General's inauguration—(Interruptions). Will hon. Members please give me a chance to make this speech.

Similarly, during the Independence Celebrations and the Governor-General's installation, the Federal Government was billed £25 per room per night for rooms that would have cost either £5-5s or £9 each. There are many examples of such inflated charges to the Federal Government. It is tantamount to cheating. It is like biting the hand that fed one for, without the Federal Government, how could poor Leventis have been so wealthy as to build a national hotel?

These two faults are not the only ones that the management of this Hotel has. The most annoying is the misrepresentation of the affairs of this Government to foreign guests by the management. It is reliably learnt that Leventis indulges in bragging to foreigners that he owns our national hotel. They boast about their unrivalled friendship with and influence on our Ministers. They even convince some of the

[MR EMEME]

foreign guests that they have a hand in the running of our Government. They always cite, as an example of their influence on the Federal Government their assistance to an oil company to establish in Nigeria. I really do not understand what assistance they can give to foreigners seeking to establish an oil company. But what is annoying is that they brag.

The management of the Federal Palace Hotel takes delight in practising racial discrimination in a disguised and subtle form. There are several examples to prove this. When Dr Banda, the renowned nationalist leader of Tanganyika visited this country and lodged in that Hotel, he and his secretary were packed together in one room, whereas the other white diplomats were gracefully given a room each.

Mr Speaker : That is not relevant.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): And, Mr Speaker, Sir, Dr Banda is not from Tanganyika.

Mr Ememe : The Senegalese and another major embassy were discriminated against in hotel charges. The Management's policy is "high rates for African diplomats and low rates for those from Greece or other Western European or American countries". They charged these two embassies £15 for a double room for which they normally charged £5, and £8 instead of £9 to Greek diplomats, even though they owe—

Mr Speaker : Members must refrain from making noise.

Mr Ememe : Even though they owe their wealth to Africa, yet they discriminate against Africans.

Their worst crime against this country is committed in their conditions of service to their workers. It is usual in hotels of this type to receive what is termed 'service charges' from customers for the benefit of their staff, especially the junior staff. Five or ten *per cent* of the total bill is usually charged for this purpose—this is to avoid servants neglecting their work in their drive for tips. This Hotel charges ten *per cent* for this purpose. In fact, since the Independence Celebrations in October 1961, the Hotel has received the sum of about £2,600 on the ten *per cent* service charges.

But they refuse to pay even a mite to the workers. There is work here for labour leaders.

On the Nigerian workers, discrimination is intensified. The management has not yet seen fit to employ or promote a Nigerian to a senior post. Of the 19 senior servants serving in this Hotel, not one is a Nigerian, not one. And as if these evil practices are not enough, the African or the Nigerian staff are denied any facilities to feed in the Hotel, even when they are forced to work overtime. The European staff, in addition to their fat salaries, also dine and live there free of charge. In fact, their transport and laundry charges are provided for by the management. The poor Nigerian uses his meagre wage to pay for bus fares every day. This is a typical example of the saying that, to him who has shall be given, and him who has not, even what little he has shall be taken away from him.

The Nigeria Hotels Limited has demonstrated that state-owned hotels avoid this type of atrocity.

The Nigeria Hotels Limited has demonstrated that state-owned hotels avoid this type of atrocities. It has also shown that Nigerianisation can be achieved even in hotel business. Of the 44 senior posts in the Nigeria Hotels, 29 are Nigerians while only 15 are expatriates. I have always said that we are safer with state-owned concerns than privately owned concerns. This is an example of what private, especially foreign business concerns can do to this country. With all their good intentions they cannot help going the way the Leventis are going in their hotel.

Before I conclude, let me emphasise that socialism will eliminate all these economic and social headaches. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker : Order, order! The hon. Member from Owo North (*Mr S. A. Ogedengbe*) and others must refrain from persistent interruptions.

Mr Ememe : Those who fight against true socialism in this country have their selfish interest to protect. For the good and benefit of all, let us reorganise our economy and go socialist.

In conclusion, I wish to suggest a line of action for the Federal Government to satisfy not only the Nigerians who are working in that

Federal Parliament Debates

1253

[Federal Palace Hotel]

10 APRIL 1962

[Federal Palace Hotel]

1254

Hotel, but the entire nation. When I first learned of the ownership of this national hotel, I could not believe it. The voice of the people has reached the heavens. They want the Federal Palace Hotel nationalised with compensation, or else let the Federal Government build a national hotel that is equivalent to this type of hotel and cease supporting the injustice of profiteering in the management of this hotel. The steps to be taken in buying over and managing the hotel are as follows.

The first step is to seek the co-operation of the Leventis and the second—

An hon. Member : Why co-operation ?

Mr Ememe : When you want to buy over you cannot force them. Secondly, you want to invite independent engineering firms, not from the Western countries, to assess the total value of this building, pay the market value and deduct the grant that was paid by this Government to Mr Leventis. Make sure that nothing is paid for goodwill of this hotel ; the reason for this is of course certain because the goodwill of this hotel rests on the Federal Government. Without the Federal Government the Hotel has no goodwill and therefore the Federal Government should not pay for the goodwill.

On the other hand they should overhaul the whole administration and put the management under the Nigeria Hotels Limited. Those who are prepared to shed crocodile tears over this nationalisation of the Federal Palace Hotel must remember that this country cannot be sacrificed on the altar of their self-interest.

I beg to second.

11.02 a.m.

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu North West) : I beg to move, in Line 1 to leave out from "That" to end of the Question and add—

"this House urges the Federal Government to enter into negotiation with the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel with a view to securing controlling shares in the Hotel."

In the first place we have made a declaration to the business interests in this country that there will be no attempt to nationalise their businesses, and that where it becomes necessary to do so an adequate compensation will be paid. It is not now necessary to do so. The £670 million development project must go on. You cannot eat your cake and have it.

I think that this Motion, if nothing else, has provided the proper atmosphere and platform to clear things which ought to be cleared about this question of hotels. I think I am in a better position—

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : On a point of order, it is now clear from every word of the hon. Member for Orlu North West (*Dr Mbadiwe*) that he is a shareholder in that Federal Palace Hotel. He should declare his interest right now, otherwise on a point of order he has no right to have a say in this matter.

Mr Speaker : I think he is only mobilising his eagle wings.

Dr Mbadiwe : Humour fascinates me in Parliament, Mr Speaker, but I do not reply to jargon. I say that I am in a better position to give the facts, because I was then the Minister responsible for making the decision to ask Leventis to build this Federal Palace Hotel in the interests of the impending independence celebrations. The need for that hotel arose when the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to this country—

Chief Odulana : The hon. Member for Orlu North West says that he does not reply to jargon. In the English dictionary the meaning of "jargon" is language that cannot be understood. I want to ask, Mr Speaker, if he did not understand the language which I put to him, because I was not speaking in Orlu language.

Mr Y. O. Mohammed : Mr Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder why hon. Members delight in raising points of order for the purpose of wasting our time. May I please refer you to standing order 26 (1) and, with your permission, I will quote—

"26 (1)—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."

Why is it that the hon. Member from Ijebu South (*Chief Odulana*) is used to raising a point of order without quoting the order ? I wish

[M. MOHAMMED]

the Speaker would not allow Members to raise points of order in such a way. They must call attention to the point of order according to the Standing Order of the House.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree with you that there has been quite a lot of raising of points of order unnecessarily. I think it is time we got used to the correct Parliamentary procedure.

Dr Mbadiwe : I was saying that during the proposed visit of Her Majesty The Queen there was then the desire to have a banquet but, after an inspection of the accommodation available in Lagos, we were informed that a banquet could not be held because there was no proper accommodation. The Mainland Hotel was condemned as not being a fitting place. You can realise what that meant, when we were told that we could not hold a banquet because this country did not have adequate facilities.

It was then that the idea of having a luxury hotel in Lagos was contemplated so that at no time in the future would visitors to West Africa or Nigeria say that we did not have adequate facilities. We were determined that, if necessary, the hotel facilities in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, would compare favourably with those in any other part of the world. That was our conception.

Then, when the question of the independence celebrations arose, it was thought that, for these celebrations, we must have a hotel which would be the showcase of the country but it was agreed that the Government would have no part in it, apart from giving its encouragement, and that it would have no financial stake in the proposition. It is known that businessmen are here for profit and for whatever money they can make. No businessman is here for charity. We wanted certain things done and we knew how they could be done. We had the conception but the question was, who would finance such a project ?

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : May I ask the hon. Member, since he was the Minister responsible at that time, if he will tell the House why the decision had not been taken that this was necessary and why the Government did not invite Leventis to discuss the question ?

Dr Mbadiwe : I have no Attorney-General next to me and I do not want to anticipate or answer questions.

We had to send messages to all persons interested in the hotel business asking if they could—with Government providing land; land not money—give us a luxury hotel that could compare favourably with any in the world. It was then that the proprietors of the Mainland Hotel agreed to put up a hotel to the cost of £450,000. Our obligation was to give land and that land would also be of economic value. That, then, was the commitment which was given. The hotel proceeded on the understanding that the cost would be £450,000 but not exceeding £750,000.

Later on, ideas developed that the banqueting hall must be so big as to provide seating capacity for 500-1,000, and that there would be big reception areas provided. The reason why I am stating this is that any commercial firm has a right to build a hotel without any unnecessary interference by any government, and when you dictate certain facilities that you would like to see in such a hotel. Conversely the owner is entitled to decide whether it is economical because, in the final analysis, he will have to find the money; but we said, at that time that no money would be provided.

I am giving the background story because often people had the concept that the Government was financing this hotel. Not until it was opened did the Nigerian public know that the Federal Government had nothing to do with the financing of it and that it belonged, in fact, to an individual enterprise.

When this undertaking was given various obstacles arose and negotiations commenced in 1958 concerning the building of this hotel because we realised that if we had no such hotel ready in time for the independence celebrations, there would be no place for our guests to be accommodated. We realised also that such a hotel would influence their impressions of the whole independence celebrations, and so, to get it ready in time for the independence celebrations became our most important object. The pledge was then made that it would be ready for independence.

Some people have criticised by saying that even the little concession which the Government made concerning the land was exorbitant; but I invite Members of this

Federal Parliament Debates

1257

[Federal Palace Hotel]

10 APRIL 1962

[Federal Palace Hotel]

1258

House and Members of the Government to check similar projects in other countries, where the governments concerned invited people to undertake the building of an hotel, and to compare the concessions they have given. Ghana built their own entirely. It is owned by Ghana. There is a new hotel, I think, in Cairo. There is an hotel being built with, I think, two hundred bedrooms in Abidjan and the one which we ourselves saw in Monrovia was Government sponsored. In contrast, you will find that the bargainers in Nigeria are harder bargainers than those elsewhere and I think they should receive praise for bargaining so hard, instead of which we hear meaningless criticisms.

In Abidjan I understand that for the two hundred bedroom hotel the Government has given some money, about £750,000 at 6 per cent interest. They are also putting up equity capital of another £750,000 in the hotel and they are guaranteeing 17 per cent dividend to all non-government investors and a *moratorium* of two years before the interest on the loan will be paid. Those were the concessions which encouraged the people to invest in that enterprise. What concession did this Government give? And yet there is always criticism.

Why did I move the Amendment that the Government should take the controlling interest?

An hon. Member: You must be a shareholder!

Dr Mbadiwe: If I were a shareholder I would not be afraid to declare my interest and say so because it would be a credit to Nigeria if I could find the money to be one, but unfortunately it is not available yet!

Why did I say that the Government should negotiate? Negotiation is between two people—they can agree or disagree, there is no commitment.

We should take controlling shares but I am opposing the idea that the Government should take the whole thing over. Why I move the Amendment was that people who make contributions and make an effort to achieve something must be living witnesses as to how we got that achievement. Secondly, we have given a premium land in that area of 15 acres and more.

If the new Parliament is to be built in that area and the Hotel is to be further developed, as I understand, to a shopping centre, with cinema, swimming pools, and more room facilities, in the next ten years if any Nigerian goes that way and learns that the whole area belongs to a private individual he will be grumbling.

Several hon. Members: Yes. They are grumbling now.

Dr Mbadiwe: Rather than take it from the man who has designed it let the Government take controlling shares in the Hotel. If the person refuses—

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Why did you file the Amendment in the first place? What is your special interest?

Dr Mbadiwe: The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) does not behave like a Legislator (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Really, some of these interruptions are intolerable and I ask hon. Members to desist from them.

Dr Mbadiwe: I feel that with the growth of this country, if we give an individual 15 acres of land in this premium area where Parliament Buildings will stand, and where we have Members' Flats, the diplomats of this country and the future youths of this country will ask, who are the owners of this area? And if the answer they get is that it belong to a foreigner, it will be unpalatable. That is why I say that the Government should have controlling shares in it. We have a godly Government. We will say to the owners that the day we rise to design buildings, we will build. We will be happy to get the finest architects, but people who sit down in one bench with their feet stretched cannot produce anything—

Mr W. Briggs (Degema): Point of order, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Will you please quote the Order you are referring to? Unless you can point to the Order number, I think you should leave it to me to be the judge of irrelevance.

Mr Briggs: Is it relevant when somebody puts his leg on this Table? Has that anything to do with this Motion?

Mr Speaker: This is only a minor point which, after all, raises the humour of the House.

Dr Mbadiwe : I am a witness to what transpired in getting that Federal Palace Hotel ready for the Independence celebrations. At one time people said it could not be done in 18 months or two years. To build that Hotel in one year and get it ready for the Independence celebrations was a super-human effort. (*Applause*).

We have always been a grateful country. Even if we give the owners 1s share in appreciation, if they like they can sell it, we must show appreciation. But that premium area which is growing and developing must belong to the people of Nigeria. It would be unpalatable for foreigners to have all that land and all that building.

People say that the thing must be taken over, whether it is a paying proposition or not. I am saying what I believe to be fundamental, what I will do: if things do not pay they can be made to pay. People do things that may not pay them at first, but they make profit eventually. I am proud that in Nigeria to-day we can invite tourists, we can invite people who will take part in the Development Programme so lucidly and ably introduced by the Minister of Economic Development. When they come we will have no fear as to whether we have a place for them or not. Do you know that bad accommodation can drive money away from this country?

Several hon. Members : Yes.

Dr Mbadiwe : People who have money do not want to go and live in any bad place. So, money must be spent for a proper need. Life is too short to be trifled with. If you have the money show you have it. People who do not have money will go to dingy quarters.

That Hotel was not built for Nigerians alone, because people know that we have too many relatives. Nigerians do not like to go to hotels: they pack their portmanteaux to their brothers, to their relatives (*Laughter*). Whether or not they are inconveniencing their relatives does not matter to Nigerians. We are looking for hotels for foreign investors, not for ourselves. If you tell a Nigerian to pay so much money and eat such food, unless he has a grant somewhere, he will not do it. Therefore, no businessman will sink his money

into building a hotel when he knows that there will be no clients to patronise it. We are building for the future. The Hotel was built on a directive and we have certain obligations regarding that hotel.

All that I am asking the Government to remember is that once our minds are clear that we have not wounded or harmed anyone, our task is done, the future belongs to us. Therefore, to-day or tomorrow, we must take it.

I think, I am grateful that this opportunity has come so that the Government itself will explain, because so much rumour has been connected with the Hotel when there ought not to be any. Government, as far as I know, had no penny—not a single penny—in the Hotel, but people had that mistaken notion. I feel that the bargaining or concessions which were made for that Hotel to be built are reasonable. Compared with two other hotels built on Government directive elsewhere, our Ministers have been the hardest bargainers in that regard. I challenge anyone to study other hotels in the whole world and study the concessions given here. He will find that we are the hardest bargainers. Let us please soften our bargaining if they are too hard, so that the person at our gate may not wound us.

Sir, I beg to move the Amendment.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo Central) : I rise to second the Amendment. What the Amendment seeks to do have been fully treated by the mover of the Amendment. What is required is that the Government should have a controlling share in the Federal Palace Hotel. That is quite a reasonable proposal. Nigeria may have some faults but I must say that ingratitude is not one of them. To take over the Federal Palace Hotel completely gives the impression of ingratitude. In the hour of our need for a place to accommodate our guests from all over the world—

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : Is the hon. Member seconding the original Motion or is he seconding the velvet Motion? I am not sure which is which.

Mr Speaker : He said he was seconding the Amendment and not the velvet one.

Chief Mariere : My hon. Friend Chief Anthony Enahoro was probably thinking of something else when I seconded the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Orlu North East (*Dr K. O. Mbadiwe*). The Amendment is—"That this House urges the Federal Government to enter into negotiation with the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel with a view to securing controlling shares in the Hotel". That is the Amendment I am seconding.

Before independence, we wanted a fitting place in which we could accommodate our guests from all over the world on the attainment of independence. Now someone came to our aid; the job was done with lightning speed and the whole place, which was an eyesore in 1959 became the centre of attraction in 1960. A lot of money was sunk into this business by the Federal Palace Hotel proprietors. Barely under two years people turn round and demand that the Hotel should be taken over. What is the point in asking for that particularly now that we have a Development Plan and we need a lot of money to carry out the Plan?

Some people are telling us that there is money hidden somewhere; that we have to buy ever the Federal Palace Hotel, instead of concentrating on the plans before the Federal Government. People must at this time not give way to sentiment in this country. There is too much sentiment and we need much money for our Development Plan and we have nothing at all with which we can buy the Palace Hotel. Let us face facts. Controlling share is all right. We are responsible to the people of this country for many things. Already austerity measures—what I call not austerity measures but "sacrificial" measures—have been introduced into the country and the members of the public whom we have now asked to support the Development Plan of the Government are wondering what it is all about that they have been asked to pay increased tax for many things. Now—

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Member is very irrelevant. He is speaking on the Development Plan and not on the Motion.

Mr Speaker : I think he has wandered a little bit far but not for very long.

Chief Mariere : It is inter-related with the economic arrangements that we have in hand to-day. If I may say many things in a few words, the take over of controlling shares in the Palace Hotel is an answer to the sort of maladministration to which the hon. Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) referred. These are quite different matters. Maladministration and high charges are matters quite different from the taking over of the Hotel as a whole. We must not allow sentiments to over-ride reasons. In this country, because of sentiments, some people will like to name their children 'Lumumba' even though after three days the child dies. Let us face facts. We have not the money; the money that we have we shall use to concentrate on our projects. So the best thing to do at the moment is for the Federal Government to enter into negotiation with the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel with a view to securing controlling shares in the hotel. That is quite a fair move and I recommend this Amendment to all sides of the House because of our financial position at the present time.

Sir, I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I think that while the Chair appreciates the great zeal with which Members look forward to this debate, we should have some order.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): I think that there are some other Amendments in here. One is by the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*), one is by me and is by the hon. Member for Onitsha North (*Mr Ezeani*); and I am wondering if we are going to put the first Amendment before asking the others to move the Amendment.

Mr Speaker : Well, I am afraid if we are to avoid involving ourselves deeply in confusion, I think we have to deal with the Amendments one after the other.

11.40 a.m.

The Minister of Establishments (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I rise to reply to this Motion on behalf of my Colleague, Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima, who, unfortunately, is away outside Nigeria in the interests of Nigeria.

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

It is true that the provision of first-class hotels is fundamental to the economy of Nigeria. A high standard of accommodation has come to be regarded as significant of the welcome extended to visitors, tourists, businessmen, and potential investors of capital from overseas.

There was at one time a dearth of such accommodation in Lagos, and it was clear that in many ways trade and investment in this country were impeded by this shortage. The International Bank Mission drew attention to this deficiency and, to encourage the development of the hotel trade, the Government declared it a pioneer industry.

With the approach of independence, it became more than ever necessary to extend the availability of a first-class hotel accommodation and, at the request of the Federal Government, the Federal Palace Hotel was established in time to ease the problem of accommodating the very large number of influential guests who arrived here for the independence celebrations.

The Movers of the Motion and the Amendment all appreciate the risk which this company took to undertake the formidable task of supplying a luxurious and first-class hotel in a very short period of time, and they made it quite clear too that they did this at the request of the Federal Government. It is also clear that this request was not made specifically to one company. Several companies were approached to do this, but we failed to get any response from any other company.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : Point of order. Several companies were not approached at all. That is not true because I served in that Committee. It was Leventis who manoeuvred themselves into it.

Mr Speaker : That is at best a point of information.

The Minister of Establishments : Well Mr Speaker, my hon. Friend cannot claim to know more than the Government about these negotiations. It is a fact that several companies were approached and that none of them accepted the conditions to put in a huge amount of money and to do the work within the stipulated time. And this company should be congratulated on their initiative in

making so substantial an investment in the hotel trade at a time when other companies were not prepared to take such a risk. Quite apart from any other consideration, it would be ingratitude, now that the hotel has firmly established itself, to take it over at this stage.

The Federal Palace Hotel was built as a private venture and a very considerable sum of money was invested in it. The proprietors had, therefore, quite rightly been accorded the benefit of a pioneer certificate under the Industrial Development Income Tax Relief Act.

The concessions which the Government had made to these concerns had, however, frequently been misrepresented and, for purposes of record, Sir, let me say here that there is no truth whatsoever in the allegation that the Government subsidises this hotel.

An hon. Member : What of the land ?

The Minister of Establishments : I am coming. Nor is it true that the Government made available free of charge the land on which this hotel was built.

Several hon. Members : How much is paid ?

The Minister of Establishments : Just listen. The land is held by the proprietors on a ninety-nine-year lease, which is the normal practice. They pay a rent of £100 per acre and, in accordance with the terms of the lease, this rent is subject to review after a period of 21 years. That is a fact and that is applicable to every other company which leases Government land.

It is not true to say that the Government gives grants to this company. The Government had not been paying any grants whatsoever to the proprietors of the Federal Palace Hotel.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : On a point of information, Mr Speaker. I beg to remind the hon. Minister that all the materials used in putting up the hotel were duty free.

The Minister of Establishments : That is true, and I was going to explain that. The condition which was given to this company and other concerns to build this hotel was that they

Federal Parliament Debates

1265

[*Federal Palace Hotel*]

10 APRIL 1962

[*Federal Palace Hotel*]

1266

should build it and get everything ready before the 1st of October, 1960. It was evident at that time that it was almost impossible to do so in such a short time, and the concession which was given was that a duty-free entry of the building materials in order to make it possible to finish the building before the 1st October, 1960, was given, not to this particular company alone, but to any which was ready to do the job and, as I said before, it was only this company which could afford the risk.

It is wrong, I must stress, it is wrong and unfair for hon. Members of this House to attack a private company or any private concern which has got no opportunity to reply. The Government or the Minister of Commerce and Industry is not here to protect any private interest or to defend it in this House. We are here to defend the actions of the Government, and it is unfair that any hon. Member should stand up in this House and attack a private enterprise on how it runs its affairs when it has got no say in this House. If hon. Members have any criticisms on the Government, they should criticise the Government and not any private concern.

The attitude of this Government towards nationalisation was debated at length in this House last November and I do not consider it necessary to remind hon. Members of the outcome. I must, however, point out that this Motion is concerned not with nationalisation of industries as a whole.

This question of nationalisation of industries was debated in this House during the last sitting of this House. In this particular case, hon. Members are pressing for the nationalisation of a particular hotel and not the hotel industry as a whole. This is highly discriminatory and, bearing in mind the proceedings of this House last November, I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that we must be particularly careful to avoid any suggestion of such discrimination. Nothing could be more damaging to the confidence of existing and potential investors in this country, and nothing could more thoroughly wreck the satisfactory investment climate that we have taken such pains and expense to promote than such a suggestion. We are just embarking on the first National Development Programme, and we need all

the capital that we can mobilise. We simply cannot afford, at this stage, to gamble with our creditworthiness.

It is all too commonly advocated that important organisations be brought under such control. The Government does not subscribe to that view. It is, in our opinion, neither necessary nor desirable for the State to own and operate every important organ of economic activity; indeed, experience elsewhere has shown that State control does not always lead to economic growth, and that certain enterprises are more likely to succeed if financed and controlled by private interests.

We have been told by hon. Members during the course of their speeches that there are hotels being operated by Governments in other countries in Africa. But I learn from reliable sources that these Government-run hotels were running at a deficit. Therefore, for the Government to run an hotel, it has to be prepared to run a non-profit-making venture, and hon. Members will agree with me that at this stage of our development, and with our need for more and more investment, we should not risk gambling Government money in a venture that is not profitable. We have no funds to spare for taking over expensive enterprises which have already attracted sufficient private investment capital, and we have certainly none to spare for projects which might not be profitable to operate.

The Mover of the Motion, as well as the Mover of the Amendment, have clearly pointed out that their intention is that, so long as the Government feels that it is in the interests of Nigeria to take over this hotel or to have a share in it, the Government should do so. But I am informing the honourable House, Sir, through you, that the Government has looked into this matter and they have come to the conclusion that it is not in the best interests of Nigeria either to take over this hotel or to have a controlling share in it, because it is not profitable.

The proprietors of this hotel, in spite of the high prices which they charge for the rooms, still contend that they are running at a deficit, that they are not receiving any profit, and that they would be quite happy if the Government would take it over. But the Government does not want to go into a venture which is not

[MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS]

profitable. The Government cannot afford to make losses when it is not necessary to do so. The hon. Mover of this Motion and the hon. Seconder, during the course of their speeches, gave the proviso that they were making this suggestion only if it would be financially feasible and profitable for the Government to do so. The fact is that it is not, and for that reason I do not see any need for us to go into the debate, and I would ask the Mover to please withdraw the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker : Is the Mover withdrawing? Under Standing Orders a Motion cannot be withdrawn until the Amendment is disposed of. Does the Mover of the Amendment intend to withdraw?

Dr Mbadiwe : We have listened to the eloquent testimony of the Minister of Establishments, giving credit where credit is due, without fear or favour. That is what I want in this country. It is only a fearful conscience that cannot speak before kings and princes. I am satisfied with the Minister's explanation. One thing that I want the Government to do is that we do not want—

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : The question asked by the Deputy Speaker was whether Dr Mbadiwe was withdrawing or not. He was not asked to make another speech!

The Deputy Speaker : I think there is cause for some patience now. If I gathered correctly, I think the hon. Gentleman was coming round to saying that he was withdrawing.

Dr Mbadiwe : With this view, I beg to withdraw.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Deputy Speaker : I was calling on Mallam Aminu Kano to speak, but was Mr Oronsaye raising a point of order?

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) : The point of order that I am raising is that which the Deputy Speaker himself has raised on this matter about withdrawing the Amendment before the main Motion. Dr Mbadiwe's is not the only Amendment; there are other Amendments to this Motion, and, according to that Order, until all these Amendments have been withdrawn, the original Motion cannot be withdrawn.

The Deputy Speaker : Standing Order 23 (2) provides that—

"If an amendment has been proposed to a question, the original motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed of."

So, far, the only Amendment proposed has been that of Dr Mbadiwe; no other Amendment has yet been proposed.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Standing Order does not preclude Amendments to a Motion, and since we have Amendments on this particular Motion, we have just disposed of one and there are two other Amendments coming up. There is nothing in the Standing Orders which will preclude taking the Amendments one by one until all are disposed of or withdrawn before the original Motion is put.

The Deputy Speaker : Order. While quite frankly on professional grounds I would have entertained these intellectual exercises, I would respectfully say that the Standing Order does not say *Amendments put down on the Order Paper*. It says *Amendments proposed*, and until they are proposed I think I am right in saying that the original mover will be precluded from withdrawing if he intends to do so; if the Amendments have been stated on the Floor of this House and the Question put, but until then, the original Mover can still withdraw his Motion.

Chief A. Enahoro (Ishan East) : On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would suggest that that ruling might lead to an absurdity or a negation of the processes of Parliament because it would mean that in order to prevent the hon. Members moving the Amendments, it would be possible to call on the Mover of the original Motion at any stage. I would wish to suggest that in this context, to *propose* is not merely to propose from the Chair, but also to propose to be moved.

Several hon. Members rose—

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order! Will Members be seated please? Mr Chikelu please be seated. I must say that there must be some conclusion to the exercise of this morning. I would say that perhaps if you want an illustration, I believe even if you might have tabled a dozen Amendments, if the original

Mover had declined from moving originally the Amendment could not have come up. I still think that in the present circumstance, if Mallam Aminu Kano is rising to withdraw, he may do so, please.

Mr D. N. Oronsanye (Benin East) rose—

The Deputy Seaker : Order, order. Mr Oronsaye is ruled out please.

Mallam Aminu Kano (Kano East) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to withdraw.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

PRIVATE PRACTICE BY GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS

12.04 p.m.

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, namely—

That in view of the unsatisfactory treatment given to out-patients in Lagos hospitals and the disturbing rumours of scandals that medical officers use Government time in attending to, and Government drugs for, their private patients and their own clinics, this House urges the Government to institute an independent enquiry into these allegations.

Speaking a few days ago, the Minister of Health noted, and I quote from the Parliamentary Debates :—

"We hear of allegations of favouritism, malpractices of several kinds, and the like. But I would like to remind hon. Members that the men and women who man our medical services are human beings with human weaknesses like any Member of this House."

I only just refer to this brief statement to say that the Minister of Health has been very efficient enough to acknowledge these rumours, and that his statement shows a willingness to investigate as I will show later.

But one thing disturbs me here in this Minister's statement. One girl was once told by a detractor : "Oh, my dear, you look so very ugly," and the girl replied, "Wait until you see my sister, then you will see how ugly we look." If there are some people who are embezzling Government funds and drugs, we cannot justify their action just because there are such

practices elsewhere in the services of this nation. I await the Minister's acceptance to investigate which in principle means that he has accepted the Motion which I am proposing.

I quote once again from the Minister's statement—

"I wish to assure the House that we are determined to deal ruthlessly with those of our officers who are found to be exploiting the present shortage to their private advantage."

This is very reassuring ; it is a very heartening statement to come from our Minister of Health which shows that he is aware of public opinion in respect of these charges and allegations.

A patient went to one of the youngest medical officers in our General Hospital for treatment. She was asked by the Doctor, "Do you want private treatment or hospital treatment?" She answered, "I want hospital treatment because I have no money to pay for private treatment." The doctor grew impatient, scribbled quickly on a piece of paper and threw the paper at her. The lady was not examined and the story of her ailment was not listened to.

Then a boy, a labourer for that matter, who was lifting blocks somewhere in Ajegunle, had sore muscles which he developed in the course of his job. He went to the doctor at the General Hospital, Lagos. He was asked whether he wanted private or hospital treatment. This is the sort of question which you often hear and every patient has known what it means. He opted for hospital treatment. The doctor grew angry and yelled at him when he started to explain his ailment.

Sensing the danger, he asked the doctor to tell him how much it cost to be treated if he opted for private treatment, and the doctor said five guineas. The boy left the consulting room with a prescription, some tablets and an injection. The boy had understood ; if only he could get well this time the boy chuckled, he would change his job. He got another job quite all right, but he was not able to resume duty because he was still not well.

A lady waited from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a dying baby. There was another doctor to ease the congestion because there were long queues of people waiting for one doctor

[DR OKEKE]

There was another doctor there, but this other doctor—no one would go to him—is a dead wood in our Medical Services. He was impatient to listen to patients; he was also arrogant. He did not listen to them either because he did not know much and he wanted to hide his ignorance.

Now in the consulting room of this doctor who was overworked, this lady was waiting with her baby. Having waited for so many hours, luck smiled on her and at a very opportune time, the doctor looked out of the window. The girl raised up her baby to the doctor and the doctor waved her in. He quickly wrote prescriptions and the lady went to the dispensary to collect them, but there the next round of the ordeal in our hospitals began.

The nurse wondered why the doctor should prescribe five rounds of injection for five days and four bottles of very expensive drugs and some other pills. This nurse bluntly refused to give the patient what was prescribed for her. He told the lady that many of the prescriptions were out of stock, which is a ready answer which nurses give when they do not want to give medicine. He brought out four bottles of drugs prescribed and gave the lady two and put the other two under the sink.

The lady became suspicious and took what the nurse gave her back to the doctor and reported the whole transaction. The doctor went to the dispensary and the nurse explained that there were only two bottles of this particular drug. The lady spoke up and said "Doctor, look under the sink, the two bottles are there". Sure enough, they were there! The doctor ordered the nurse to bring the two bottles out and give them to the lady and ordered the nurse to give the other prescription. He did. He found the other drugs which he said were not available. This kind of nurse who sells drugs prescribed for patients has his counterpart in our hospitals all over the country.

It is a common practice for nurses to get rich by selling Government drugs at the expense of sick patients, unless their *palms are greased*. This is a case where a doctor was determined to see a patient get well, and the nurse wanted to be an obstacle.

There are many cases where a doctor does not know what is going on and the patients get no redress. Many of our medical officers in Government hospitals prescribe drugs for patients in their own clinics after collecting two guineas, and the prescriptions are sent to the hospitals for collection. Many times the doctors prescribe drugs which are by arrangement returned to the doctors for private use in their own private clinics.

Once a patient, ignorant of the racket, went to a doctor in his private clinic. She would not be given a prescription until she had paid the consultation fee of two guineas. At the hospital, she was asked to pay for the drugs again. Ignorantly she explained that she had paid two guineas already. She was chased out of the hospital in disgrace. We hear these reports all over the country. Go out into the streets and ask the people and they will all say the same thing. I asked a few people and their stories were the same.

There was the story of a patient who went to one of the newest recruits of our medical officers and was asked whether she wanted hospital treatment or private treatment. The patient opted for hospital treatment because she had no money to pay for private treatment; otherwise she would have gone to a private doctor. The doctor scribbled a prescription quickly and threw the paper at the patient. She tried to talk to the doctor, but the doctor did not listen. The patient went to see another doctor. I do not want to mention his name, because there are some good doctors in our medical services but the mal-practices of bad ones overshadow their own efforts.

I will also not mention the name of the doctor that this patient complained to about what transpired between her and the new doctor. When the patient reported to the old doctor, the doctor only listened to the story and laughed. That is all he did; he laughed, because he knew what was going on. The doctor looked at the prescription given to this patient, it was *quinacrine*. Now, he then listened patiently to the report of her ailments, examined her and told her she was suffering from high blood pressure. High blood pressure, for which the other doctor gave her *quinacrine*! She was given a new prescription.

We have heard these gruesome reports of callousness by some doctors and nurses in our hospitals. Sick children, pregnant women and out-patients waiting for hours in a queue. Honourable Members should go to the General Hospital, they should go to the Children's Clinic, and they will see babies crying and patients standing in the sun. It is repugnant, it is evidence of total neglect which borders on cruelty.

What was the offence of Doctor Gans? It is the common property of every Nigerian, the offence that Doctor Gans committed. He only said the right thing at the wrong time and place and went against the General Orders. That is what happened. General Orders, imperialists' general orders! He spoke up against callousness, against neglect and indifference which is what happens in our hospitals and clinics.

There was the story of the medical officer who was on leave. While on leave, he requested for £500 worth of drugs. The lady medical officer who was in charge of drugs refused to let these drugs out because the reasons given by the doctor were not tenable. What happened was that the doctor telephoned round and she was cautioned and relieved of her responsibilities of giving drugs out. She resigned in protest.

Doctor Gans was praised by our own Minister of Health and every Nigerian would be gratified. He was praised at the opening of the Children's Clinic. This is *post-mortem*. Doctor Gans has been removed, but he is not dead. He offended the imperialists' General Orders, not the Nigerian Public Order, not the children he gave his services to, and not the Nigerian public whom he served with credit.

His services to the children of Nigeria will forever remain a shining example to all those medical officers and nurses who want to show an example of dedicated service to Nigeria. As I said there are such good officers and nurses in our medical services but the malpractices of many dishonest and unpatriotic ones overshadow the efforts of these people.

Let me repeat, that Dr Gans is not dead and I hope our good Government will still reconsider reappointing him to complete the task which he started. Indeed his appointment will be a vindication of efficient service and a

blow to the apathy and the money-grabbing medical officers and nurses. We need the services of men like Dr Gans.

I also remember the case of one doctor who was determined to help the people of this country. He was employed in one of our General Hospitals. He saw red and resigned in a hurry when he saw patients left uncared for by doctors and nurses, patients dying when they could be saved. He went back to the United States of America; he is now practising there, a loss to our country. Honourable Members should go out, speak to the people, read our newspapers, and they will understand what I am saying.

I have gone through three newspapers this morning and they all contain reports about what is happening in our hospitals. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will quote—

Several hon. Members: Do not worry, do not worry, speak on.

Dr Okeke: These allegations must be inquired into very urgently. We must do something now. The Government must not treat this matter with levity. Public resentment is mounting and it may explode. These little things matter. If we see public opinion building up against certain services, and we leave them unattended to, something may happen one day and when it starts it may be difficult to stop.

Many people are talking and they are talking very loudly. The essence of establishing general hospitals and clinics by the Government is to enable those who cannot, I repeat those who cannot pay for private treatment to get treatment at nominal charges at the expense of the state. There can be no more and no less to it. Why should this noble gesture of this Government be turned into private use by some greedy ones amongst our medical officers and nurses?

We will not grumble if these Doctors buy their own drugs to treat their private patients. But, the temptation is too great for them to have private practice and avoid using Government facilities. I agree with the Minister that they are human beings, according to what he said yesterday, and one can tempt a human being too much. To allow our doctors to

[DR OKEKE]

have their own private clinics and then expect them not to use Government facilities is to expect what is impossible. This is why we must make it a serious offence punishable by the removal of the name of the medical officer from the Register of Medical Practitioners in this country, if any is caught doing private practice while engaged on a salary by the Government. We are not trying to deny them any right. The nature of their job calls for undivided attention, just as a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace. Would it not be an ugly affair if Magistrates and Judges go to courts for private cases?

This brings me to another point; because you cannot beat a child and refuse the child the joy of crying. I am proposing that, in addition to setting up this enquiry, we must forbid these Medical Officers from taking up private practice while they are engaged in our Public Service. But then you have to pay them. These doctors are paid highly—they must be paid highly. If we forbid them from engaging in private practice—and we do so in the interests of the public—we must pay them salaries commensurate with their training and experience. They spend over eight years acquiring the necessary knowledge and experience overseas before coming back to this country.

If the Magistrates, for example, who spend four years overseas receive from £1,000 upwards, how much more our doctors whose training took over eight years under most arduous and gruesome conditions? Do you not want to pay for the job? The doctor can be called out at any time to work, and he must have the time; so you can go there and experience the things that the doctors encounter.

Several hon. Members: They should be well-paid. We agree.

Dr Okeke: You know that they should be paid more. Doctors must be paid an initial salary of not less than £2,000 because if these doctors are paid highly, the temptation to steal would be—

Several hon. Members: They would steal more.

Dr Okeke: They would steal, but you will have the moral right to punish them, because they are getting enough for their pay. We will

then have the right to punish them. Punish them properly and hard if they steal after they have got more money. So, every doctor must have £2,000; and then a Specialist will get more and they rise to £2,500. Now, this is for general practitioners.

If this Motion passes—and I trust it will pass—the salaries of medical officers must be increased promptly. If we cannot regulate the practice of these medical officers, we must have to abandon Government ownership of hospitals, and let the public know that we cannot run low-cost medical services further. We must not create an avenue, especially in these years of austerity, for some people to get rich quickly at public expense. This is double taxation to require the public to pay dearly for those services which their taxes support; and I am suggesting that Government must order an immediate inquiry into these allegations of irregularity and neglect of patients in our hospitals. Government must discover those doctors who are in the habit of stealing Government drugs and bring them to book. Government must stop those doctors who operate private clinics and investigate into the sources of their drug supply. Government must order immediate stop to private practice by medical officers. Above all, an immediate increase in the salaries of medical officers, to be fair to them, must be made to justify our demand that they should give their full services to the public.

We have to set up a permanent hospital committee which will remain as the watch-dog of the people and look into the activities of our medical officers in our hospitals. If we do this, I think that our good Government will stand in the good books of the people of this country as far as their health is concerned. And the Minister of Health has shown an indication that he knows what is going on, and is willing to order an investigation.

I beg to move.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): I rise to second the Motion, "That in view of the unsatisfactory treatment given to out-patients in Lagos hospitals and the disturbing rumours of scandals that medical officers use Government time in attending to, and Government drugs for, their private patients and their own clinics, this House urges the Government to institute an independent enquiry into these allegations."

The mover of this Motion has ably demonstrated the need for this enquiry by citing instances of actual happenings in some hospitals in Lagos. We are very much appreciative of the valuable services being rendered by our medical officers—those of them who are doing their jobs honestly and efficiently. We do not have any intention whatever to reflect on their honesty. Our intention is to call attention to what we consider a very disgraceful state of affairs in these hospitals. We do know that because some medical officers are not doing their work efficiently and honestly, those of them who are doing well are being overworked, because the public would like to go to a doctor who is doing his work honestly, who does not scare them away by demanding extra fees, and who would examine them before prescribing. Of course, such good medical officers are normally overworked because they attract the public. But the very bad ones among them normally scare away the public and, in fact, get their salaries for no job done. It is this kind of immoral practice that we are calling upon Government to take action to stop.

We are quite aware that medical officers spend a lot of time in their training. But adequate provision has been made in the scale of salaries for the extra time they spend in their training. If two men go to the university, one for an Arts degree which takes four years, the other for medical studies which take seven years, the former comes out three years before the latter, and starts on a salary of £720 per annum. His mate who comes out three years later starts on a salary of £1,116 per annum—that is, on the eighth point in the scale. This means that adequate provision has been made for this man who has done extra time in school, because his neighbour who joined the Service three years later could not rise by any type of increment to that point in the scale. Therefore, the excuse that medical officers are not being paid adequately, as a result of which they resort to immoral practices in hospitals is not justified.

We are therefore disappointed that there are people who, even though they are being well cared for, resort to the practice of demanding extra fees from patients; of failing to attend to them when they are unable to get these fees; of diverting people who cannot afford to go to private hospitals to come to their homes for private treatment. We think these are immoral

practices, and we think it is so serious that nothing short of an independent enquiry can clear our hospitals of these evil practices.

We do know that when cases come to the notice of the Ministry, investigations are made. But these investigations have not yet been able to check these practices in hospitals. We consider that time has elapsed long enough for any such investigations to have effect. Several times, the newspapers publish stories of such happenings that are taking place; and many a time, the Ministry has issued statements telling the public that these investigations have been conducted.

Of course, we do have reports, and sometimes we do not have reports, but on the whole this has not discouraged this practice which we are crying against. Therefore, we feel that it is absolutely necessary that this investigation should be carried out as a sort of an enquiry by an independent body.

Why do we want an independent body? We want an independent body so as to restore the confidence of the public in our hospitals.

A lot of people who cannot afford to go to private hospitals have to go to private hospitals because they know they will not get adequate treatment in the General Hospitals. Some are afraid to go to the General Hospitals because when they do go their ailments are, in fact, made worse by neglect. If a sick child is taken to a General Hospital at 8 o'clock, and he has got to wait until about one or two before he gets treatment, and under conditions of over-crowding, and possibly no food to eat while waiting there, obviously the illness will become worse than it was before. Many parents do not like to subject their children to such a treatment, and, therefore, they avoid going to the General Hospitals. The result is that Government provision for the treatment of the general public is not being used for the general public and this provision is, in fact, being used by some medical officers, not all of them, for their own private practice. We believe that if an enquiry is instituted it will be able to discover the root of this bad practice and recommend measures to remedy it once and for all.

As I said before public confidence in our hospitals must be restored if we are to help our people to benefit from our medical schemes.

[MR ODIGBO]

The majority of people who are going to private hospitals for treatment will have then to go to the General Hospitals. If the confidence in the General Hospitals is shaken as it is already shaken the people will avoid going there. What is the use of voting so much money every year for these hospitals? Already we have passed a number of measures for increasing facilities in the General Hospitals. We are also proposing to build another big hospital in Lagos. If these establishments will not be used in the best interest of the general public, if they have to become clinics of practising medical officers for their own private practice, I think that is money wasted, and in order to make sure that this money is not wasted and that we are not merely voting money to build hospitals for the interest of a few people an enquiry should be conducted as soon as possible.

We further request that in appointing such an enquiry efforts should be made to give it sufficient powers to make very elaborate recommendations. I know that very often Government and in fact, several bodies for that matter have declined to appoint commissions of enquiry merely because they seem always to unearth scandalous stories and practices, and perhaps they end just there. I do not think our intention is to track out the offenders and possibly expose them to the public. The intention is to find out how this practice can be stopped. That would be the main work of this inquiry we are asking for.

Why should we have private practice in our hospitals? Nobody will quarrel if a medical officer after leaving the hospital treats patients in his house—he is entitled to do that—and charges them fees as he likes, because he is at that time on unofficial hours; but to use the hospital as a personal clinic is scandalous. And that is what the Government will have to try to stop.

We would, therefore, urge the Government to accept our point of view that, as a matter of fact, Ministerial investigation will not be sufficient here. We do not want to belabour the point. We feel strongly, and we are sure the public feel as strongly as we do that the best thing to do is to institute an independent enquiry to go into this matter.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move the

following Amendment to the Motion just proposed. Line 1, leave out from "view" to the end of the Question and add—"of persistent allegations against Government medical officers to the effect that they use Government drugs for treatment of their private patients and in their clinics, this House urges the Government to investigate the matter."

I am at a loss to understand why my hon. Friend, Dr Okeke, could infer from anything which I said on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill that I have accepted the original Motion,

The stand of the Federal Government has been made clear on several occasions with regard to corrupt practices in any sphere of activities in this country, whether in hospitals, or in business, or in banking, or in schools, in every part of our lives. We have always said that we would not condone corruption in any of our medical institutions. I can give you that assurance as the Federal Minister of Health.

Dr Okeke has given us a lot of harrowing tales of what is supposed to be happening in our medical institutions. But I am not sure whether he is fully aware that the Federal Government is responsible only for Lagos hospitals, and some of the experiences which he quoted here must have been experiences which he gathered from hospitals in his own town.

However, I am sure that the House cannot expect any responsible Government to act on rumours no matter how disturbing they are. If we acted on rumours we should be doing a lot of injustice to many innocent people. Most of the allegations about corruptions in our hospitals have been made under the cloak of anonymity. Whenever anybody has courageously come out to us with facts and figures, we have always taken prompt action to investigate the case, and whenever we found that any of our officers, whether a doctor or a nurse or even a ward attendant, had been guilty of mal-practice, we always took strict disciplinary action against such a person.

I would invite hon. Members to bring to my attention any incident of mal-practice, and I

can assure right here in this House that prompt action would be taken in investigating the case and in bringing the offender to book.

I wish to appeal to the House in this matter. We as the Federal Government have nothing to hide. We are aware that we have not got a perfect medical service anywhere in the Federation. We have made intensive study of the situation. We have come to the conclusion that most of these allegations arise out of the fact that the services which we provide are inadequate. We know that when the services are adequate and they are easy to obtain, it will no longer be necessary for people to go out and buy any of these services in a black market.

I do not intend to speak at any length on this Amendment. I know that the House will understand and I wish to appeal to hon. Members to accept this Amendment which I have just moved.

I beg to move.

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

Mr J. O. Taiwo (Oyo North West) : When occasions like this arise, one cannot help but remember the worth of some expatriate officers who have conscientiously worked amongst us. I have worked in many hospitals and I have visited many of them.

An hon. Member : Were you a nurse or an S.M.O. ?

Mr Taiwo : I was not a nurse. I am a Pharmacist.

One can easily evaluate the difference between mission hospitals and Government hospitals in general. I think that the hospitals which belong to the Federal Government come off badly in this respect. In this regard, I have very good reasons to refer to two specific instances of inhuman treatment meted out to suffering patients in the University College Hospital which, apart from the General Hospital in Lagos, is a hospital belonging to the Federal Government.

Most of the doctors in the University College Hospital, Ibadan, are of course, inexperienced because they are young doctors, and this is probably why they have got young

minds which do not allow them to be sympathetic enough or to absorb much of the medical ethics which should be a part of them.

I do not think that it is proper to mention names in this respect, but I can single out one medical officer of the University College Hospital who was an exception. He was very good. I think that his name is Dr Sowole. He studied in Germany. I do not think that he is at the University College Hospital any longer. He was really very good.

Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central) : He comes from Ijebu !

Mr Taiwo : No, he does not come from Ijebu. He comes from Oyo. (*Hear, hear*).

I would not like to waste the time of this hon. House by mentioning two instances of inhuman and unpleasant treatment in that hospital, but I will mention just one.

I remember vividly that fully grown man reeling on the ground at the University College Hospital. We had taken him there at about 1.30 a.m. A lady, a daughter of a respectable Attorney-General, then came into the room but all she did was to start playing with her junior maids although she was supposed to be on duty. At one stage, this man wanted to ease himself and we called on the ward servant to help him. The ward servant just stood looking at us and did nothing. The lady on duty herself only said to the big man, "If you spoil that floor, we will make you wash it despite your suffering." Mr Speaker, imagine a lady saying that to a sick man ! We finally had to go to Adeoyo Hospital at 3.30 a.m. At Adeoyo Hospital, we were lucky enough to find another person who attended to him. But we had to go from the University College Hospital, which was nearest to our residence, to Adeoyo Hospital which was farther away.

We cannot go on enumerating these immoral and unsympathetic practices, but I think that it is very good that we have brought it to the Floor of this House. It is unfortunate that the House is not fuller than it is now because this is a very important matter which everybody must know of and so realise our plight in Nigeria.

Hon. Members will remember that I started by saying that this is a case where one cannot help but remember the invaluable

[MR TAIWO]

services of some expatriate officers. I have not met any missionary expatriate officer who is not sympathetic and prompt in taking actions at any time that a patient needs his or her attention. I have worked in two mission hospitals and in one private hospital owned by a company. The expatriate medical officers in those hospitals were exceptionally good.

That is why I suggest on the Floor of this House that when the Lagos Teaching Hospital is established, the boys and girls of that institution should be made to spend another year studying proper medical ethics as is the practice in the United Kingdom and all over the world. They must realise that they are the servants of the people and not their masters. They must realise that they are not people who just glorify in certain professions, but people adequately paid to render absolute services.

I want to make another suggestion. There is no use talking about moral aspects, as the time is far spent. I suggest that there should be a Superintendent Medical Officer. I think that there was something like that before, but I think that it was more of an administrative work than of supervision. I suggest this, therefore, to the Minister of Health that there should be a Superintendent Medical Officer in each hospital whose duty should be to walk round each time there are patients waiting for the attention of a medical officer or a nurse. He should see how many of the patients are really suffering and how fast the medical officer is doing his work, because some just sit down and relax doing nothing.

One important point is that some of them are not serious in the execution of their duties and, as a result of this, we have very many unsuccessful operations. These unsuccessful operations may be the fault of the doctors as well as that of the nurses because, if the doctors prescribe some tablets or injections, the nurses do not carry out these instructions in spite of the fact that it is their duty to do so. Therefore, the nurses have their own fair share of this blame.

Another fault of the nurses is that they do not wash their hands as is the practice of nurses in hospitals all over the world. Some of these nurses are so unsympathetic that they refuse

to give chamber pots to patients who cry and beg for them. In addition, these nurses threaten to make these helpless patients wash their bed sheets if they are soiled.

These are very grave complaints and I think that the people who have heard us to-day will take steps to rectify this situation and make us realise that after all the average Nigerian member of the medical profession can be as sympathetic to his fellow Nigerian as the expatriate officer can be.

There is no use talking about Nigerianisation of all departments when we know that in hospitals manned by Nigerians the doctors and the nurses are very unsympathetic, very unpatriotic and only take pleasure in seeing Nigerians suffer and die, also have much pleasure in collecting their salaries or finding out better ways of doing their private practices which fetch them more money. These are important points which the medical authorities should take into consideration.

I beg to support.

M. Akubakar Isandu (Jos North West): In supporting this Amendment, I want to associate myself with the points made by the Mover and add that the alleged practices of these doctors are most intolerable. Most of our medical officers, apart from being corrupt, use their positions in chasing the most beautiful ladies in this town. The Mover of the Motion made mention of a certain lady whom a doctor forced to receive private treatment. The lady might have been very ill, but the doctor was not really interested in her illness but rather in her person. Using this very important position in finding girl friends has resulted in many pseudo-medical doctors.

The Mover also called upon the Government to give more pay to the medical officers. I should add that pharmacists and nurses should also be considered for more pay, otherwise they will be tempted to make up for this difference in salary by illegal practices which we are now fighting against.

These mal-practices in the medical profession do not exist only in Lagos; they exist throughout the Federation of Nigeria. Last year, my brother who was working in the Port Harcourt Branch of the Nigerian Tobacco Company was awarded a scholarship by the Company. He went for a medical examination 'which is one

of the things one has to do before one gets a passport). That medical examination was to be conducted under the auspices of the Company, but that doctor demanded five guineas from the poor boy. The boy then reminded the doctor that that examination was to be done under the auspices of the Company, but the doctor told him that he would have to eat before his salary arrived. As a result, the boy was forced to comply with the doctor's request. This practice is very bad and should, therefore, be checked.

The solution of these problems will only come, as the Minister has said, when we have more trained doctors and specialists in the country, because then the competition among doctors will be to please the public and not themselves. As soon as this happens, our lives will be safeguarded and we will be happy.

I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North): Before I contribute to this debate, I must first of all congratulate the Mover of the original Motion because, when one surveys the meaning of the original Motion and that of the Amendment, one finds that there is not much difference. As a matter of fact, it is only the flexibility in the *lingua franca*.

As the Mover of the original Motion said, the first thing that the Government should take into consideration before it employs any doctor is whether or not the doctor is a sympathetic person, because any doctor who is not sympathetic will never be a good doctor.

Again, I must emphasise that if the Government wants doctors to work conscientiously, they should be adequately paid and according to their qualifications. Therefore, I suggest that the initial salary of a doctor should be £1,500.

Some hon. Members: It is too small! Make it £2,500!

Mr Udenyi: No, that is adequate as an initial salary. Life is the greatest gift to mankind; without it any proposal is a failure. Therefore, anything pertaining to life must be properly considered.

Doctors should not allow nurses to give injections because nurses are not supposed to do this work; it is a doctor's work. Doctors should do this work themselves and give the nurses some other things to do.

The other day, I wanted to contribute to the debate on the Development Programme and ask the Minister of Education to tell us how many Nigerians are doing research in medicine in the United Kingdom, because if we want doctors, we want qualified ones. In the United Kingdom, not every doctor can operate in the brain, the heart and some other parts of the body; there are specialists for all these different parts of the body. We should emphasise that we want really qualified doctors.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr J. U. Udenyi: As I was saying before the break, Sir, if any doctor is found taking drugs home to use for his private patients, he should be dismissed; that is stealing. The Minister of Health should have no sympathy for doctors who use Government drugs for treating their private patients. The Minister of Health should ascertain before doctors are employed that they are not the type that will use Government drugs for their own personal ends.

When we had European doctors things were moving on nicely because a European thinks more of his name than of amassing wealth. The trouble in Nigeria to-day is that the average Nigerian wants to own all the plots of land in Lagos; he wants to own all the plots of land in Aba and he wants to own all the plots of land in Zaria. Anxiety for money, that is what is worrying our doctors. They want to become rich quickly so that they can be rich men. But they forget that a good name is better than silver and gold.

Some years ago, there was a European doctor in Okigwi area of Eastern Nigeria. His name was Dr Wilson. Dr Wilson was so kind that he was even using his own money for treating patients. That is the kind of doctors we want. Anybody who decides to join the medical profession should not think in terms of money. He must be a person who combines sympathy with labour; he must have the calling. That is very important.

Without wasting the time of this honourable House, I support the Motion in a most happy frame of mind.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana): I rise to support the Amendment. I would not have

[MR LANA]

spoken at all but for the fact that some hon. Members have attacked medical officers generally most of whom have been very, very conscientious in their work. It should be deplored that hon. Members should take advantage of the immunity of this honourable House to attack some medical officers who have been very industrious.

I want this House to realise that the medical profession is unlike other professions in which, after one has passed one's school certificate, one can easily study for two or three years and become qualified. Unlike Magistrates, Judges, I think the medical profession should be given—

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): On a point of order, Sir, nobody studies and takes examinations for three years to be qualified as a Magistrate. One must first become a Lawyer before being made a Magistrate.

Mr Lana: I quite agree with my friend the Member for Orlu South East, (*Mr Akwivu*). What I was saying was that a School Certificate holder takes roughly about 17 months to qualify as a Barrister and after three years, becomes a Magistrate. I think there is an element of frustration among medical officers. If you consider the scale of salary of medical officers, you will see that they have every reason to be disgruntled. I think that what Government needs to do now is to review the salary scales of medical officers. I make this special appeal to the Minister of Health very strongly.

Take for instance a lawyer who has just qualified. After three or four years he may become a Magistrate and be given a salary of over £1,000; whereas the maximum scale of medical officers is £1,200 if I am not wrong. This is very depressing and I think that if we want to eliminate private practice in the Medical Department we must try to encourage the medical officers. Barring that, I cannot see any justification in somebody spending six to seven years to qualify as a medical officer and when he goes out he sees a Magistrate, probably somebody who merely studied for 22 months to qualify as a Barrister, being paid about £2,000 as a Senior Magistrate. There is a great anomaly in the salary scale and I think that this is sufficient reason.

I expect Members to try to find a means to encourage the existing medical officers who are very scarce to find. If we advertise now we will not find anybody to apply to be a medical practitioner under the Government. Most of them prefer to go and practice privately.

Prince D. N. Abii (Owerri East): I think the hon. Member for Ibadan is not speaking on the Motion before the House. There is no motion here debating whether we should have doctors or lawyers. We are saying that the doctors we have should be sympathetic and kind to the patients and stop using Government drugs for their own private practice. No one is attacking the doctors as such. I think the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker: Order! Actually the Amendment on which the hon. Member is speaking concerns the use of Government drugs for the treatment of private patients. I rather think that he had wandered a little bit far.

Mr Lana: Mr Speaker, I was trying to collect my facts. I quite support the idea that no medical practitioner employed by Government should use Government property for private practice. That is agreeable; but my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East (*Prince Abii*) will agree that some Members have spoken very disparagingly against some medical officers.

M. Abubakar Isandu (Jos North West): On a point of order, the mover of the Motion is a doctor himself—

Several hon. Members: He is not a doctor of medicine.

M. Isandu: In this case if the hon. Member is trying to defend the doctors, we know that these practices are carried on, and we have not mentioned any doctor. We were speaking generally and we are allowed to do so.

Mr Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr Lana: Thank you very much, Sir. Seriously speaking, I think we all deplore any Government medical officer using Government drugs for private purposes, and I think the hon. Minister has rightly put it, that Government will investigate such dealings. However, I feel really concerned with the anomalies existing in the salary scales of medical officers.

I will appeal to the Minister to get in touch with his Regional counterparts to see how best they can ameliorate the disparaging scales of salary between medical officers, magistrates, engineers and so on. That will be an incentive for many people to go into the medical field.

At this time when we propose to open the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, if people still see that nothing is done to encourage medical practitioners in Government Service, I am afraid that few people will want to take up medicine as a career.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr I. A. Brown (Uyo South West) : I would like to oppose the Amendment to this Motion. It is something that puzzles the most astute brains in this country to see on many occasions how the Government have been trying to hide facts from the public by using diplomacy. As a matter of fact, there is not much difference between the original Motion and the Amendment proposed by the Minister of Health in this respect.

What I would like to say is that there is nothing like rumours on the Motion now being debated. The original mover of the Motion in the person of Dr Okeke, quoted several instances based on experience and evidence and it was not his place here to mention names of those affected during the discussion of the Motion. If we wanted him to do so, I am perfectly sure that he was in a position to furnish names.

We are here asking the Minister that we want a public inquiry set up to investigate most of these allegations. They are allegations, not rumours. We cannot therefore take the Minister's Amendment, that he himself will investigate the matter. How do we expect a real investigation to be made when members of the public are not called upon to give evidence. This House has been promised such investigations in the past and up till now no report has been submitted to the House.

As a last resort, we are asking the Minister to set up a public inquiry so that members of the public can give evidence. If the Minister takes it upon himself to investigate the matter, I can assure the House that no civil servant will come out to give evidence because he will be afraid of victimisation. If

it is made a departmental affair, no announcement will be made on the radio or publication made in the newspapers so that the public will know of it. In effect, the Minister is asking us to allow him to make an inquiry which will begin in his Ministry and end there. We do not want such a thing.

The Minister must realise that medical services affect the lives of millions of people in this country and we do not want any political diplomacy in this matter.

An hon. Member : Official diplomacy !

Mr Brown : Official diplomacy or whatever people may like to call it. I would like the Minister to note that apart from the hospital in the Federal Territory and the Ibadan University Teaching hospital, the entire population of this country depend wholly and solely on Missionary hospitals in the Region.

The Government does not seem to realise this. In the whole of Calabar Province where I come from, the Government can only boast of one Government hospital; in an area of about two million people !

I think it is wrong for Members to suggest that because Ministers earn £3,000, therefore, doctors should be dishonest. I disagree with this. If an ordinary labourer who is paid only 3s-2d a day, can be honest enough to look after our things at our flats on the Victoria Island without stealing them, I do not see any justification for doctors who earn up to £1,300 a year being dishonest and using Government drugs for private purposes. I must say that it is wrong and we are not here to encourage such a practice. I know some professional men like lawyers in this country who having qualified, remain for more than one year without being able to collect up to £500 from their clients and yet they exist and they attend the court for their clients in the Federal Territory of Lagos and even in the Regions.

If we say that until we pay our medical officers £2,000 or £3,000 we cannot expect honest service from them, I do not know where we are heading for. They should first of all show a sense of honesty before this House will consider a further increase in their salaries. We cannot promote them. If we promote them in the Federal Territory of Lagos, what about the Missionary doctors who are looking after us in the Regions. Who will increase

[MR BROWN]
their salaries? I am saying that private investigations by the Government will not cure the many ills now existing in the Medical Service of this country.

If the Minister of Health is sincere to the Members of this House and to the nation as a whole, this is the time for him to come out boldly and tell the nation that he himself, as he has stated here, is tired of these inundated complaints against the Medical Service of this country and as such, he should be bold enough to agree to set up a public commission of inquiry and give it publicity so that many of those people who have been suffering from the hands of these medical officers will be able to come and give evidence publicly and without fear of being victimised in their respective departments.

With these few remarks, I oppose the Amendment.

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): I rise to support the Amendment moved by the Minister of Health. In doing so, I would first of all like to point out that there is certainly no smoke without fire. When he referred to the allegations made by the Mover of the original Motion, he meant that he did not think that corruption existed in our Medical Service. I hope that the Minister will take it in good faith that corruption does exist in the Medical profession of this country. We are not here to mention names but we are merely stating that certain of our doctors have no sense of duty, no sympathy for the common man and they have no loyalty at all to either the nation or their patients.

We are only saying that corruption exists but we do not say that corruption exists in all hospitals and we do not say that every doctor is corrupt. When we say that certain doctors are corrupt and that something should be done, we would like to assure the Minister of Health that we are only protecting the interest of the common man, for the common man is the victim in this case. When he goes to a hospital, he cannot see a doctor, and when he cannot see a doctor, he cannot be cured and when he cannot be cured, he lies, unfortunately, destitute and in due course, becomes hopeless and eventually dies. It is the last thing that we would like to see in this country—the poor,

common man suffering after having paid his tax, simply because somebody turns out to be a money-monger and unsympathetic.

It is encouraging, however, to know that the Minister of Health is in course of time going to institute an investigation; but this investigation should be immediate, thorough and should be made public. Evidence should be invited from all sections of the community of Lagos. Certainly when there is a demand, there must be a market. Doctors use tax-payers' medicines for their private treatment simply because certain members of the public are themselves corrupt. It takes more than one person in this case, it takes not only the doctor but also the other person. I must admit that rather than somebody waiting in a queue for about two hours to see a doctor who might only prescribe the sort of treatment which would not be of any use to him or which would not cure his disease, he would do all in his power to get any sum of money required by such an unfaithful and unsympathetic doctor to get cured. So, I am appealing to the Minister of Health that something should be done immediately to remedy the situation.

Again, when there are a hundred people to a doctor, what would one expect? There should be a substantial increase in the number of doctors in this country. More and more scholarships should be given to our students to study either at home or abroad to become the sort of doctors we want them to be—doctors who are honest, loyal and faithful, doctors who have the interest of the common man at heart. Perhaps, I do not know because I am not a doctor, it has something to do with the training of doctors, maybe those unsympathetic doctors have not received the correct training that their duty is first and foremost to the nation.

I fully agree with the hon. Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) that no amount of good pay would make a dishonest doctor an honest one. It is in his character. It should be given special treatment somehow and the only treatment for a dishonest doctor, I think, is to take away his certificate. If there is any such doctor, remove his name from the list of practising medical practitioners. Let him practise at home, we have no sympathy for doctors who have not the sympathy of the nation and of the common man at heart.

I beg to support.

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

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted, be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved, That in view of persistent allegations against Government medical officers to the effect that they use Government drugs for treatment of their private patients and in their clinics, this House urges the Government to investigate the matter.

ROBBERS AND GAMBLERS ON TRAINS

3.40 p.m.

M. Abba Yola (Wudil) : I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

“That this House views with grave concern the ever increasing number of robbers and gamblers operating in passenger and other trains throughout the country, and calls upon the Government to take vigorous steps to put a stop to the activities of these unscrupulous and undesirable people.”

I would like to invite the attention of this honourable House to a certain pitiful thing being done by gamblers and robbers in passenger trains. As a result of the activities of these unscrupulous people a large number of the general public have sustained injuries and have lost their property. These wicked and deceitful gamblers persuade people to take part in their game and eventually the people become impoverished through gambling before reaching their destinations.

When these habitual or professional gamblers fail to convince anybody, they turn themselves into robbers by asking for a change of, say, one pound currency note. When the passenger whom they want to dupe brings out his or her purse to give them the change which they asked for, they quickly snatch the purse. One of the gang usually runs away with the purse, hides somewhere in the train, and alights at the nearest railway station. The gang leader and his other followers hold the owner of the money so firmly that he cannot raise an alarm, and they beat him until he becomes unconscious. They even pretend that the man offended them and with this trick they can avoid interference by the people around. In some cases some people are held at gun point by these wicked men.

These evil deeds are practised more often on the Kano to Zaria line and on the Zaria to Kafanchan Western line. On the Eastern line you find these people from Kano down to Nguru. A similar case was recently referred to the Emir of Kano's court. In this particular case a man was mercilessly beaten and his money was made away with by these robbers in the train. This incident took place about the 20th of February this year, not long ago.

It appears that the railway police are not alert in their duties. Perhaps they are in alliance with the gamblers and robbers.

I should be glad if the Government would do what it can to stamp out these evil doers and adopt a strong preventive measure against future occurrence in the interest of the general public.

I am sorry to say that some of the Ministers do not want hon. Members to bring Motions or to make speeches criticising their Ministries. But since all of us, both Members on the Government side and those on the Opposition side, are here working for the interest of the entire people of Nigeria, we must express both our own views and the views of those whom we represent. The Government should take into consideration the suggestions which may be made by hon. Members in this House. Members, in their own right, should be honoured and respected by this Government and the way the Government can do this is by taking immediate action on straightforward matters brought to this House. The Ministers should realise that they are not here only to work for their own interest as Ministers, they are here also to work for the interest of the general public.

Mr Speaker : I am not sure whether the hon. Gentleman is attacking gamblers or Ministers.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I thought that there was a distinction between the two ; I did not know that there was none.

Mr Speaker : Really, there is. But we will hear the hon. Member further.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I have to appeal to the Minister to do his duty and stamp out these gamblers and robbers who voted him into power.

M. Abba Yola : I was just drawing the attention of the Ministers to see to it that immediate actions are taken on straightforward Motions brought to this House.

[MR ABBA YOLA]

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

M. Saidu Zango (Zaria Central) : I rise to second this Motion which was ably moved by my hon. Friend, M. Abba Yola.

Gambling in trains has been practised for many years. Appeals have been made repeatedly for its eradication. Hundreds of poor men and women have been robbed by these reckless gamblers every day. Zaria is an important railway junction and trains leave there every day for every part of Nigeria. In every one of these trains these gamblers can be seen. Some of them enter the trains in the normal way with valid tickets as though they were real and honest passengers with known destinations. But they have no destinations. Their only destination is when they see that there are no more fools on board for them to deceive. They have their methods of approaching people and tempting them into their carriage. In this way they rob innocent passengers of their last penny and sometimes of their property; they even strip some men and women of the very clothes they are wearing at the time. It is impossible for anyone to attempt to get the magnitude of harm that these robbers are doing to our people and the damage that they are causing to the good name of Nigeria. All appeals to the Railway authorities and to the Railway Police seem to be ignored. Otherwise one could not understand how the Railway Police could fail to arrest people in a moving train. One could not understand how the train authorities—guards, ticket collectors, train inspectors—could claim ignorance of these crimes which are practised openly in every passenger train in Northern Nigeria.

This is a serious matter; many things are involved. People are being rendered poor by these reckless thieves, and the very good name of this country is at stake unless the Government arrests this evil at once. No civilised country in this world can allow its trains to be turned into gambling casinos. I believe I will be expressing the demands of every hon. Member here if I appeal very strongly to the Government to step in at once and save the poor people of this country from this racket, since all such appeals to the Railway Corporation have proved abortive.

With these few remarks, I beg to second.

3.52 p.m.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I rise to move the Amendment which stands in my name on the Order Paper, namely, in "Line 3 to leave out from "country" to the end of the Motion." The Motion as amended will now read:—

"That this House views with grave concern the ever-increasing number of robbers and gamblers operating in passenger and other trains throughout the country, and notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Railway Police to combat the problem."

I must say that I am in great sympathy with the Mover and Seconder of this Motion. I think that they have done a very good thing to spotlight this grave problem which the Railway Corporation has been trying to combat for some years now.

I also want to assure the hon. Mover, the Member for Wudil (*M. Abba Yola*) that Ministers will always welcome constructive criticisms and suggestions from Members of this House; we do not take any offence whatever when we are criticised as long as such criticism is constructive.

I also want to say, before I delve into the Amendment itself, that this havoc which is being done by robbers and gamblers on the trains has not been neglected at all by the Railway Corporation. The Seconder of this Motion, the hon. Member for Zaria Central (*M. Saidu Zango*) seemed, to be under the impression that the matter was not being taken seriously. But I want to assure him that the Railway Corporation is viewing the matter with all seriousness. As a matter of fact, gambling and thieving on trains are matters which have been causing the Corporation concern for a number of years. Strenuous efforts have been made to stamp it out with the help of the Railway Police—that is the reason why the Railway has got a fairly large contingent of police officers which they pay themselves. A sizeable contingent of the Nigeria Police Force is assigned to the Railway. At present, the strength of the contingent is 600 police officers on the Railway: it comprises 5 officers, that is Superintendents and

Assistant Superintendents ; 12 Inspectors ; and 583 non-commissioned officers and constables.

An hon. Member : How many are expatriates ?

Hon. Njoku : The detection of crime knows no colour, because crime knows no colour itself.

The Railway Police are well organised and every effort is being made to cope with the situation. Travelling Investigation Branches now cover all the districts of the Railway and special attention is devoted to preventive measures. The staff of the Railway Corporation have been instructed to render every assistance and the Senior Superintendent of the Railway Police has reported that the co-operation received from the Corporation servants is assisting in keeping crime down. On a number of occasions, the Native Authorities in various places in the North have also been very helpful.

Thieves on the railway are usually either pickpockets or those who indulge in the practice of poaching, that is breaking bales and packets and stealing the contents. I am informed that the activities of poachers have increased recently, particularly between Zaria and Kano during the hours of darkness. The Railway Police have, however, reacted vigorously indeed. Poaching escorts are active in all districts and a new method of combating this form of crime is now being tried.

With regard to gambling, both the Police and the Corporation staff are vigilant in their efforts to detect it and stamp it out altogether. During the year ended 31st March, 1960, 31 cases of gambling were detected, and during the year ended 31st March, 1961, 57 cases of gambling on trains were detected, out of which convictions for 56 were obtained and there was only one acquittal. This does not necessarily mean that gambling on trains is on the increase. I do not think it is. It just means that greater vigilance on the part of the Police is being shown in this matter.

But I would like to say that as long as the travelling public are willing to be duped by gamblers, the problem will continue to face us. The Railway Corporation is fully aware of the seriousness of the problem and has introduced

a number of new preventive measures to supplement the efforts of the Police. For instance, fewer platform tickets are issued than in the past years, thus making it more difficult to hawkers and touts to enter the railway stations. Also, the erection of fences around railway stations and property has assisted the Police greatly in the work of prevention.

Members of the Board of the Corporation are also doing their best to help to check this menace. These members have held discussions with the authorities in the North, including the Emir of Kano, in 1960, and even with the Premier, and the Premier and the Emir have given them every help to stamp out this problem. And, as a result of the discussions which the members have had with the authorities in the North, it has been agreed that N.A. Police in the North will also be employed to help in checking this menace because it is believed that with their knowledge of local conditions and the local people, the N.A. Police will be better able and better equipped to detect these rogues and gamblers on the trains. I am glad to say that provision has been made in the Estimates for 1962-63 of the Corporation for the seconding of N.A. Police from Zaria Province and from the Kano Emirate to assist the Railway Police, and I hope that this is going to put an end to this matter.

I am assured that this is a very straightforward matter. There is nothing controversial about this. I agree with the views expressed by the Mover and the Seconder that something must be done, but all I have tried to do is to show that something is being done and that what is being done is being looked upon, and I am quite sure that they will agree with me that the problem has not been left by the Corporation without any due notice.

Finally, I think that all I can do is to appeal to the general public to do all in their power to cooperate with the Railway and the Police in stamping out these most undesirable activities on the Railway.

The Motion to the Amendment is non-controversial and therefore I beg to move.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : Both the Mover of the Motion and the able Seconder and all the people who will have to contribute to this debate have the mandate

[ALHAJI BELLO DANDAGO]

from their people to bring this matter once again before this honourable House. There is nothing new in what they have said and in what I am going to say. This is the second time that this Motion has come to the Floor of this House. Really it is the same as the old one. We are not saying that the Corporation is not doing enough, but that there is room for improvement.

When the hon. Minister stood up, I thought he would be defending the thieves, but luckily he did not. This gambling and robbing in broad day-light in the train is very menacing.

We knew the Railway as a Government Department in the colonial days, but the matter was not like that. Now that it has become a Corporation and under the able Minister, we will see how much able he is in a few years time, otherwise we will be forced to come back again with this Motion. We do not want to, but unless something is done, I cannot guarantee that a year ahead we might not bring another Motion of the same nature.

In all seriousness, and I am serious about it, this is a matter which worries everybody not only in Kano, Zaria or Sokoto, but in the whole of the Northern Provinces.

An hon. Member : Not in my province.

Alhaji Dandago : Well when a railway line gets to the hon. Members area, they will have the same trouble ; that is why we want to sort it out before then. There is no railway, but there are smugglers in his province.

The Mover of the Motion has the mandate of his people to come and say this before this House in order that something may be done at once. It is said people are not co-operating. If people are not co-operating, what was the position before the Railway became a Corporation ? There were people then, but there were no thieves. I am thinking, Sir, that the Railway Police must be much more vigilant and the political head of this Ministry must, from time to time, keep his eyes on that particular thing.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr J. O. Odeunmi (Egba North) : I rise to support the original Motion. In the first place, I feel that it is highly appreciated that the Minister of Transport himself is not only

aware of the existing situation but has outlined the ways and means of eradicating this evil practice. If the evil practice is not eradicated, several issues will be involved.

In the first place, it will go far beyond the individuals affected on the train. It will affect the nation as well. It will affect our revenue. The money coming in through the passenger train will be reduced because, for fear of being robbed, people will start to avoid joining the train.

In the second place, they will feel too that their goods might be tampered with and they might refrain from sending their goods by rail, in which case, eventually, it will come back to us : it will affect the revenue of the State.

In the third place, certain individuals who have certain valuable property might get away with these things from the train, but might be chased to their places of abode by these same marauders and have their houses broken into and burgled. In that way, the life of the people will not be safe.

In the fourth place, it breeds a race of marauders—people would consider that it pays more to go into this type of trade. They might consider that it is a type of trade. It would encourage more people to be lazy and to feel that this is an easier alternative of getting rich than through the sweat of their labour.

Again, it affects our international reputation. People coming to Nigeria would feel unsafe to travel by train, and it is not all places that can be reached by plane, by motor-car or by lorry. It would make people to have very bad impressions of the integrity of our nation.

Again, if these undesirable people are allowed to abound in this type of mal-practice, it will make the lives and property of people unsafe. They might stab, they might even get rid of one's life in order that they might be able to achieve their aim.

Furthermore, it is most embarrassing and disheartening to the officials of the Corporation and even to the Minister of Transport himself, because this sort of practice definitely would affect the high principle with which they work. Therefore, the earlier this practice is eradicated the better for the country.

I beg to support.

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : I would like to contribute one or two points to this particular Motion, by firstly drawing attention to the fact that this Motion concerns, not only the Northern Region, as it appears to be, but also the whole of the country—in fact it says so—and I feel that this hon. House should make its position quite clear on this particular issue.

Several Motions that we have debated have been hammering on one aspect of our moral make-up; the aspect of honesty, honesty in our duties. It is well-known that this question of thefts on trains is really a canker worm in our society. The Minister of Transport admitted as much in his statement. I wonder whether his six hundred strong Railway Police are really active in checking thefts, robberies and gambling on trains, or whether they themselves are really interested accomplices.

This is an issue which does not apply to the Northern Region only, and that is why I made the remark in the beginning, that this is a disease prevalent throughout the country. It may be that there is an unholy alliance between the thieves and some of these policemen, in which case it is very important that we preach from the housetops, from the pulpits, in the newspapers and by radio the importance to the life of this nation of qualities of integrity and honesty. This is most important.

I would like to refer to one or two things which those who have to do with the consignment of goods by train will certainly admit to be true; and that is in connection with the activities of the servants of the Corporation. It is a common experience when one goes to consign goods like dried fish, to find that what the porters do is to throw the bag or basket of fish as hard as possible from one place to the other, thereby breaking the basket. Thus when the owner goes away the basket arrives at its destination all right but it arrives half full and sometimes empty.

One may find that the basket has arrived, one then goes to the railway station and produces a Way Bill. The basket is pointed out to one, but alas it is empty or half full only, and there is no redress! I do not know whether goods consigned by train from one

station to another are usually insured, but that is one aspect of the experience of consignees who use our trains.

I think that if the Corporation would expend perhaps half the sum expended on advertisements about the use of the trains, on the education of those who work for them and on vigilance over those who work for them in making sure they give people value for money, these evils might be slightly reduced.

There is also another point which I want to make in this connection. We have been told that fifty-six cases of offences were tried, I think, last year and, of these fifty-six, there were fifty-five convictions. That is rather interesting, but what one would like to know is, what has happened to the fifty-five people who were convicted?

An hon. Member : They went to jail.

Mr Amadi : That is not the point I am driving at at all. If I know that Mr X is a rogue and I have had him convicted for stealing in my compound, I do not think I will have that Mr X in my compound after he has served his term in prison or after whatever punishment he has undergone.

Now, what is the Corporation doing about keeping criminals who indulge in these thefts away from the trains, both goods and passenger trains? What does the Corporation do regarding the exclusion of such people from the use of railway compounds and railway trains? I may be told that the Railway Corporation is a commercial proposition which is interested only in the money they get out of it. But remember, also, that they should be interested in the safety of the goods and in the welfare of their clients.

Therefore, I think that the Minister of Transport will perhaps be doing us more good by looking into these few points and advising the Corporation to see that they are more vigilant about the welfare of their patrons.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) : It is now apparent that the Minister himself is confident about the official report which he is bound to get from senior officers in the Unit, otherwise I should say that with the explanation which he has given the Government has underrated the seriousness of this matter.

[M. GUSAU]

It is so serious that if the Minister were to be advised on logical grounds, he would not have said that the Government is justified in the steps which have now been taken.

The question of robbers, gamblers and so forth on the trains is so serious that one can come to the conclusion that it cannot be so rampant without the support of the officers and the police—

Mr Speaker : There is quite a lot of noise on my right, with some of the voices being loud and magnified by the microphones, so much so, that they are drowning the voice of the Member speaking.

M. Ibrahim Gusau : I said that the question of robberies, gambling and so forth in the trains could not be so rampant had it not had the support of the officers and the Police in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. This is a bare fact and that is the reason why, earlier in my speech, I said that unless the Nigerian Railway Corporation purged this bribery and corruption, beginning with some of the officers, robbery, gambling and so forth in the trains would never be minimised.

Therefore, whatever efforts the Minister will make, first and foremost, he should deal with officers on the trains because there is a 50-50 agreement. This is a bare fact—a 50-50 agreement between the officers and the Police !

Also I should like to advise him that the six hundred strong Police Detachment in the Railway Corporation should not be permanent there. They should be changed from time to time. If they are left there many of them will become habitual culprits in the crime and the crime itself will increase. Therefore, whatever else the Minister does, first and foremost he should deal with officers on the train, and the Police must not be permanent there.

Also, he must not in future rely purely on the official advice which he is given from the officers, who are only there to defend themselves. They cannot bring any suggestion to the Minister whereby they could make room for their own criticism. Therefore, I advise the Minister, first of all, to deal with the officers on the trains. Policemen should not be permanent there.

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

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved, That this House views with grave concern the ever-increasing number of robbers and gamblers operating in passenger and other trains throughout the country, and notes with satisfaction the steps being taken by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Railway Police to combat the problem.

DELETION OF THE WORD "TRIBES" FROM
THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

4.20 p.m.

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name,

"That, in view of its derogatory meaning and connotation, and in view of its disuniting psychological effect, this House is of the opinion that the word "tribe" should be deleted from the Nigerian National Anthem and that its use should be discontinued in all official statements and publications".

I would like to read, first of all, the portion of the National Anthem which is affected—

"Nigeria we hail thee, our own dear native land

Though tribe and tongue may differ in brotherhood we stand

Nigerians all and proud to serve our sovereign motherland"

I think that nobody in this House can claim to have greater patriotism than I have for our dear country. I think also that nobody can claim that he desires more than I do that Nigeria should be completely united without any form of dis-integrating influences and that our National Anthem, therefore, should show that aspiration and that sentiment.

The purport of that first verse of the National Anthem—what we all think that it says—is what is dear to the heart of everyone of us ; and I think that at this stage, without anybody having the wrong impression that I am here attacking the writer of this Anthem, Miss Williams, I would say that we are pleased that she has given us these inspiring words. (*Hear, hear*). But the point I am making concerns the use of the word "tribe". If any other word can be found to replace the word "tribe" while retaining the sense of that verse, I am completely in agreement and that really is the point I am making.

But why am I making the point, Sir? The word 'tribe' is not a Yoruba word, or Ibo or Hausa, nor does it belong to any language in our country, and we are not British—English is not our language. Therefore, if some words are used, the full meaning of which we do not know, and we accept them, nobody can blame us. But when we find out the true meaning and what the people whose language it is known it means, and we know that that meaning is not good, I think we must change it.

These words were written in the colonial days, just before independence, and the word 'tribe' was commonly used by the people to refer to us and also by ourselves to refer to ourselves. But I humbly say that since independence a lot of things have changed.

I shall read from the Concise Oxford Dictionary, with Mr Speaker's permission. I shall read from here the meaning of the word 'tribe'. It says this—

"Tribe: Group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs".

An hon. Member: Is that not true?

Chief Rosiji: Indeed, that is the meaning of the word 'tribe', as given by this Dictionary. If we go further—

Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East): On a point of order, Sir, I here quote Order 25 (2):—

"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce any matter irrelevant thereto".

Now, the irrelevance is that the hon. Member for Egba East (**Chief Rosiji**) is purposely misleading this House by reading from an old edition of the Oxford Dictionary. I will refer the hon. Member to page 2243, volume 2 of the shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Third Edition, where it says—

Mr Speaker: Order. I think you are taking advantage of a point of order in order to put forward your arguments, which I am not prepared to allow.

Chief Rosiji: Now, Sir, that is the meaning according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary. I refer now to the Shorter Oxford English

Dictionary to which my hon. Friend has just referred. The meaning there is this (and it is worse):—

"A race of people; now applied especially to a primary aggregate of people in a primitive or barbarous condition under a headman or chief".

An hon. Member: You are also a chief!

Chief Rosiji: As I said earlier, English is not our language. If we do not know exactly what it means and we use the expression, nobody can blame us. But I think that the meaning, being as clear as it is now, it is only right that we should change it.

I would hate to find that in singing the National Anthem, if I am allowed to interpose the Dictionary meaning, it means we are saying.

"Nigeria we hail thee, our own dear native land: though we are a group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs, yet in brotherhood we stand".

I think that that is going too far, and I would like to say that our condition to which the word 'tribe' is applied is not a similar condition in other parts of the world.

In Britain, itself, we have the Scots and if that word is used there one would say 'the Scottish tribe'; we have the Welsh people who are in the same position; we have the Irish, we have the English. In other places, too, the same thing can apply. In Czechoslovakia there are the Czechs and the Slavs, and so on and so forth—but they are not referred to as tribes, simply because they do not regard themselves as barbarous people.

If some people say that we are barbarous people and apply that word to us well, good luck to them; but for God's sake we should not apply it to ourselves, and worse still, in our National Anthem. I think that is the worst aspect of the whole thing—in our National Anthem. The fact that this word should appear and should apply to us ourselves, I think is very bad.

The words of the National Anthem are in verses. I do not claim to be a poet and I do not intend to introduce the word to take the place of 'tribe' in this House at the moment. It is not for this House—this is not a poetic House. Far from it. What I would like to suggest is that the Government should take this

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

thing back. I have some suggestions to make, but this is the wrong place to make them. Let the Government take this thing back with them and do something about it.

We have our respected President of the Senate, who is a poet in his own right; the same Miss Williams, if she is still in the country, we can tell her that we do not like this word too much and ask if she could do something to help us find some other word which is less derogatory than the word tribe. That is what I have in mind.

I think it is preposterous for anybody to suggest that I am moving this Motion to imply that we should look down on our customs and things. I have never heard anything so stupid in my life—that I am looking down on our customs and that I do not have the right spirit about joining Nigeria together and that I do not agree with the sentiments expressed in this Motion. This is far from it.

In fact, there have been some suggestions made in the Amendment which I have read, about linguistic, racial and other differences. If you choose to put the word 'race' in the place of 'tribe' please do so. I do not quarrel with it, but for God's sake, I do not want to refer to myself as a barbarous man and I am sure we do not want that to be done to us.

Therefore, I ask this House to please accept this Motion saying that the Government can do something about it.

Chief A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North East): I rise to second this Motion which has been ably moved by my hon. Friend. There is only very short contribution I want to make and it is to the effect that we are appealing to Government not to dodge the question at issue. Attempt may be made by some people to say that 'tribe' does not mean, or has not got the meaning which has been read by the mover of this Motion from the Oxford Dictionary. But there is this to say that everybody agrees that what we attach to 'tribe' such as 'tribalism', 'tribalistic', has no useful purpose and is derogatory to the last. If tribalism, which we hate, and tribalistic which is very derogatory, are coined from tribe, what right have we, Mr Speaker, to use tribe in our National Anthem?

We have noted that the Government is proposing an Amendment. But Motions which we pass or which we move and pass in this House have effects which go very far beyond the precincts of this House and I am sure that the millions of Nigerian in this country to-day, who have never heard about the derogatory meaning of the word 'tribe' will hear to-day and our friends, not only in this country, but also abroad, will also hear, I think it will be very unfortunate if this very important and constructive suggestion from the Opposition is just brushed aside, waived aside, because Government feels that it comes from the Opposition.

I say, with respect, that the Minister and the Government should reconsider their stand over this question and they should withdraw this Amendment. There is nothing wrong with it; let them go and reconsider the issue and find a more appropriate word than 'tribe' for our National Anthem.

With these few remarks, I second the Motion.

4.35 p.m.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): I really sympathise with the mover of this Motion because if we will have to go through all these words and their meanings in the dictionary, in fact we can scarcely get one word which will apply to our own intention in this country. For example, Chief Rosiji is called 'chief.' Now if we call him chief, he will answer; but in this dictionary, if you find out the meaning of *chieftaincy*, it is "The captain of robbers" (*Laughter*).

Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): I object to the implication, not having suggested here that the *Sardauna* means a senior chief. I object, Sir.

Mr Speaker: It is difficult to avoid using the expression, *Chief Rosiji*, I am afraid.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: I am not giving the meaning to the word; the meaning is already there in the dictionary.

I rise to move an Amendment to the Motion before the House. I propose that all words after "That" should be deleted. The complete Amendment will then read: "That this House applauds and endorses the appeal in the first verse of the Nigerian National Anthem

to all Nigerians to stand together in brotherhood regardless of linguistic, racial and other differences due to the vast size of the country and the widely differing origin and state of development of the Nigerian peoples, and deploras any tendency to despise Nigerian tribal and social institutions."

It would be very wrong to support the original Motion, the effect for which would be to steal a word from the National Anthem and from all official publications and put nothing in its place. Is this not a strange idea? What would happen when the Anthem is sung?

Would there just be a silent pause, or would it be left to anyone who liked to make a mess of the noble principle expressed in the verse by singing alternative words and phrases which might or might not fit, and would not mean what we know the word 'tribe' to mean when we use it?

It is no use suggesting words like 'ethnic group' or 'clan': they are somewhat different and there is no other word which will do the work of conveying our meaning so well and so innocently as the word 'tribe' in the sense in which we in Nigeria use that word.

It is agreed that, in the past, special bad and good senses have been given to the word 'tribe' in different countries at different times—just as the words 'nation' and 'nationalist' have different meanings and associations for different peoples and have had meanings as well as good.

Here in Nigeria, when we use the word 'tribe' and ask a man which tribe he belongs to, we mean nothing bad or derogatory. We do not bring about national disunity by using the word: we simply ask the question whether the man is Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa or a member of one or the other ethnic groupings in the country which we are accustomed to call tribes.

So long as there is nothing bad in being an Hausa as well as being a Nigerian, or being a Yoruba as well as being a Nigerian, there is no need for anyone to fear national disunity. It is when people go against the spirit of the National Anthem and wish to change words for their own purposes that there is need to suspect disuniting tendencies.

If, for instance, people cease to talk of the Yoruba tribe and begin to talk of the Yoruba nation, or the Yoruba people, it will be a bad

sign because there is one nation in this country, the Nigerian Nation, and one people only, the Nigerian people: we are all Nigerian citizens.

This idea is well expressed in the first verse of the National Anthem, which says:

*Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand,
Nigerians all, and proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.*

I would not wish to change one word of this. Not the word 'native', nor the word 'tribe', because the verse is very clear, and good as it stands and worthy of our great country.

If the hon. Member who put forward the original mischievous Motion wishes to delete and change words, then let me make to him two suggestions: firstly, that he seeks to change the name of the obscure newspaper, *The Tribune* to something else because the word *Tribune* means 'tribal representative', from the ancient Roman tribunes who represented three main tribes or political divisions. Perhaps, *The Tribal Grouper* would be an accurate new name for the newspaper, but I trust that the hon. Member opposite would not wish to continue anything which might have the original Motion calls "a disuniting psychological effect" in the country.

My second suggestion is simply that the hon. Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) might wish to change his own name. We have all heard the saying, "Arose by any other name would smell as sweet" and I am sure that we on this side of the House would be more constructive in our suggestions for alternative words than the hon. Gentleman has been in the original Motion before the House.

Before I resume my seat, I think it will be interesting if I inform the House of the intention at the back of the mind of the lady who actually composed this Anthem. When this Motion came to my notice, I was told that the lady was still in the country and so I asked my Secretary to contact her to find out exactly what was at the back of her mind when composing this Anthem and I read, with your permission, Mr Speaker, what the lady had to say. I quote:

[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

I am concerned to know that the word 'tribe' is considered offensive. To me there is no derogatory connotation in the word but simply being the only English word indicating a group of people who sprang from common ancestry, with the same custom and language, hence their family loyalty.

The lady went on to say—

Being myself from Highbury, a native of London, of Welsh ancestry, educated in Scotland, I appreciate how a nation may be forged from different groups, each contributing to the national culture. It was this aspect which had spurred me to try to compose the words of the Anthem. I saw Nigeria as a new nation, not growing haphazardly through the context as did so many of the older nations, but of deliberate creation and consisting of so many groups of people each with their own language and culture to contribute to the enrichment of the nation.

There seems to be no other word in English for the connotation of the words "tribe," "common ancestry," "family groupings", unless one uses the Scottish "clan" or "sect" which is not quite the same. I think there is nothing wrong with the intention of the lady. Only a mischief-maker would want this word to be changed, perhaps, because of some other things. After all, this Anthem has been in the country for quite a while. This man has not been able to do anything since then; perhaps, his girl friend has brought the word to his notice and now he is coming to the House to deceive us. I think I will appeal to hon. Members to reject the original Motion and support the Amendment.

4.50 p.m.

M. Aminu Kano (Kano East): May I first give some meanings of the word 'tribe' in some other dictionaries in order to give this House a chance to know that there are more meanings than one for the word 'tribe' and that it does not necessarily mean a barbarous group of people. Here is another Oxford dictionary—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): That is a dictionary written in Lord Lugard's day. (Laughter).

M. Aminu Kano: This dictionary was compiled and first published in 1960. According to this dictionary the word "tribe" means

"a group of persons forming a community and claiming descent from a common ancestor, as, for example, each of the twelve divisions of the people of Israel, claiming descent from the twelve sons of Jacob." It says that in the Roman times, during the Roman Empire, the word "tribe" can mean "one of the traditional three political divisions or patrician orders of ancient Rome." This is one meaning. Then there is a second meaning: it says that "a tribe is defined by Dr Rivers as 'a social group of a simple kind, the members of which speak a common dialect, have a single government, and act together for such common purposes as warfare'."

I think that it is more important for us not to waste our time on the meaning of the word "tribe" as understood by people outside Nigeria. I know the impression which is created when one hears from the B.B.C. about tribes in Kenya, tribes in Zanzibar, and so on—but that is the B.B.C. Here in this country we are not British people, we are not American people, we are not European people, we are Africans. I come from the Fulani tribe; I am proud that I am a Fulani and there is nothing wrong about it. But if an American uses the word "tribe", it will have a different meaning for him.

I think what is more important on this question of the National Anthem is not to spend our time searching for the meaning of a word, but to see that the Anthem is translated into at least the three main languages of Nigeria, so that all the children throughout the country know it, not only in English, but also in their own language, and then the idea of the word "tribe" having different meanings would be immaterial. So let us request the Government that the Anthem should be translated into our languages, so that in the end we can forget the English meaning, which embitters the mind of the people.

I support the Amendment.

M. Akubakar Isandu (Jos North West): I rise to oppose the original Motion and to support wholeheartedly the Amendment. In doing so, I would ask the Government to throw away the original Motion—

Mr D. D. Dimka (Angas): We should answer to our real names in this House. The hon. Member for Jos North West is not "Abubakar Isandu", but he is Akubakar Isandu.

M. Akubakar Isandu : I would ask the Government to throw away the original Motion, because it is not only unnecessary in its outlook, but it is wrongly filed and completely lacking in substance.

I ask : Has the hon. Mover consulted his Party Leader who preached most on the freedom of ethnic and minority groups? Had he done so, he would not have been allowed to file this unwarranted Motion. In other words, if the Mover denies that there are different tribes existing in Nigeria, to be more sensible he should have as well filed a Motion along with this one calling on the Federal Government to abolish all our customs, traditions and diversified linguistic differences.

May I take this opportunity to air my feelings regarding the standing of our National Anthem. When our independence was in its embryonic stage, those who thought that the black man could not manage his affairs, because of the then Lumumbist Movement, gave up their business and left the country, thinking that the Congo situation would repeat itself here in Nigeria. Now, we know that we have got able sons, like the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria. We are now free and free forever, and we are now managing our affairs better than any other country within the Continent of Africa, if not in the whole world.

May I point out that I am earnestly and seriously calling on the Federal Government to declare it illegal and an abuse of our dignity for anyone, irrespective of rank, colour and whoever he may be, to remain sitting in his seat when this National Anthem is being played. We have to congratulate Sir Francis Ibiem who suggested that whenever the National Anthem is played everybody should stand up. It is only in this way that the expatriates would know that we too can manage our affairs efficiently, and that we have respect for our nation.

I beg to support.

Dr P. N. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) : The trouble is not in the word "tribe" but in

the person who is interpreting it, and this point has been clearly made by our hon. Friend, M. Aminu Kano. Now, the word "tribe" as used in America or in England, like the word "native", has a very different connotation for those people over there, from what it has for people here. Hon. Members heard the Minister read a letter addressed to him by the composer of the National Anthem, in which the word under discussion appeared, and she said that she is a native of England. But when one is in America or in England, the word "native" connotes a people from an undeveloped area, people from the bush areas, the barbarians that eat human beings. Now we cannot, because of that, have the inferiority complex of not being able to accept the word that interprets as nearly as possible in the English language our cultural ethnic groupings in this country—that is, if we want to use English. There are Yoruba words for tribe, Ibo words for tribe, Hausa and Fulani words for tribe. If you want to interpret into the English language, well you have to invent something different that you can use. If you want to say that "tribe" is a nation, I do not think that you can say that Fulani is a nation, Yoruba is a nation, Ibo is a nation, and Hausa is a nation. Then how many nations are we going to have within one nation of Nigeria? We will have to use something that will bring together the different ethnic groups under one common name—the nation.

Now, the Motion say—

"...in view of its disuniting psychological effect..."

If the word "tribe" is disuniting psychologically, so are the words Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa and Fulani, because if these words are disuniting, then it means that whenever we use tribe, we are disuniting Nigeria. Instead of saying, "I am a Nigerian," if you say, "I am an Ibo" or Yoruba, Fulani or Hausa, you are disuniting Nigeria psychologically. Therefore, the meaning that is attached to a name is what it is. I would be opposed to the use of "tribe" in this country if it is to be able to identify who is an Ibo, Yoruba, Hausa or Fulani for the purpose of political actions—(Interruption). In Ibo, we have so many differing groups, but the word

[DR OKEKE]

"tribe," for the Mover of this Motion, has a very small environmental meaning which we are not contending now. The dictionaries as quoted here have shown the Mover that his meaning has nothing to do with the word 'tribe' at all. The wider meaning of the word "tribe" has to be accepted, and it does not make a difference, whether there are five million or ten million people.

I am only pointing out that if we are going to use the word "tribe" to identify people from various areas for political purposes, I feel opposed to the use of the word "tribe" wherever it occurs in our political literature in this country. First and foremost, we know that we are all Nigerians. The word "tribe" does not hurt anybody here psychologically or practically.

I strongly support the Amendment and I vehemently oppose the original Motion.

The Minister of Finance : I only want to speak on just one point, that is to ask Members to be fair to the House, especially my hon. Friend, Chief Ayo Rosiji who tried to mislead the House by reading out of context from the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* the meaning of the word "tribe". Now, the dictionary meaning which he read was very clear—

"Group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs ; (Roman History) each of the political divisions (originally three, probably representing clans) ultimately 35 are the Romans."

That is Roman History, and that is what my hon. Friend, (Chief Ayo Rosiji), should have told the House. And he went so far—

Chief Ayo Rosiji : There is a semi-colon there.

The Minister of Finance : Why did you not read up to the semi-colon? As my hon. Friend, Mallam Aminu Kano, read, to define it further—

"... any similar division wheter of natural or political origin, for example, the Israelites."

Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : The Minister is from Israel.

The Minister of Finance : I do not know whether Ijebu people are from Israel. In any case, what I am trying to say is that my hon. Friend—

Mr A. F. Odulana : Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is only the Ijebus that have name in the Bible—the Jebusites.

The Minister of Finance : I am sure that the hon. Leader of the Opposition will not subscribe to the biblical attachment to Ijebus in the Bible because the Bible was pronouncing woes on the Jebusites.

In any case, what I am trying to say is that I expect my hon. Friend to be fair to the House, and whenever he is reading he should not only stop at a comma but should go up to a semi-colon and, if possible, to the full stop.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. Does Chief Rosiji want to exercise his right of reply under the Standing Orders?

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Yes, Sir.

I did not appreciate when I was going to move this Motion that it would be made such a joke of and that people would try to sit on it. I think that it is quite clear in my mind that the people who have spoken against this Motion have not done so from the bottom of their heart because (never mind what the meaning in the dictionary is ; never mind what is in the encyclopaedia) I know for sure that every Member of this House knows, without referring to all these books, that the word "tribe" has a derogatory meaning. Everybody knows it in his own heart. Whether one likes it or not is immaterial—

Dr P. U. Okeke : This is repetitive, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I take it that Dr Okeke was referring to the hon. Member speaking.

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Now, Sir, I have been as impartial as possible in my presentation to this House of the meaning of the word "tribe" as one can gather from all these books. The books which my hon. Friend, Mallam Aminu Kano, and the Minister of Finance read support my contention. Everything that they read there supports my contention. I wish people could read books properly.

I would like, first of all, to refer to the statement made here by my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, in reading the meaning

Federal Parliament Debates

1317

[National Anthem]

10 APRIL 1962

[National Anthem]

1318

of the word tribe from the Concise Oxford Dictionary. It reads as follows :—

“*tribe*” (standing for noun) “*1 Group of barbarous clans under recognised chiefs ;*”

that is the end of that meaning. But I go forward—

The Minister of Finance : What about the brackets in front of it ?

Chief Ayo Rosiji : Just wait. These people cannot read a dictionary ! The Minister is only using *fankara* tactics to confuse all the issues. Now I quote :

“...” ; (*Roman History*)—no stop at all behind it—“*each of the political divisions (originally three, probably representing clans, ultimately 35) of the Romans ;*”

That is Roman History. That definition which I have just given is the Roman History definition.

Now, my hon. Friend, Mr Aminu Kano—

Several hon. Members : Call him “Mallam” not “Mr”.

Chief Rosiji : Where is his turban ? My hon. Friend, Mr Aminu Kano, read—

Several hon. Members : No ! Call him “Mallam”. He is a *Mallam*.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order, Sir, I hate to think that the Member for Egba East (*Chief Rosiji*) meant to be discourteous to our hon. Colleague by calling a *Mallam* “Mr”

Mr I. A. Brown : I think it is time he went to Mecca.

Chief Rosiji : *Mallams* do not wear *Awo caps* and patent shoes.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : Mr Speaker, I suggest that, to be able to differentiate a *Mallam* from a Mr, our *Mallams* should wear their turbans.

Mallam Aminu Kano (Kano East) : On a point of information, Sir, the word *Mallam* comes from the Arabic word *Muallim* and *Muallim* means “one who knows”. The word *Mallam* is only attributed to Moslems. Those who can read and interpret the Koran and Moslem Law are called *Mallam*. (*Hear, hear.*)

Chief Rosiji : My hon. Friend, Mr Aminu Kano read from the Encyclopaedia Britannica—

The Deputy Speaker : I think that after the bit of education we have had about this, the hon. Member for Kano East should more properly be referred to as Mallam Aminu Kano.

Chief Rosiji : Mr Deputy Speaker, he read from the Encyclopaedia—

Several hon. Members : Who ? Who ?

Chief Rosiji : The hon. Gentleman read from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, but he did not read the whole thing. If he had read the whole thing, then I can only conclude that he has misled this honourable House. I shall read it—the whole thing—with your permission Sir. It says :

“*A tribe is defined by Dr Rivers as—‘a social group of a simple kind, the members of which speak a common dialect,’—dialect not language—‘have a single government, and act together for such common purposes as warfare.’*”

“*In this definition, it is necessary to understand by single government a political unity of a very simple kind, which may not imply the existence of any obvious mechanism of government, such as an hereditary monarchy or an elected Council, with which we are familiar amongst civilized peoples.*”

Now, Sir, that means that “government” in the context of the definition of *tribe*, does not mean the type of government that civilised people have. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker : Go on.

Chief Rosiji : Why can they not listen ? I will continue with your permission, Sir.

“*Although it is usual to regard primitive peoples as always organised a definite tribes, the tribe as a definite group is often entirely lacking. In the case of pastoral peoples, definite groups with a political function, transcending families and clans, are likely to occur, but a settled population needs no such unification, unless the special demands of industry or the need for united action in warfare necessitate central control or the delimitation of groups. Thus it is often difficult in Melanesia to find any division of the people into distinct political units. One district usually shades into another politically,*”

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

unless there is established enmity between the groups; and the names of groups, which might be thought to be tribal names, are found to be of indefinite extent. In these cases the social and political organisation is comprised in the family, clan and local relations; the political solidarity of any given district depends on the sum-total of family, clan, local and personal relationships in that district. There is tribal organisation but there are no district tribes. In other places, however, in which social organisation is of the same general kind, but in which conditions, such as isolation on a small island, or historical circumstances, have unified a district, on account of economic or other conditions, we can speak of definite tribes. In so far as the political unity of such a district becomes dependent on locality, rather than on kinship, and other relationships—"

Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central): On a point of order. When one wants to quote, one has to be very brief, and not read a whole book.

Several Opposition Members: No! No! He can quote the whole book if he likes.

The Deputy Speaker: Order! Under Standing Order 25 (1), a Member shall not read his speech, but may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument. I am afraid this point of order is right.

Chief Rosiji: The last sentence, Sir—

"In so far as political unity of such a district becomes dependent on locality, rather than on kinship and other relationship between the Members of the district, the tribe passes into a simple form of State."

The point there, Sir, is that even if we say that we agree that we are a primitive people, what this dictionary says is that we are not tribes, because one cannot use the word *tribe* in relationship to a group of people who can be identified with a certain area of land. The *Hausa* people in the North, we can define the area where they occupy. The *Yoruba* people in the West, we can define where they occupy. The *Ibo* in the East, we can define where they occupy.

Therefore, what this means really is that even if we agree that the word *tribe* is not derogatory, it is a wrong word according to this definition. It is a wrong word to use—

Shittima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi): Mr Deputy Speaker, the sooner Mallam Rosiji admits that he is a Yoruba and takes his seat, the better it will be for us all.

Chief Rosiji: That is a very stupid interjection.

Several hon. Members: Withdraw it now!

Chief Ayo Rosiji: Sir, this is not a question of reading books. It is not a question of somebody being learned or not being learned. It is a question of pride to us all. If hon. Members like it, they can keep it. As for me, I am not a tribesman. If Members opposite are all tribesmen, they can be tribesmen.

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

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved: That this House applauds and endorses the appeal in the first verse of the Nigerian National Anthem to all Nigerians to stand together in brotherhood regardless of linguistic, racial and other differences due to the vast size of the country and the widely differing origin and state of development of the Nigerian Peoples, and deplores any tendency to despise Nigerian tribal and social institutions.

CADET CORPS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

5.20 p.m.

Mr C. A. Odigbo (Bende West): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, namely—

"That this House urges Government in the interests of defence, and as an interim alternative to National Military Service, to take active steps to attach Cadet Corps to Secondary Schools in the Federation."

The aim of this Motion is two-fold. Firstly, I want to call attention to a veritable source of potential man-power for our military forces. Secondly, I wish to implore the House to urge the Government to go all out to tap this source without delay.

We are 312 Members in this House. Each of us is proud to belong to Nigeria with its teeming population. That is a pride that comes

Federal Parliament Debates

1321

[Cadet Corps]

10 APRIL 1962

[Cadet Corps]

1322

from belonging to a large group. Such pride generates confidence, which is the source of initiative. But I wonder how many of us could handle a gun in defence of this country if the occasion should arise, how many of us can endure a road march two miles if they must, how many can lie on their bellies for four hours without moving a muscle. I am sure that only a very microscopic few among us can do these things, and that goes also for the preponderance of the Nigerian youth.

It is not our fault; it is our heritage. It shall become our fault if, two years after independence, there is no step taken to remedy the situation.

This Motion calls for a remedy. This remedy will cost the country a mere pittance, while yielding large dividends in man-power reserve. This Motion calls upon us to take steps to produce a new generation of Nigerians, who shall not only be proud of their country, but who can also defend their fatherland with or without further military training.

I am not unaware that cadet units exist in some secondary schools. My information indicates that cadet units have been established in 12 secondary schools throughout the Federation. We have six in the North, two in the West, two in Lagos, and two in the East. One would have expected that by this time we should have at least one cadet unit in one secondary school in every Division. My suggestion is that we should, in fact, make it a national policy to have one cadet unit in every secondary school.

I feel convinced that the existing units have operated long enough to furnish sufficient data for a full scale national operation of cadet units in all secondary schools. At least let us have one in each Division.

What are we going to gain from this scheme? Firstly, we shall be able to interest our youth in careers in the Army. It is not enough to preach to our youth to be patriotic to defend our country when the need arises. They should be trained. They should be given the special experience of being, in fact, interested in the Army itself. They should be made to see for themselves, while they are young, the very great opportunities which exist in the

Army for them. It is only by tying themselves with such units while they are young that they can have a permanent interest in this career.

In the course of the training there is no doubt that the youth will hear stories of heroic soldiers, and chivalrous activities of soldiers, as a way of demonstrating the love of their country. In Nigeria such units would gain inspiration from the stories of such worthy Nigerians as Aguiyi-Ironsi whose activity in the Congo, in fact, has become a household word.

Secondly, the units will provide the country with a reservoir of potential soldiers on whom the country can rely in time of emergency. At the moment the existing units are enabling the Army to recruit for training youngmen who have shown remarkable aptitude for the Army. My contention is that excellent though this limited application is it should become Government policy to so organise the units that thousands shall be turned out yearly from our schools.

The few existing units, I am told, have demonstrated that our Nigerian youth are eager to join these units. The opportunity to use the expansion of the scheme to produce a national Army reserve should not be lost.

Thirdly, training in these units obviously contributes to foster a sense of discipline in the youth. We are aware of the immense benefits which the young persons derive from membership of the Scout Movement. The cadet unit provides even better opportunities for conditioning a person to a disciplined manner of action and behaviour. The more people we have who have passed through this type of discipline the more responsible will our public become.

We know that compulsory military service has become a regular feature in the defence schemes of most modern nations. In Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, to mention only a very few, every male must render compulsory military service before he attains the age of twenty-five. I understand that in Israel both males and females are made to undergo this military training.

Some of these nations have Armies which number in millions and yet they find it necessary to insist on this kind of scheme.

[MR ODIGBO]

We know how scanty and ineffective our Army is at the moment. We have much more reason to introduce this scheme in order to produce people at a very low cost who will be able to man our Army for the years to come.

No sensible person would expect Nigeria to embark upon the expensive defence expenditure involved in the operation of a national military service. But the need for it must be recognised early, and plans and policies adopted to strengthen our defences. The cadet unit scheme is one sure way of building up a national defence system.

There is quite a lot one can say in support of this Motion, but I do really feel that it is not controversial. I think that every Member here is quite aware of the precarious nature in which our Army is and the need for improving it must be uppermost even in the heart of the Government as it is in the minds of every other citizen.

Even though the Government has indicated its intention to amend the Motion, I do hope, nevertheless, that it would realise that my intention really in relation to this Motion is mostly to ask that the scheme be extended as fast as possible to as many more schools as can come under the scheme.

I beg to move.

5.30 p.m.

Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) : It is a pity that we have not much time to go into this very important Motion. However, I shall try to be as brief as possible because brevity is the soul of wit.

I can only touch a few important points which the hon. Mover has not touched. The first of these is the importance of this Motion to the policy of Nigerianisation in our Army. This, the hon. Minister of Defence tells us, is uppermost in his mind.

I am speaking about this from experience and I hope that when the hon. Minister does tell this House something about his Amendment he will remember to tell us about the number of officers in our Army to-day and how many of them are boys who have been through one or other of the few cadet corps units in the Government secondary schools,

I would also like to point out that these cadet corps units that exist now exist only in Government secondary schools and what we are asking for is an expansion of these into other secondary schools run by voluntary agencies. If the Government secondary schools can do it, there is no reason why secondary schools of voluntary agencies should not be allowed to produce officers for our Army.

One of the stumbling blocks in this project is that it is one of the conditions for starting a cadet corps unit that there must be an ex-service army officer as its head. That is a condition imposed by our colonial masters when they were looking for jobs for their ex-servicemen. But they have now left us and we are independent. We have not got ex-service officers but we have ex-service regimental sergeant majors, company sergeant majors, and segeant majors who can easily teach physical training, drill, tactics, map reading, *etc.*, to our boys. Let Government consider employing these ex-servicemen to do these things in our secondary schools.

Further, these boys training in the Cadet Corps present no danger because they do not use live ammunitions so that there can be no danger of these boys wounding themselves. The Government can, therefore, employ one peripathetic Army Officer to tour a province or even two provinces to supervise the work being done by these company sergeant majors in the various units.

It is a pity that one does not have the time to say all that there is to say in favour of this Army Cadet Corps but I am quite sure that the hon. Minister, who is quite alive to the necessity for officers of the Army to be drawn from the Nigerian indigenes particularly in the highest ranks, will realise how important it is to expand it.

Our boys learn History, Geography, and Languages for the humanities; they learn Physics, Chemistry and Biology for the sciences; if they are going to become efficient Army officers, then they must be given a chance of undergoing army training. A boy should not just join the Army. The days of joining the Army because one is a never-do-well or a reckless fellow is past. We must remember that the Army is the backbone of our nation.

I beg to second.

Minister of State (Hon. J. C. Obande): I beg to move that the Motion be accepted as amended as follows:

Line 1, leave out from "House" to the end of the Question and add—"That this House approves the active steps Government has taken to attach Cadet Corps to secondary schools in the Federation."

Time is really against us otherwise I could have gone into detail to explain this matter to this hon. House. In any case, hon. Members will be aware that the raising of cadet units is governed by the law, namely, the Local Forces Act, which provides that the Governor-General may, by orders, establish a cadet unit to be the cadet unit of a college, and the regulations specify how cadet units, once established, are to be run.

We already have twelve cadet units in Nigeria, six in the North, two in the East, two in the West, and two in Lagos. Approval has just been given for the thirteenth to be established at the Provincial Secondary School at Kano. We have two applications outstanding, one from the Lagos Anglican Grammar School at Yaba, and the other from the Secondary School at Zaria. Both applications awaits inspection reports from the military authorities before further consideration is to be given to them.

Hon. Members will agree that the Federal Government is taking all the necessary steps to fit in with the wishes of secondary schools in this regard. If a secondary school wants to have a cadet unit, it has only to apply, but before approval is given for the creation of a cadet unit, certain essentials must be fulfilled:

(a) There must be adequate support from the members of the College for the establishment of a cadet unit.

(b) There must be on the staff of the Colleges a Commanding Officer and other officers with previous commissioned military experience to operate the proposed cadet unit.

(c) There must be a regular military unit nearby to sponsor the cadet unit and help with its training.

(d) Funds must be available to finance the initial capital outlay on buildings (usually for an armoury, rifle range and storehouse) and to pay training staff, etc.

Hon. Members will agree that the conditions are wise and are a matter of common sense. If they can all be fulfilled then there is no reason why the cadet unit cannot be established.

The hon. mover of the original Motion has suggested that the raising of cadet units should be considered as an alternative to national military service. That, of course, cannot be so. Cadet training is recognised as a useful means of stimulating interest among our young men in manly pursuits and in encouraging qualities of leadership. There is no intention of introducing national military service at this stage.

The debating of this Motion is most welcome as it enables this House and the people of this country to see what we are doing in the military field. It will be readily accepted by one and all, including the mover of the original Motion, that the Government, as usual, is not behind in providing for the good of the people of this country. I have no doubt that other hon. Members will speak in support of the Motion, as amended.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I beg to second.

5.41 p.m.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar): We support the original Motion because the arguments put forward by the Minister in the Amendment do not hold water. He told us here that already there are six cadet training centres attached to six secondary schools in the North but we are aware that even though this may be true some of these secondary schools have not satisfied the conditions laid down by the regulations as stated in his own statement.

An hon. Member: How do you know?

Mr Tarka: I know because there are not six army units in the various provincial areas in the North.

An hon. Member: Who told you?

Mr Tarka: I am aware of this. I am a Member of this House and I study with interest what goes on in my own country. I would like to inform the House that if the Government wants to extend this essential service to all the secondary schools in the country, they should bring a Bill on the Floor

[MR TARKA]

of this House and Members of this House will keenly support such a Bill. We have always supported monetary Bills and even monetary Bills which are not necessary have always been supported here. Therefore, if for a very essential service like this the Government introduces a Bill on the Floor of this House, it is going to get the whole of our support from all sides of the House.

I wish to say that the original Motion is very good and should be supported by all sides of this House and that the Amendment as put forward by the Minister should be rejected because it does not serve any useful purpose; it only helps the Government to blow its own trumpet for doing nothing or for doing something for which we have all paid.

Whereupon the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) rose in his place and claimed to move that the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Motion as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House approves the steps Government has taken to attach Cadet Corps to secondary schools in the Federation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

FISHING INDUSTRY

5.44 p.m.

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): I am raising a very important point. At the Victoria Beach, near the Television site, two expatriate men engage in fishing every day except on Sundays. They catch enormous quantities of fish which they sell to people and get about £150 every day. I do not know whether they have a permit or licence for doing this. Even if they have a licence, I think that the Economic Development Programme presented to us speaks very much of the indigenisation of industries. I think that the Minister should make arrangements to bring some boys to Lagos, buy them fishing boats which they can use so that the fishing industry will become indigenous.

In the reply which the Minister will give, I would like him to assure us that he would contact his colleagues in the Regions—the Ministers of Economic Planning—and do something about those expatriate officers who go out to catch enormous quantities of fish from the rivers in the towns and villages near the towns in which they live without paying for them. I think that this is cheating on the country's economy.

The Minister of Economic Development

(Hon. Waziri Ibrahim): The gentleman to whom the hon. Member for Udi Central (*Mr Chikelu*) has referred is a Spanish national. He was with the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Economic Development. He came to this country about two years ago. He had one small trawler before then and when the Ministry of Economic Development could no longer contain him, he went and brought a bigger trawler with which he now catches fish and sells near the Television site as the hon. Member has said.

At the moment, we do not license fishing; anybody can go and fish but as hon. Members know, this House passed a Bill last year seeking regulations to be made on fishing so that only those who have licences can do fishing within our territorial waters, not the fishing which is done just for subsistence but for trade with bigger trawlers. These big trawlers will be required to have licences after the regulations have been made, if they are to fish within the territorial waters of Nigeria.

As regards the amount of money made by this gentleman, who I say is a Spaniard, I cannot say whether it is up to £150 per day, but the Lagos Town Council is quite aware of the activities of this gentleman and it was with the co-operation of the Lagos Town Council that he has started the fishing trade near the Television site. I understand that many market women patronise this man and he is doing very valuable service to the community and to himself.

I think that the hon. Member mentioned something about taxes. This will come after the regulations have been passed and we shall know how to tax them. The licence fees will be taken as a sort of tax but I am sure that this gentleman does pay income tax.

LAWLESSNESS IN AJEGUNLE

Mr N. E. Elenwa (Ahoada West): Last Sunday, at about six o'clock, around the market near the motor park at Ajegunle in Apapa, there was a traditional dance in which about forty young men with painted faces, mighty whips and knives paraded the whole area and brutally and murderously beat innocent passengers in lorries, occupants of cars, cyclists and pedestrians. They even spat on my own driver and the police around the area escaped for dear life. If such an inhuman treatment is meted to people in the heart of the capital city and the assailants in the pretence of doing a traditional dance, are not apprehended, I wonder what will be expected of the people in the rural areas without direct police supervision. I am sure that it would be of public interest, especially to those around Lagos, if such an ancient, brutal and inhuman traditional dance were proscribed. I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs to make a statement about it.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Hon. Musa Yar'Adua): I am sure that we all sympathise with the hon. Member for a certain incident which happened to him. As I told him this morning, I cannot make a statement on this matter because it happened in a village which is out of bounds to my Ministry.

1962 CENSUS

Mr J. B. Eboigbodi (Asaba West): The point I want to raise on this Motion of Adjournment is the issue of the 1962 Census of this Country. The argument I have in it is that it should produce the correct population figures of this country, and not done as the one of 1952—ten years ago—without sufficient publicity and explanation especially to the mass illiterates in the rural areas of this country. They thought that it was a way of knowing the source of their wealth so that they might be highly taxed. Because of that, they concealed the number of their children from the enumerators. As a result of that, not quite six months after the Census, we started to estimate the population of our country to be either 35 million or 40 million, apart from the 32 million that was officially produced as our population.

I am also saying that the two weeks' period of registration is not sufficient. We want everybody to be registered because of the distribution of amenities and the readjustment

of the electoral constituencies in this country. I suggest that one month will be enough since it is done once in a long time. If the N.B.C. and the newspapers are used for publicity, as was stated a few days ago, what are the methods and the materials in hand to teach the people in the rural areas, who constitute over ninety per cent of the population of this country, the need for this Census?

I will be pleased if the Minister of Economic Development will explain.

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon Waziri Ibrahim): The hon. Member has raised three points: first, the importance of the Census. I think that this requires no further emphasis. We all appreciate its importance and that is why the Regional Premiers have been making statements on the subject, and the Prime Minister made a speech on the subject yesterday. Therefore, we hope to be able to educate everybody in the country to appreciate the importance of the Census before the registration time comes.

In addition to the Radio and Newspaper publicities, a very very efficient administrative arrangement has been made all over the country. We have got the Chief Census Officer based in Lagos, and in each Region we have got a Regional Census Officer; under each of these officers we have got a number of subordinate officers and enumerators. In all, there will be about 50,000 enumerators dealing with the counting before registration, the education at the village level will take the form of lectures arranged by Senior Census Officers in each Division and by junior officers in each District, and so it goes right to the village level. People will be told of the importance of it, that it is not for taxes or for any other purpose.

I think that the question of publicity will be well covered. I hope that hon. Members also will do their duty in telling the public about it. It is in the interest of all of us. It is not a political matter. We all appreciate the importance of having an accurate census of our country.

As for the two-week period not being sufficient, I shall have to pass on this suggestion to the Census Officers. They have thought, after detailed consultations between them-

Federal Parliament Debates

1331

[Adjournment]

10 APRIL 1962

[Adjournment]

1332

[HON. WAZIRI IBRAHIM]

selves, that the two-week period will be sufficient, but the hon. Member's suggestion will be put forward to them, and if they are convinced in the light of what the hon. Member has said that the period should be extended to three or four weeks, it will definitely be done if that will ensure accurate counting.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at four minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 11th April, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Ibadan Postal Facilities

*O.230. **Mr K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider the possibility of building a Post Office at Sabo and Mokola at Ibadan in order to obviate the inconvenience suffered by the residents of those areas who have to cover long distances to get to the General Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr F. S. Nwika): The need for a Branch Post Office at Mokola to serve the Mokola, Sabo, and Inalende areas of Ibadan is realised and it is hoped that provision for a Post Office in the area will be made in the forthcoming development programme.

Akure Telephone Exchange

*O.231. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, what was the total number of subscribers at the end of November 1961 for the Akure telephone exchange.

Mr Nwika: There were 133 subscribers connected to Akure telephone Exchange at the end of November 1961.

Automatic Exchange

O.232. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, what qualifies a town to have an automatic telephone exchange.

Mr Nwika: The policy of my Ministry is that all exchanges will be converted to automatic exchanges ultimately. Therefore, every town in the country will, at one time or another, qualify for an automatic exchange. It is of course impossible to introduce automatic exchanges in all towns simultaneously.

A number of new automatic exchanges have been provided in both urban and rural areas in the three Regions as a result of the 1955-62 Telecommunications Development Programme. When further capital becomes available for the 1962-68 Development Programme the process of automatism will continue.

Mr D. N. Abii: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell us exactly on what basis the Ministry makes their decision to give an automatic telephone exchange?

Mr Speaker: This is a new question.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell this House when the Aba Automatic Telephone Exchange which was destroyed by fire will be restored?

Mr Nwika: Arrangements for resuming work in the Automatic Exchange are being made.

Mr Oronsaye: Will the Parliamentary Secretary, in view of his answer to my question just now, explain before this House whether when he says "one or the other", there is no order of importance or priority in the way the automatic telephone exchanges are distributed? For instance, in Benin which is a nodal and focal point, would he tell the House whether the Telephone requirements there do not warrant an automatic telephone?

Mr Speaker: This is entirely a new question

Oshogbo Telephone Exchange

O.233. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, what the total number was of subscribers at the end of November 1961 for Oshogbo Telephone Exchange.

Mr Nwika: There were 168 subscribers connected to Oshogbo Telephone Exchange at the end of November 1961.

Postal Agencies (Okigwi Division)

*O.234. **Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the volume of work done in each of the following postal agencies in Mbano County Area in Okigwi Division for the years 1960-61 and 1961-62.

Mr Nwika : The volume of business transacted at each of the Postal Agencies in Mbanjo County area is as follows :

	1960-61	1961-62
Angara ..	10,824	10,689
Amazari ..	6,536	6,133
Ehime ..	18,243	18,001
Nsu ..	14,072	18,604
Obollo ..	7,520	7,973
Umuohiri ..	—	3,626

Umuduru Postal Agency

***O.235. Mr D. O. Ahamefula** asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the increase of work in Umuduru postal agency since 1961, coupled with Umuduru's commercial and administrative importance, he will consider the immediate conversion of this postal agency to a full Post Office.

Mr Nwika : The business transacted at Umuduru Postal Agency during 1961 amounted to 18,848 units which are below the annual minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4/57 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to Sub-Post Office status. The upgrading of Umuduru Postal Agency cannot therefore be justified at present.

Mbanjo County Area Postal Agencies

O.236. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Minister of Communications, how many postal agencies in the Mbanjo County area in Okigwi Division are due for conversion to sub-post offices ; and what their names are.

Mr S. F. Nwika : None of the Postal Agencies in the Mbanjo County area is qualified for conversion to sub-post office status as none has yet reached the minimum of 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 as the level qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to sub-post office status.

Mr R. N. Muojeke : Would the Minister of Communications consider it necessary to revise the qualifications as laid down since 1957 ?

Mr Speaker : That is a new question.

Mr E. A. Mordi : Will the Parliamentary Secretary give us an assurance that the unit of business as stipulated in the Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 receives universal application ?

Trunk Calls

O.237. Mr K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware of the delay in putting trunk calls through and in the delivery of telegrams throughout the Federation and whether he will take steps to remedy the situation.

Mr Nwika : The Minister is aware that because of a considerable increase in telephone traffic, trunk routes between a number of large centres are overloaded. To rectify this, many additional trunk circuits are being provided during the next Telecommunications Development Programme. Meanwhile everything possible is being done to improve the operational efficiency of the trunk network.

As regards telegraphs, the hon. Member may not know that over two million telegrams are handled by the staff of the Ministry in a year, and, as far as the Minister is aware, complaints regarding delay are relatively few. The Minister will be glad to investigate any specific instance which is brought to his attention.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Offer of Specialist Assistance

O.219. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Economic Development, how many countries other than the United States have offered Nigeria free services of their professionals and technicians.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu) : In addition to the offers made by the United States of America, Nigeria has been offered the services of professionals and technicians under various Technical Assistance Schemes by the following countries : The United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, India, Pakistan, Israel and Japan. In addition to the above list, however, nationals of the following countries, through the auspices of the United Nations Organisation and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa, give us the benefit of their professional and technical expertise : Australia, the United Arab Republic, Italy, France, Sweden, Poland and Russia.

In no case, however, are the services of these persons entirely free. There is always some local counterpart contribution, the rates of

which vary to some extent with the donor country. This local contribution usually takes the form of provision of living accommodation, medical facilities and hotel or travelling allowances when experts are on duty tour away from base.

M. Aminu Kano : May we know how it came about that all these forms of help came mostly from the Western countries while one only came from the East ?

Mr Mbakogu : Offers of assistance are considered on their merits.

M. Aminu Kano : Are there special difficulties in the way of offers from the Eastern countries ?

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : There are no difficulties at all and we do not at all discriminate. If there had been no technical assistance personnel from the Eastern countries it is because they have not offered us. But there are some cases and they are being considered.

Loans to Farmers

O.238. Mr K. O. S. Are asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether he will consider recommending to Government the advisability of extending loan facilities on a small scale to farmers in order to improve agriculture in the country.

Mr Mbakogu : I refer the hon. Member to the Federal Government's Development Programme in which he will have noted that a total provision of £3 million has been set aside by the Federal Government for agricultural credit. Details of the organisation necessary to administer this credit scheme will, it is hoped, be worked out shortly.

M. Aminu Kano : Would the Minister see to it that this facility to farmers does not go to research but to individual farmers ?

Mr Mbakogu : This scheme is meant to assist farmers, not research officers.

Census

O.239. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Economic Development, when he will start educating the general public on the forthcoming census.

Mr Mbakogu : Already, arrangements have been made and campaigns have been opened. Two days ago, the Prime Minister made a

statement on the census. Educative leaflets have been distributed and within two weeks from now the Ministry will go to the radio, the press, television and cinemas to educate the public on the importance of the forthcoming census.

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : Is the Minister aware of the fact that televisions and radio sets are not owned by the common man and that as a result of that they are not an adequate medium for spreading propaganda necessary for public information ? I am, therefore, asking whether the Minister could expand propaganda in the way of getting some people to tour the country informing the peasants about the census—District Councils, local communities, and Members of Parliament.

Mr Mbakogu : Suggestions made by the hon. Gentleman will be taken into consideration. Appeals will soon be made to hon. Members to go to their constituencies and educate them on the importance of the census.

Mr K. O. S. Are : Is the Minister aware that there are some people who go about telling other people that the census is meant purposely for payment of taxes ?

Mr Mbakogu : We are not aware of that.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : Is the Minister aware that the date of this census, that is 13th May, is not suitable due to the fact that pilgrims from Nigeria shall have been away in Saudi Arabia ? If so, what special arrangement is the Government making for them ?

The Minister of Economic Development (Hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : I had a meeting with the Ministers in the North who are concerned with the census and we have come to the conclusion that the best thing is that those who will be going to Mecca on pilgrimage should have their names and those of their families registered and deposited with the appropriate census official before they leave for Mecca.

Alhaji Bello Dandago : Human nature being what it is, people are not stationary. What about people in transit ?

Hon. Waziri Ibrahim : Well, one cannot have a hundred per cent accuracy in counting. It is impossible. Moreover, we cannot stop people from moving about. On the 13th of

[HON. IBRAHIM]

May, for example, there will be some people in Sierra Leone, some going to Congo (*Leopoldville*), some going to Fort Lamy, some to Mecca—it is just impossible to get 100 per cent accuracy. We do appreciate that. But we shall do our very best to ensure the maximum of registration.

Mr A. M. A. Akinloye : The Minister said that he had got in touch with the Ministers in the Northern Region who were concerned with the census. I want to ask him whether he has made similar arrangements with the Ministers in the West because a good proportion of people in the West do go to Mecca too.

Hon. Ibrahim Waziri : People in the West will be pre-registered in a similar manner. I only mentioned the Northern Region because they first brought the matter up when I was in Kaduna. We discussed it, and all the conditions will apply all over the country.

Mr S. A. Babatunde : With regard to people who go on pilgrimage to Mecca, can the Minister give us an assurance that the Government will extend the time of the census, so that instead of intending pilgrims making arrangements for their family and friends who may make mistakes, they will be able to do it themselves?

Hon. Ibrahim Waziri : We do not think that there is need to extend the time. You will remember that yesterday an hon. Member suggested that the period should be extended to three or four weeks instead of the two weeks we intend to allow. But, as I said, if you intend to go to Mecca you register yourself and your family before you leave; it is not a question of somebody doing it for you, but you yourself doing it before you go. So there can be no question of misunderstanding or mis-registration.

M. L. Alhaji Daura : Is the Minister aware that there is need to extend this time? It also happens that the big *Salah* holidays fall within that time, and this really justifies the need to extend the time.

Hon. Ibrahim Waziri : I am not aware that the *Salah* period will fall within that time. This date was fixed about one year ago after all the Regional Ministers concerned with the census had met. We have since discovered that the date will coincide with the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and, as I have learned now, with the *Salah*.

But in spite of all this, we intend to go ahead. Very efficient administrative arrangements have been made, enumerators will be going from house to house I can assure hon. Member that, even though the census will fall within the *Salah* and the pilgrimage, we shall have accurate registration so there is no question of changing or thinking of changing the date at this stage.

Mr D. N. Abii : Will the Minister be kind enough to tell this House what arrangements have been made for all our children who are overseas studying. I hope they will be registered.

Hon. Ibrahim Waziri : I am afraid no provision has been made for them. The census will be for those who are in Nigeria at the time and those who intend to leave the country just before the census. But, as I have said, a mistake of say two or three hundred thousand cannot be avoided in any way at all. Therefore, there is no question as far as I know of having the students included; and in no part of the world does a census take into account students abroad.

ESTABLISHMENTS

Qualified Accountants

O.240. Mr M. D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Establishments if he is aware that the scale of salaries for professionally qualified Accountants is very unattractive and as a result such Accountants do not like to enter into the Public Service and if he will effect some improvements on the scale in order to attract this category of professionals into the Public Service.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments (Alhaji A. A. Koguna) : I am not aware that the scale of salaries for a professionally qualified Accountant is very unattractive. Accountants are in Scale A which is the salary scale for the Professional and Administrative grades in the Public Service, and their point of entry to this scale is determined in accordance with the formula employed in determining entry points for professionally qualified officers. In addition, Accountants have good promotion prospects which enable them to attain the super-scale salaries attached to very top posts in the Public Service.

Mr A. Akomolafe : Is the Minister aware that Accountancy is a profession which requires expert training similar to that of an engineer or a doctor. Their salaries should be compatible, just now they are not.

Alhaji Koguna : If I may anticipate, I know the shadow Minister for Establishments will give a statement, and I think he will include it then.

HEALTH

Drugs

O.241. M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed asked the Minister of Health, if, in view of the acute shortage of drugs in Lagos Hospitals, he intends to take any steps to stop the evil practice among hospital staff of using drugs elsewhere than in the hospitals.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health (M. Hamza Gombe) : There is no acute shortage of drugs in Lagos hospitals. Periodically minor shortages occur as a consequence of under-estimation.

To discourage the pilfering of drugs the assistance of the Police has occasionally been invoked in addition to the normal departmental disciplinary proceedings.

M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed : Is the Minister aware that when a doctor prescribes a drug for a patient, that patient will be asked by those responsible for supplying the medicine to go outside and buy it? I think that is why people feel there is a shortage of medicine.

M. Hamza Gombe : We are not aware.

W.A.C.M.R.

O.242. Dr P. U. Okeke asked the Minister of Health, whether the staff of the West African Council for Medical Research are not under the direct control of the Federal Ministry of Health; and who pays the running expenses of the Council.

M. Hamza Gombe : The staff of the West African Council for Medical Research are not under the direct control of my Ministry. The Council is financed by the four participating West African Governments in accordance with the following ratio :

	Per cent
Nigeria	53
Ghana	38
Sierra Leone	8
Gambia	1

Mr F. C. Ogbalu : Is the Minister aware of the fact that there are very few Nigerians in the top posts in that Research department.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. Dr M. A. Majekodunmi) : No, Sir. There are a few Nigerians in the top posts.

NOTICE OF MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

“That at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.”

In view of the popular demand by several hon. Members that they have not had an opportunity to contribute their own quota to the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, Government has agreed that we should have a night sitting to-day to enable more Members at least to speak. I am sure that this will receive the full approbation of the House.

I would like to say that this afternoon at about 5 o'clock I propose to reply to some of the points already made. This does not mean that I shall be trying to close the debate; it will merely enable me to speak at that particular time, and during the night the hon. Members can speak still. Whatever points they raise I am sure that the Ministers concerned will have the opportunity at the Committee stage to reply to them.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) : Will the hon. Leader of the House—

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin East) : I would like to remind the House that it is necessary that when any Minister moves a Motion someone from among them should support it. (*Laughter*).

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

Mr Dosunmu : I would like to take the opportunity that you, Mr Speaker, usually take. We remember that to a certain extent you have asked hon. Members to shorten their speeches so as to enable as many Members as possible to

[MR DOSUNMU]
 speak. We have only nine hours to go, and if everybody exhausts his thirty minutes you will only be able to call eighteen Members. Whereas if people considerably shorten their speeches, it will enable as many Members as possible to be heard, and I want to suggest that we restrict Members to ten minutes each.

Mr Speaker : I quite agree with the hon. Member that I should appeal to the Members who wish to speak to curtail their speeches to the important points and not make or introduce points that are irrelevant or out of order. The raising of points of order unnecessarily and persistent interruptions occupy a large part of our time and I hope Members will keep that in mind.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend the sitting until 9 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1962-63) BILL

(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY) : ADJOURNED

DEBATE ON SECOND READING

(29TH MARCH)

10.30 a.m.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : In supporting the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill (1962-63) moved by the effective Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, I must in the first place congratulate the Federal Government for its bold Economic Development Programme which forms the basis of the *Mobilisation* Budget. Before I make some observations on the Budget I would like to go further to praise all those who contributed in preparing the comprehensive Economic Programme which has brought about so many changes in this year's Budget of all the Governments of the Federation.

With the Economic Programme, the implementation of which starts with the 1962-63 Budget the Government intends to reconstruct the economy of our nation and raise the standard of living of people who have recently emerged from long years of colonial domination

and exploitation to a sovereign independent nation, although they are still suffering the after effects of British imperialism.

From the British imperial rule we inherited to live a false life and to pursue a wrong and unprogressive system of economy. Now if the Government's sole aim is really to quicken the pace of our economic growth in this country, we must first of all completely rid ourselves of the colonial mentality.

The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech has called upon all of us to make sacrifices in the interest of the nation. It means that every living soul in Nigeria to-day is being called upon to help the Government to implement its six-year Development Programme. I agree with the Government that for us to improve the lot of our people every sincere citizen should contribute his or her quota towards the Government's gigantic national reconstruction. But if the Government is determined to carry out this six-year Development Programme which has got the approval of this honourable House, why should the Government allow the present salary structure of the Civil Servants and Statutory Corporations to remain as it is? What moral justification has the Government to make life more difficult for the common man while it continues to pay inducement, hardship, children's allowances, bush and garden allowances to those in the upper segment in the Civil Service of the Federation? The Government should have realised that the present salaries in the various Departments of the Federation for those in the upper segment were so carefully arranged by our former British colonial masters for themselves with the intention to exploit this country fully before they hand over power.

If we are serious in all that we have declared to the nation, we must now "cut our coat according to our size". So I am strongly suggesting that the salary of those in the higher scales should be reduced to suit our national economy, and that all the redundant posts created by the British officers in this country in order to provide jobs for their people should be abolished as they are draining very much our economy. All these posts should be scrapped off.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I do point out to the hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) that he can still raise this

point when we come to the Committee Stage under Establishments. What we now must discuss is the general financial and economic policy of the Government.

Mr Okoronkwo : I am not trying to challenge the order of the Speaker but I am making this point in order to help the Government to reduce these salaries and provide more money for the development of the country in the Economic Programme.

I feel that some of these posts drain the economy of the country. Let me take only one example, the question of creating deputy posts in the Federation. We have no deputy Governor-General, we have no deputy Prime Minister and yet the Prime Minister is doing his work well, the Governor-General is doing his work well; nevertheless in the Police Force alone there are several deputies.

Mr Speaker : Please leave that until we come to the Police in the Committee.

Mr Okoronkwo : What I was saying was that the Government should abolish all the deputy posts in the Federation in order to make more money. Now the Government has introduced certain measures to find more money to finance the six-year Development Plan. But all these measures are not considered good for the common man. The increased duties on petrol, passenger vehicles, motor spare parts, batteries, tyres and tubes and also certain consumer goods should be withdrawn if the Government wants to carry out its six-year Development Plan successfully. The increase on these goods has already affected the common man and, if not discontinued, it will do more harm than goods to our economy.

The Government should take more measures to protect its own interests, by calling for more sacrifices from the hands of the alien big combines who have dominated all forms of trade and basic industries in the whole country. In this respect, I would like Government to set up a committee to control the prices of certain imported and locally manufactured goods, including local foodstuffs, in order to avoid further demands of increase in wages.

For example, many car owners and transport owners to-day are being ruined in this country by the manner in which cars are repaired. If you take your car to some of these firms to be repaired, you will be given a fantastic bill. There may be four or five Nigerians repairing

one car, and one is charged 7s-6d or 10s-6d per hour in respect of each of the mechanics who worked on the car! We would like the Government to protect the interests of the people of this country from these alien firms.

I believe that for the Government to achieve success in all its plans, it should expand its social services to all corners of the country and not concentrate here in Lagos on unnecessary luxuries and waste. The Government should impose upon itself accepted measures of austerity. I would like to call upon the Government to adopt the following measures :—

(1) that no more luxury buildings of more than £10,000 in value should be put up to quarter an individual in this country ;

(2) that Ministerial tours abroad should be curtailed ;

(3) that our Ministers should tour more of the country in order to acquaint themselves with the problems of the people and try to remedy them ;

(4) that the television services in this country should be suspended for five years.

Members would like to know that thousands of pounds of the taxpayers' money are flowing away to Europe and America on this luxurious and expensive service, introduced into the country by our leaders for political purposes, when there is no direct line from Lagos to Aba, my constituency !

Turning to the expansion of social services, I would like to start with Information Service. The Information Service of the Federal Government should be reorganised in order to play an effective role in our six-year development plan. The Federal Information Service should carry out an intensive propaganda campaign through the media of radio, leaflets and newspapers to educate—

Mr S. A. Olukotun (Kabba) : The ten minutes given have already passed.

Mr Speaker : Order. According to the Standing Orders of the House, the maximum is thirty minutes. However, I would only appeal to Members to avoid repetition and introduction of irrelevant matters.

Mr Okoronkwo : I will try to be brief. As I was saying, the Federal Information Service should carry out an intensive propaganda

[MR OKORONKWO]

campaign through the media of radio, leaflets and newspapers to educate millions of our people on the part they should play in the six-year development programme. In this respect, I would like to call upon the Government to establish radio studio centres equipped with medium wave transmitters in all the important towns and cities in the Federation, and Aba, my constituency, should be considered first.

Communications. The Minister of Communications should make every effort to improve the postal and telecommunications services in the country which are very poor at present. All our proposals in agriculture, education, trade and industry cannot progress without an adequate and improved system of communications. Therefore I would like to call upon the able Minister of Communications to build more—

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin East): Point of order, Mr Speaker. Contrary to Standing Order 25 (1), the hon. Member is reading his speech.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The reading of speeches is not allowed. And also I would like to remind Members that interruptions really waste our time.

Mr Okoronkwo: I call upon the Minister of Communications to build more post offices in the rural areas and to improve the existing ones in the big townships in order to meet the challenge which will arise in the course of implementing the development plan. It is most regrettable that the Minister has not considered it fit to put Aba on a direct line with Lagos.

I call upon the Minister also to restore the automatic telephone exchange at Aba which was destroyed by fire in 1960. The present post office in Aba should also be expanded in order to ease the congestion now in Aba.

As regards agriculture, I would like to associate myself with those who have congratulated the Government for taking a realistic method of approach towards agriculture rather than confining itself to research. The Government would do well in this direction by acquiring sufficient acres of land in the rural areas to establish farm settlements, especially in those rural areas which will not be favourable for the establishment of industries. In pursuing this, the Government should look all over the world

for the countries that have passed through the stage in which we are to-day, to help us to solve our problems.

Coming to education, it is gratifying to note that the Government has taken a bold step in this direction and has attached more importance to technical education, which is the only system of education that will save this country from the last yoke of imperialism. The Government should go all out now to build technical schools, at least one in every province and, before the completion of the buildings, the Government should award scholarships to our sons and daughters to study in all the technical colleges all over the world, irrespective of creed or colour. What we really want to-day is to get our people educated and for them to return home and teach in our technical schools.

As regards industries, the Government should establish more industries in places where the conditions are favourable. The establishment of these industries in all the important centres of the country will be the only remedy to offer employment to millions of our school leavers who are roaming about in the country to-day without jobs.

The Government should now rescue indigenous industrialists and traders from the hands of the aliens—

Mr S. A. Olukotun (Kabba): On a point of order, Sir. Is this House not going to abide by the instruction or order given? The period of ten minutes is already exhausted.

Mr Speaker: Order. I think we ought to be a little bit sympathetic to back benchers, nevertheless I will ask him to make less reference to his notes.

Mr Okoronkwo: Aliens who are working very hard to cripple the efforts of these Nigerians. The sum of £500,000 set aside for loans is very meagre indeed when one considers this amount with the number of people looking for loans from the Federal Government. The Government should set up a committee of Nigerian economists to advise our people on how to plan their industry and to form companies.

On this topic, Sir, I call on the Government to give loans to the people of my constituency, Aba, who have on their own established some industries without Government aid. The

Government should on its own establish a soap industry at Aba, rather than leave it in the hands of the aliens.

I think we cannot carry out our six-year Development Programme successfully without improved roads. Roads and communications are of vital importance to the economic growth of the country, and the Minister of Works should see to it that some of our roads are widened.

In some important towns in Nigeria to-day, the inhabitants are not protected. I hope that the Minister of Transport will see to it that gates are provided at all Railway level crossings. For instance, at Aba we have been crying for many years that a railway level crossing should be built at Ezukwu Quarters, Owerri road and Okigwi road, but no action has yet been taken.

Coming to the Police, I would like the Federal Government to improve the service condition of the Police Officers and those in the Police Force should be given all necessary equipment with which to carry on their duties. At Aba we have a Police Control Room for "999 Service" but there is no equipment for its operation. I would like the Minister to help and see that this important instrument for tracking down criminals is provided. Aba is also a gateway to the smugglers, and it should be noted that if the Government wants to stop these smugglers from carrying on their duties, the Police must be well equipped; and in this respect, the "999" system should be introduced immediately.

Turning to our imbalance of trade with Japan, the Minister has promised to look into it. Not only that—the Minister should also look into other countries with whom we have imbalance of trade. For instance, the present increase in duties would make it impossible for Japan to send some of her goods to this country, whereas some of the British firms will be able to import these goods, re-label them and send them into this country. That would also cripple our economy. I hope that the Minister of Commerce and Industry will look into this matter.

On fire services, Sir, I would like to say that it will be useless for the Government to spend a lot of money on a project and then allow it to be destroyed by fire. I am suggesting that the Government should establish fire fighting

units in all the Police District Headquarters in Nigeria. This would enable them to tackle fire problems whenever they arise in any Division or District. Throughout the whole of last year, many buildings and properties were destroyed by fire in this country, and I think that in order to enable us to carry out our six-year Development Programme, the Government should think seriously in this connection.

High electricity bills. The Minister of Mines and Power should look into the fact that in some areas people are made to pay unnecessarily high bills while the E.C.N. is making a hell of profits at the expense of the masses. At Aba, for instance, we are paying 3d per unit while Port Harcourt is paying 1½d per unit. This should be looked into also.

Finally, I call on the Government of the Federation and the Prime Minister to see to it that the unity of this country is not made a lip-service affair. We should encourage all people, particularly the people in the Civil Service, and things must be done on merit and not on the basis that this man comes from this part of the country or that. This would help us to foster the unity desired in Nigeria.

10.55 a.m.

M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambatta): With the greatest pleasure and with all the political might at my command, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In the first place, I must sincerely and honestly congratulate the Minister of Finance on what I may describe as the most brilliant, most dynamic, most comprehensive and most straight-forward speech on the *Mobilisation Budget*.

Every right-thinking citizen of this country should be proud of our able Finance Minister for the excellent way and manner in which he handles the Finances of the Federal Government, and we must thank God that under the good stewardship of Chief Okotie-Eboh the finances of this country are becoming more and more buoyant and the revenue is increasing steadily every year. I think that mere congratulation on the Floor of this honourable House will not do. I am therefore sure that we of the N.P.C. are always ready to give the Minister every moral support, and we are even determined to campaign for the Minister during the elections to the Mid-West Region.

An hon. Member : Is he going there ?

M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai : We shall go farther and see that either the Minister or whoever the Minister sponsors is made the first Premier of the Mid-West State. This, Sir, is no bribery but is a reward for the services rendered to this Nation by Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh.

I must pay very high tribute also to the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. Coalition Government for its relentless effort in keeping this country united and for the ever increasing progress and prosperity since our independence. It is my sincere hope that the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. will continue to work together in harmony despite the subversive activities of the Action Group aimed at bringing about the downfall of the Government.

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) : We are now dealing with the financial policy of the Government and not with party issues. The hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) is causing confusion and—

Mr Speaker : In my opinion, that remark is just a little bit of a joke.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : I should like to assure the House that the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. will continue to rule this country for at least a hundred years if not for eternity.

Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) : If the hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji the Sarkin Bai*), the head of slaves in Kano, will continue I will walk out and wait for him outside for a good boxing lesson.

Mr Speaker : I wish you would not, for you would surely be too strong for him !

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : I am proud to say that the democratic and progressive Government of this Federation of Nigeria to-day can be regarded as the most democratic in the world. But for the democratic tendency of the Federal Government, the Leader of the Opposition himself would have been imprisoned. If Nigeria is not democratic the inquiry into the National Bank will continue and if Nigeria is not democratic we can easily pass a Preventive Detention Act to use Government power to arrest and detain people for five years without trial.

Mr Speaker : If the hon. Member will depart from attacking the Action Group and its leader, then I think we will make better progress. Moreover, he is discussing more of the constitution than of the Government's financial policy.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : I will now reserve my statement for the Action Group, but for the information of the House, it is my intention during the present sitting of the House, to give a public lecture and expose the Action Group, may I add that any member of that party who will not listen, may not attend the lecture.

Several hon. Members : What day next week ?

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : Coming to the Budget itself, I must say that I am extremely happy to note that our revenue is increasing very steadily and that our expenditure is cut down to the absolute minimum. It is my sincere hope that the Federal Government will continue to find some avenues of increasing our economy.

It is in this respect that I humbly and respectfully appeal to the Federal Government to explore the advisability of extending the railway line from Kano to Kongwalan on the French border *via* Dambatta, Kazaure and Daura. I am sure that this will go a long way towards increasing our economy, because thousands of tons of groundnuts at present have been brought to Nigeria from the French Niger and if this railway is extended, a special arrangement can then be made with the Government of the Niger Republic for linking this railway with Maradi. This, I am sure, will not only benefit us economically but will go a long way towards strengthening the friendly relations which exist between Nigeria and the French Niger.

This is very important, and should not be treated with levity because, although Nigeria is not aggressive and has no territorial ambition, I am sure our economy will suffer a shipwreck if we waste any time in building this railway line. Let me no longer conceal the truth. The truth is that Ghana is intending to extend the railway from Kumasi to Tamale, and by special arrangement with the Government of Niger Republic, to Niamei. If this is done, all the goods from French Niger will go that way and we shall have no other alternative than to

look on hopelessly. I am therefore appealing to the Council of Ministers to look very carefully into this matter.

I should like to congratulate the Civil Servants throughout the country without whose efforts all these developments and achievements could not have been accomplished. It is our hope that our Civil Service will be as strong and efficient as any other civil service in the world. I must, however, reiterate my earlier statement that no cut whatsoever in their salaries should be made and that the civil servants on their part should in turn work diligently for the overall interest of the country.

The number of Northerners in the Federal Public Service is too small. I am appealing strongly to the Federal Government to see that more and more Northerners are appointed into the Federal Public Service. This will go a long way towards ensuring the unity and stability of the country. Appointments to the Public Service should be made only on merit and not on a tribal basis. It is unfortunate that in our midst we still have some tribalists who want to take undue advantage by bringing in unqualified people to take up appointments in the Civil Service. I will abide by the suggestion of Mr Speaker and I will be very brief. I will start with the insurance business.

Very many people in this country die as a result of road accidents and the majority of the relatives of the deceased do not know how to put forward their claims to the Insurance Companies and the Government is only concerned with Third Party Insurance. Steps should be taken to see that

(1) the decision taken by the Committee on Insurance appointed by the Federal Government in 1959 be implemented forthwith ;

(2) each Native Authority or Local Authority should open an office that will serve as a liaison between insurance companies and the public. That will go a long way towards solving all these problems ;

(3) the attitude of the Police in negotiating accident cases is detrimental to the interests of the public, for it assists drivers in the way they should present their cases before the court, and as a result, claimants have no benefit.

Coming to the question of hire purchase agreements, I will advise that the agreement should also be written in the vernacular and must be clearly explained to the buyer. Consideration should be given to the time taken to repair and service vehicles in the garage and no firm should be given the power to seize any vehicle from private owners unless and until the court has authorised it.

About bank overdrafts, when agreement has been made, the bank must not seize any money sent to their customers. The present rate of interest is too high and should be cut down drastically. Transfer charges are totally without ground and therefore should be abolished. I think it is only in Nigeria that this is charged. Ledger fees and such allied fees should be looked into and agreed by the Federal Government.

I have a lot to say during the Committee Stage and I will reserve my statements till then. I should, however, like to give an advance warning to some Ministers : first, the Minister of Mines and Power ; second, the Minister of Transport and Aviation ; third, the Minister of Information ; fourth, the Minister of Works and Surveys ; and fifth, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. These people should be ready to defend themselves and they should be ready to show cause why they should not be censured.

11.10 a.m.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. As indicated at the last Budget Session, the Federal Ministry of Justice has now been reorganised into the following Divisions.

The criminal side of Government litigation is now the responsibility of the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions whose staff remain part and parcel of the Ministry of Justice. A principal Crown Counsel is in charge of Research, Law Revision and Law Reporting, including the publication of the new series of *The All-Nigeria Law Reports*. Another Principal Crown Counsel is in charge of the International Law and Comparative Law Division, dealing mainly with Public International Law, Conflict of Laws and all the Legal Problems of the Foreign Service, including Treaties and other international matters.

[ATTORNEY-GENERAL]

It is important at this stage to mention that as a result of an exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and the British Government at independence, we took over a total of 334 Treaties. Of these, we have copies of 269. We are doing our best to procure copies of the remainder and we hope to study these and, perhaps, a further statement may be made in the course of the year.

A third Principal Crown Counsel is in charge of Commercial and Mercantile Law; that is, Company Law, Partnership Law, Sale of Goods, Copyright, Industrial Law, and so on, all being Federal subjects. The fourth Principal Crown Counsel is charged with responsibility for the Constitutional and Administrative Law Division, as well as the co-ordination of the legal work in some six Federal Ministries, including the Cabinet Office.

I should, perhaps, point out that the Federal Ministry of Justice has, as its component units, not only the central organisation in the Old Secretariat at the Marina, but also the Administrator-General's Department. Crown Counsel are also posted to the following Ministries: Commerce and Industry, Lagos Affairs, and Finance (including Customs and Inland Revenue). A new post of Deputy Solicitor-General was established and arrangements are well in hand for the enlargement of the Parliamentary Counsel Division of the Ministry by recruiting suitably qualified Nigerians for intensive in-service training with a view to their eventually taking over.

This reorganisation ensures a more expeditious handling of all legal work in the Ministry, and also enables the professional officers to specialise in these important branches of the Law.

In collaboration with the Chief Justice of the Federation and the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos, I have vigorously pursued the matter of improving the accommodation of our courts; and I am able to say that the Supreme Court building will soon be completed. When this happens, the Federal Supreme Court will be able to sit in two Divisions and so speed up the hearing of appeals from the Regional as well as the Lagos High Courts.

The necessary funds for the proposed extension to the present High Court building has now been procured and sites have been

obtained for the building of eight new Magistrates' Courts. The reason why these courts have not been built in the past year was due entirely to the fact that the choice of sites has not always been acceptable to the Judicial Authorities. I believe that, with modern and adequate courts available a great deal can be done not only to improve the working conditions of the Judges and Magistrates, but also to reduce substantially the number of cases pending in the courts.

I would like to mention that, with the co-operation of all the Federal and Regional judicial and legal officers, there has been established a National Committee on Law Reporting whose main function is the publication of countrywide law reports covering the more important judgments of the Federal Supreme Court and of all the High Courts in the Federation. This series of report is known as *The All Nigeria Law Reports*, and I am glad to be able to state that the first volume was published early in January this year. The second volume will be published shortly.

An hon. Member : Where are they ?

The Attorney-General : They are available at the Government Printer's. These quarterly reports should enable both practising barristers and those who have cause to refer to decided cases to be sure that they can find in one series of volumes all the important case-law on various aspects of Nigerian law. This is an innovation of which I think we can all be proud.

We may note in passing that, as a further step towards the promotion of uniform laws throughout the country, a Uniform Law Committee, consisting of all the Attorneys-General and Ministers of Justice in the Federation, was established under my chairmanship. It has been meeting periodically ever since, and we have been able to compare notes and exchange ideas on pending legislation.

Last October, I appointed two committees to undertake the work of making suggestions for the revision of the Company Law and the Criminal Law. These committees, the Company Law Revision Committee and the Criminal Law Revision Committee, which are both composed of Nigerian lawyers, will, after

careful study and in consultation with members of the public, make recommendations to my Ministry for the revision of the Companies Act and of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. It is envisaged that it will be some time before the committees conclude their work ; but it is intended that their reports will be widely distributed to those who may care to comment on them before steps are taken by the Government to introduce any consequential legislation.

I would like to direct attention to the fact that this is the first time in Nigeria that members of the legal profession in private practice have been associated in this way with any scheme of law revision in the true sense.

Hon. Members are well aware of the rather alarming losses to the revenue of the country through tax evasion, smuggling and other fraudulent practices by importers. The Ministry of Justice, in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance, have evolved plans for the more vigorous prosecution of smugglers and other revenue evaders. It has accordingly been decided to station Crown Counsel at the major sea-ports and air-ports of the Federation. These officers will work closely with the Customs and Police officials. (*Hear, hear*).

Lagos now appears to have established itself as the legal centre for the African continent. Two international legal conferences of great significance were held here during the past year. As hon. Members are aware, the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva, Switzerland, held a Conference on the "Rule of Law in Africa" in January 1961, and this was followed in December 1961, by another Conference under the auspices of the American Bar Association on "World Peace through the Rule of Law." These two conferences brought to Lagos jurists and lawyers of world repute and also afforded all who attended them an opportunity to contribute to the deliberations on the rather pressing problem of ensuring the continued existence of the rule of law on our continent.

It is significant that the organisers of both conferences preferred our country to any other in Africa as their venues, and I should add that it reflected credit on the Federal Government for readily accepting my proposals that we should play host in both instances and bear the

expenses of the conferences in so far as hotel accommodation and local transport are concerned.

In this connection also must be mentioned the recent visit to this country of Mr Orton Chirwa, Parliamentary Secretary in the Nyasaland Ministry of Justice, and Mr Roberts, the Nyasaland Solicitor-General. They came as special guests of the Federal Ministry of Justice to study our legal system with particular reference to the Customary Courts and their administration. I arranged for them to visit all the three Regions before returning to Lagos for a final briefing on the nature and working of the Federal Ministry of Justice and of our Constitution as a whole, both being matters in which they were specially interested.

Another important development which will be of interest to hon. Members has been the recent requests which we have received from the Ministers of Justice in Nyasaland and Tanganyika respectively for the supply to them of law officers and magistrates and customary court commissioners by the Federal Government to help them out of their present difficulties for periods of from two to five years or more. It is gratifying to recall that the Federal Government have agreed to offer the kind of help thus solicited through my Ministry. My Regional colleagues have all agreed to make their own contribution in men, while the Federal Government will foot the bill.

As hon. Members will recall, I gave an outline of the legislative programme at the last Budget Session, and I am glad to report that with the possible exception of one or two tricky Bills which have had to be deferred for the time being, the Ministry was able to fulfil that programme. During the current Budget Session and in the ensuing months certain important items of legislation already mentioned in the Speech from the Throne will be tabled for your consideration and enactment as and when they fall due.

Mention should be made in particular of the Legal Practitioners' Bill which will provide for the regulation of the legal profession in Nigeria and will deal with such matters as admission to practice, qualifications for practice, and disciplinary proceedings against members of the legal profession. Because the consultations

[ATTORNEY-GENERAL]

with the Nigeria Bar Association and the Judges are not completed, this Bill will be presented at the next sitting of Parliament.

But the Legal Education Bill, on which full accord has been reached among all concerned, will be presented to this Parliament later this week and taken through all the stages next Tuesday. It seeks to regulate legal education by the establishment of a Council of Legal Education for the whole of Nigeria and a Federal School of Law, to which all future graduates from the various Faculties of Law in our universities will come for a one-year professional training. I shall say more about this when the Bill itself comes before this House later in the week.

The two Bills outstanding from the last year's programme are the Legal Aid and the Crown Proceedings Bills. The Legal Aid Bill, as hon. Members will remember, is designed to assist impecunious litigants who wish to prosecute their legitimate claims in courts of law. The Crown Proceedings Bill is designed to assist those who are in any way damaged by the carelessness or negligence of a civil servant, to make the various Governments of the Federation liable as ordinary individuals.

Now, it was hoped that these Bills would have been considered by Parliament during the past session, but because of the efforts being made to secure the agreement of all the Regions on these provisions so that we might have uniform law introduced into our respective legislatures on these all-important subjects, it was not possible. It is, however, hoped that agreement will soon be reached and that the Bills will be presented to Parliament during this present session.

Before leaving this sphere of contemplated legislation, I wish to mention the Official Secrets Bill. Its purpose will be to replace the existing law on the subject, which is the English law, with an up-to-date legislation suited to the peculiar circumstances of independent Nigeria. The security of our country demands vigilance, and we should be failing in our duty if we did not tighten up the law against espionage and other forms of subversion, internal as well as external.

The Ministry Library : Before the Federal Legal Department was transformed into a Ministry, we had a library of about 3,000 books. Within the past year, the library has been

considerably enlarged to about 5,000 volumes. Apart from the main library, we have established a subsidiary within my Chambers, and the additional books there now number well over 1,000. Furthermore, the nucleus of a greatly enlarged library has been established. Already, we have placed an order for more law reports, especially from other parts of the Commonwealth. A sum of £5,000 has been set aside for further library expansion. Similar action for library expansion is also being taken in various Magistrates' Courts, the Lagos High Court, and the Federal Supreme Court.

As we have played host to outside bodies in legal conferences, we have also participated in one or two held in Ghana during the year. At the invitation of the Ghana Bar Association I gave a paper on "The Legal Profession in West Africa" at the Association's Annual Conference held in Accra last August. Again, early in January of this year, a Nigerian delegation comprising all the Attorneys-General and Ministers of Justice, the Chief Justices in the Federation and a few other lawyers, took part in a seminar on Legal Education in Africa, which was combined with the formal opening of the Ghana Law School.

A much fuller report on the activities of the Federal Ministry of Justice during its first year of existence will be published next month.

Before I resume my seat I would like to bring to the attention of members of the Profession a new publication, the first advance copy of which I have with me now. This will soon become available for sale generally, within the course of the next four or five days, and it is entitled "The Statute Roll of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and Lagos". The intention is to enable all those who have anything to do with our law to keep a record of all the changes and amendments to all the laws of the Federation from time to time.

I beg to support the Bill.

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) : I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I am not going to talk law, so I think my hon. Friends need not be afraid.

Before I go on, I would like to refer to the speech of my hon. Friend, M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai. When he talked of

prisons, deportations, detention, inquiry and so forth in connection with the Action Group and the Opposition Leader I was not surprised, because his acquaintance with democracy—

Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga-Marghi): Point of order. I wonder if the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) who is speaking would also like to be as relevant as M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai.

Mr Speaker: If it were question time, I would have answered.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to show that as we can take it, we also can give it.

I was saying that M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai's acquaintance with democracy and democratic practices is very brief.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central): Debate should be on the Appropriation Bill, but instead of dealing with that the hon. Gentleman has jumped straight on to M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai.

Mr Speaker: He has not said anything against Sarkin Bai.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: If the hon. Member for Ilorin Central (*Mr Babatunde*) is anxious to hear something about Sarkin Bai or against Sarkin Bai, I would say that but for the Action Group and its Leader, Sarkin Bai would be in the wild waste of the North chasing sheep, rams and goats. (*Laughter*).

Sir, when a hon. Member told me that the Budget Speech would last a whole day, I felt rather indignant—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Hon. H. M. Adaji): The Action Group never helped in building the North, it is only destroying the North, and it intends to destroy the North.

Mr Speaker: But it is not a point of order.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: When an hon. Member informed me that the Budget Speech will take a whole day, I became rather indignant because, although Chief Okotie-Eboh is my beloved big brother Baptist, he has always given me the impression—

Mr I. O. Chikelu (Udi Central): Under Standing Orders, Ministers with portfolios and their Parliamentary Secretaries shall be referred to by the designation of the office held by them. The hon. Member, Chief Akin-Olugbade called Okotie-Eboh without respect. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. If he had said 'the Chief' it would have been better.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I said the hon. Minister of Finance although I mentioned his name. I said although he is my beloved brother Baptist, he has always given me the impression of being a big bunch of bitterness and reaction. I must say that for once the hon. Minister of Finance, has given me the biggest pleasant surprise of my comparatively short parliamentary experience.

Many people have been wondering why we on the Opposition side joined in praising the Government and in particular, the hon. Minister of Finance for the National Development Plan and the Budget Speech. Their wonder no doubt stems from the notion that the main function of the Opposition is to oppose and criticise. Not many of them realise that our most important duty in this House to the nation is to make constructive criticisms to the Federal Government. If the Government, realising their primary responsibility to the country, adopt important measures—

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Point of order, Mr Speaker. Yesterday the speaker, Chief Akin-Olugbade, told me that the cloth he was wearing was given to him by an Itsekiri girl. (*Laughter*).

Chief Akin-Olugbade: Sir, I am merely trying to follow the footsteps of my hon. Friend, Chief the hon. Okotie-Eboh.

I say that not many people realise that our most important duty to the nation is to make constructive suggestions to the Federal Government. If the Government, realising their primary responsibility to the country, adopt important measures proposed and repeatedly urged upon them by the Opposition in this House, it is the duty of the Opposition to praise the Government or any particular

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

Minister for co-operating with the Opposition as is the case in the progressive Budget Speech. It is widely known that many of us on the Opposition benches are not given to cheap adulation or unmerited flattery. We are not the sort of persons who are apt to go on their knees or genuflect for undeserved obligation either from the Government or the Minister of Finance. More important still, our minds are big enough to forget the Minister's past outrages on the financial aspect of our national common-weal if there are signs of a change for the better.

I therefore unhesitatingly join the previous hon. Members who have showered praises on the hon. Minister of Finance for his brilliant speech and the preventive measures he proposed. You cannot blame a man for co-operating with you to crystallise your much cherished ideals and ideas of how best to run our country. You cannot blame a Government for making real efforts to get civilised.

In my opinion, the hon. Chief Okotie-Eboh deserves praise for at least two main reasons. The first one is that he deserves praise for making a determined effort to extricate himself from the paralysing clutches of foreign economic imperialism. The second is that he deserves praise for trying to put the economic interest of this great nation before his own personal aggrandisement. (*Hear, hear.*)

It may be a waste of time to try to find motives for the dramatic change of mind on the part of the hon. Minister of Finance. It may be due to his illusory hope as pointed out by my hon. Friend Sarkin Bai this morning. He might have been motivated by his illusory hope that the Mid-West State where he expects to be the Governor and Commander-in-Chief will soon be created. What matters to us and our great country is his readiness to fall in line and join forces with the handful of honest and efficient progressive nationalists in Sir Abubakar's Cabinet. If the hon. Minister of Finance has learnt by the contemporary experience of his counterpart in other parts of Africa, it is a good thing. He is a wise man who learns by his own experience, but he is a wiser man who learns from other people's experience. Chief Okotie-Eboh may have learnt from Gbedemah's experience!

Sir, I intend to dwell briefly on two or three aspects of the Budget Speech, but before I do

that, you will permit me to paraphrase and spotlight a few of the highlights in the Speech that interest me. They are:—

1. The integral and composite nature of our National Development Plan which was fashioned out after full consultation and co-ordination with the Regional Governments which places emphasis on agriculture and industry.

2. The mobilisation of all our resources in order to finance the potential greatness of Nigeria.

3. Repatriation of Nigerian reserves from overseas to be deployed for the country's development.

4. Diversification of our Central Bank's reserves and the holding of gold reserve in the Central Bank.

5. Control of interest rate structure, fixing of the prices of our primary products, parity of the Nigerian pound to be expressed in terms of gold, and freedom to decide Nigeria's rate of exchange.

I respectfully say that these are far-reaching proposals for which the hon. Minister of Finance deserves a lot of praise. The rules of Debate forbid that I should dwell *in extenso* on the points dealt with by the previous contributors to the discussions on the Budget Speech, but the great importance which the hon. Minister of Finance attaches to the National Development Plan demands that a timely warning should be sounded. It is one thing to have a grandiose plan for a nation as big as Nigeria but it is quite another thing to execute that plan with the maximum benefit to the teeming millions whom we are here privileged to serve.

It is common knowledge, howbeit improper, that the grand plan was disclosed to our erstwhile masters and some of our prospective benefactors before it was presented to this House for approval. And it is a notorious fact of which this house must take proper notice that many of the foreign countries to whom the plan has been disclosed are very anxious not only to maintain but also to reinforce their grip on our economic life. One will not be surprised, therefore, if these friends of ours, try by all means to reap the greatest benefit for their own countries in the process of executing the National Plan. For instance, unless we take very great care, we

shall discover at the end of the six-year period that more than ninety *per cent* of the relatively huge sum voted had been drained away in paying for the cost of imported materials, fees to foreign architects, foreign accountants, foreign solicitors, foreign surveyors, foreign consultants and salaries of foreign engineers and technicians as well as commissions to foreign business middlemen and the Crown Agents. This and the succeeding generations of this country will thus be saddled with the payment of huge interests on loans and advances in addition to finding money to maintain and upkeep the massive projects which we have started, and we shall have sentenced them to an unduly prolonged life of economic servitude.

I will, therefore, suggest for the serious consideration of the Federal Government the setting up of a body which may be known as the National Development Planning Committee comprising Nigerian businessmen and economists, irrespective of their political inclinations, whose functions will include looking for and buying materials from the cheapest market anywhere in the world. That is what Ghana and other progressive countries in the world are doing to-day. (*Interruptions.*) I am merely referring to a sister country which I consider to be progressive.

The functions of the Committee will also include forbidding purchases from overseas of any material which can or are being produced locally, such as cement, tyres, timber, paints, nails, aluminium sheets, asbestos sheets, plastic pipes, *et cetera*.

This Committee should be charged with the function of (a) arranging transport of materials and labour with Nigerian-owned conveyers—the Nigerian Railway and Nigerian-owned vehicles, and the Nigerian National Line.

(b) Recruiting experts and technicians from any part of the world ; and

(c) Employing the service of Nigerian professionals such as architects, accountants, auditors and so on.

The hon. Minister spoke at length on foreign aid in the form of offers, grants, loans, long-term, middle-term and short-term credits. He referred with thanks to the much-advertised offer of £80 million being granted by the United States of America subject to the

annual approval of the United States Legislature. He also referred to the £5 million grant for educational purposes by the United Kingdom. He called them, perhaps euphemistically, token amounts. We all join in the expression of gratitude. The promised grant of £80 million works out at the rate of 6s-8d per annum per head of our 40 million people, whilst the £5 million being granted by the United Kingdom works out at 2s per annum per head of our 40 million population.

I think I should express my gratitude to the United States of America which owes Nigeria no obligation for aiding me with 6s-8d per annum for six years, and to Britain for giving me 2s per annum for a period of six years. It is indeed a generous assistance, but we must remember that the Minister also reminded us that each of us owes Britain, America and the World Bank 20s-2d by way of national debt as at December last year. He also reminded us that each of us owes a debt of 25s per head of our population, which is mainly due to loans from British Companies which are operating in Nigeria. By the time the six-year plan is executed, we shall all be wallowing in huge debt.

The other day, I think it was the hon. Member for Urhobo Central (*Chief Mariere*) who was admonishing the intelligent and educated youths of this country for being impatient and critical of the Federal Government. He forgot to ask himself what right we here have to leave our children a legacy of economic servitude for an indefinite period of time. Anybody who, like hon. Okafor and myself and a few others, had worked in the Nigerian Treasury in Lagos, can imagine what a fight the hon. Minister must have put up to be able to make proposals to repatriate our external reserves and control our fiscal policy and also to husband our financial resources hitherto managed on our behalf, even though much against our will by Britain. It is only now that our much vaunted sovereignty is becoming real. With all those measures proposed by the hon. Minister, I am not surprised that his memorable Budget Speech received no publicity whatsoever in the British Press. I should be surprised if his British friends had sent him a spate of congratulatory messages as they used to do in the past. They were completely silent. Let us assure the hon. Minister that he has nothing

[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

to lose by their frowns except perhaps his chains and possibly a Knighthood—Hon. Members will remember that the hon. Minister has a C.M.G.

The hon. Minister spoke with great concern about Britain's application to join the European Common Market. His anxieties are quite understandable. If Britain is bent on deserting the Commonwealth to join the tribal group in Europe, if the Commonwealth is a free association of equal sovereign states as we are made to believe, and if we accept the view of Mr William Pickles, the Senior Lecturer in Political Science in the London School of Economics, who stated in a recent pamphlet, with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

"The European Common Market is the wrong international grouping for Britain to join because it is irrelevant to the principal requirements of the age we live in and destructive of the most effective international grouping in the world to-day—the Commonwealth",

why can we not then join forces with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Cyprus, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and other members of the Commonwealth and, under the leadership of Mr Diefenbaker of Canada, declare Britain an outlaw and expel her from the Commonwealth?

Mr Speaker : This is not financial policy.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : In winding up my speech, I would like to make the following suggestions to the hon. Minister and the Government. To avoid waste, loss, extravagance, and misappropriation, a National Development Plan Committee, or simply a Federal Buying Agency, with the specific function of co-ordinating the requirements of our different Ministries, should be set up without delay. They should be charged with the duty of collaborating with the World Consortium which, we understand from the Speech, is being set up by Mr Eugene Black of the World Bank at the request of the hon. the Prime Minister.

Secondly, the Ministry should impose conditions on the architects and engineers as to where materials needed for our big projects should be bought. All these architects draw fabulous commissions and direct which manufacturer should produce panes of glass, blocks

of brick, window frames. They draw commissions after charging 4 per cent or 6 per cent on drawings. The P.W.D. or the Ministry of Works should be able to impose conditions on the architects as to the source of our supplies of building materials.

Thirdly, I am suggesting quite seriously that a law should be passed to forbid foreign firms in this country from retailing vehicles. Nigerians should take that business up as well as the selling of bicycles. The U.A.C. should stop retailing bicycles, building and engineering equipments. All these should be left to Nigerian businessmen.

Fourthly, I would suggest that Nigerian contractors should be accorded priorities in the award of contracts. If need be, they should be given monetary advances so that they would be able to employ capable expert technicians from anywhere in the world.

Fifthly, my suggestion is that the Federal Government, and particularly the hon. Minister of Finance, should go all out in view of our development projects, to encourage our indigenous banks. He should strengthen all the indigenous banks, such as the National Bank, the African Continental Bank, the Muslim Bank, the Bank of the North, and the Agbonmagbe Bank. All these banks should be strengthened because we are going to throw a lot of money into the country from our resources and from external loans and advances. All this money will be spent. Unless we strengthen our banks, forget spite and vindictiveness, and encourage these banks to handle most of our finances in this country, we will find that not less than 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the money will go to pay commissions to foreign banks operating in Nigeria.

Let no one be deceived by the praises on the hon. Minister of Finance for the Development Plan and the bold measures he proposed. We on the Opposition side, or many of us in particular, feel happy that the Government has adopted many of the measures which we have urged on it for the past two years on the Floor of this House.

Due to their obvious limitations and inability, they have started to execute some of them in a clumsy, haphazard and inefficient way. The recent inequitable and unscientific austerity

measures are a case in point. They have fallen heavily upon the low income group who constitute the majority of our population. The Federal Government then looks to me like a rich man who makes his will and gives all his properties to his wife and tells her so ; but each time he goes out in his car with the darling wife, he takes the safest seat in the owner's corner and exposes the sweet wife who is to be the inheritor to accidents and death in the event of there being a crash. (Laughter.)

Let the Government know that we are not here to compromise the interests of this nation. We will not compromise the people's interests. We shall continue to watch Government's performances. We shall continue to fight for the interests of the people on the Floor of this House, in press conferences, on the pages of newspapers, and in the halls of our universities. We shall continue to fight in our party congresses, on soap boxes, in all our town squares and village gardens, until this Government is voted out of office.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to speak on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1962-63, and to associate myself with the complimentary things which have been said by hon. Members with regard to the *Mobilisation* Budget.

The term *Mobilisation* is most apt. To mobilise means "to render moveable" or "to bring into circulation", or "to prepare for active service". Indeed, with the attainment of independence, and after a year of it, we should prepare all our forces for active service in the fight against the evil things that may tend to retard our progress as a Sovereign State. Amongst these evil things are ignorance, superstition, diseases, poverty, unemployment and the low standard of living of millions of our people. I offer my warmest congratulations to my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Finance, on his most acceptable Budget. I am sorry that I was not here to hear him when he presented the Budget on the 29th of March.

I am also very pleased to congratulate my hon. Colleague and Friend, the Minister of Economic Development, on the successful presentation of the White Paper on the Federal Government Development Programme, 1962-68, Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1962, on the 28th

of March. Again, I am sorry I was away when the Programme was presented. In the course of the next few minutes I shall tell you why I was out of the country during those two important days in the history of this House.

It is pleasing to note that the Development Programme and the Budget have been well received generally throughout the country. Now, a high degree of co-operation and collaboration between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments will be a major factor in the successful execution of the Programme, just as the Programme has been produced as a result of a large measure of co-operation and collaboration.

It is obvious that the Federal Government's plan for development must necessarily be related to and linked with the development plans of the Regions, so that viewed in the same perspective and light, they can "form an interlocking whole", to quote the hon. Minister of Economic Development. In this connection I should also say that the emphasis on agriculture, industry and technical education is most welcome. These are three areas in which maximum co-operation among the Governments is possible and most desirable, and I am sure that because of this emphasis, maximum benefit will accrue to the country following the successful execution of the Programme.

I will now turn to matters which concern my Ministry. First of all, I am very grateful to hon. Members for the generally warm reception that they have given to the proposals for educational development in the next decade, and also for the kind references that have been made by many Members to the progress already made.

A great deal of work and planning has gone with the education section of the Development Programme. Some of my Ministerial Colleagues have, in able words, outlined their plans for the Programme. In this Programme one section is complimentary to the others ; and I am personally pleased that technical education has been emphasised to the same extent as agriculture and industry. Indeed we need technicians and skilled workers to increase our productivity in agriculture and in industry. My Ministry's function in relation to this development programme is to assist in the production of skilled or trained personnel at every level as well as of high-level manpower.

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

It may be recalled that in April 1959, after consultation with my regional colleagues, I appointed a Commission to conduct an investigation into Nigeria's needs in the field of post-School Certificate and higher education over the next twenty years. That investigation resulted in the well-received Ashby Report which was published on the eve of independence and which is now bearing good fruit in so far as our educational planning and development are concerned.

It may be recalled also that at the last Budget Session, I presented the White Paper on Educational Development, 1961-70, which, I am pleased to say, is being implemented in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the plans which have been formulated.

In this connection, it is necessary to touch lightly on the principal features of the Development Programme in education as follows.

EDUCATION IN LAGOS : As far as education in Lagos is concerned, the free primary education continues to make signal success. The enrolment has now reached the figure of 90,000. The work on school buildings to accommodate these large numbers has kept pace with the increase in demand. Because of the special attraction of Lagos in many ways, and because of the movement of public servants as well as employees of corporations and private firms, the rush to seek admission into Lagos Primary Schools has continued with force. I am, however, pleased to record that in spite of the numbers the expansion has been achieved without loss of standard. Moreover, the proportion of trained teachers has actually been increased considerably in Lagos schools. I regret, however, that it is not yet possible to discontinue the double-shift system in the use of some school buildings.

Hon. Members will observe that in the Development Programme, it is proposed to build 700 classrooms during the first phase and 1,000 classrooms during the second.

An hon. Member : In Lagos ?

The Minister of Education : Yes, in Lagos. It is hoped that by the end of the planning period the position will be greatly improved and that there will be a fair reduction of the double-shift system.

In the organisation field, I must mention the taking over of primary school education in Lagos by the Lagos Town Council, a move which has been successful over this past year.

SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT : Secondary school enrolment has also increased to over 5,000, including the enrolment in grammar schools and technical or vocational schools in Lagos. It is proposed that within the next planning period there will be further increases.

For obvious reasons there are proposals for sixth form development in Lagos and in the Regions. As our universities grow in number and in student intake, it is essential to secure high quality undergraduates for them. I propose, therefore, that Lagos should assist in the national Development Programme by utilising some of its old and well established secondary schools for the purpose of increasing sixth form facilities which will be available to students from the Regions. (*Hear, hear*).

To this end, more boarding accommodation will be provided in some of the Lagos secondary schools which are capable of physical expansion. In addition, I propose assistance to the Regions in financing sixth form development to the same end of securing an adequate intake for the universities. I am also extending and replanning the Federal Emergency Science School to provide undergraduates for studies in Science and Technology.

Hon. Members will be pleased to know that since its inception, 481 students have passed through the school. Of this number, 240 are expecting their results in the last General Certificate of Education examination at the Advanced Level. Of the 241 who had earlier taken the examination, 160 have gained direct entrance into universities. This is a satisfactory record and there is no doubt that the Science School is fulfilling the purpose for which it was established just over three years ago. When the new plans and extensions are completed, it will be possible to cater for 1,000 full-time students and 500 evening students. This will ensure a steady flow of science undergraduates for the universities. The emphasis is on Science.

TEACHER TRAINING : The Advanced Teacher Training College is already under construction and will be opened later this year. This

College will provide trained teachers and tutors for service in secondary schools and teacher training colleges.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking, publicly, the authorities of the Ford Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development and the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation for the contributions they have made, and are making, towards the establishment and development of the College. In this connection, I wish to express my gratitude also for the Advanced Teachers Colleges that are being planned for the Regions under the same programme.

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS: One hon. Member mentioned the necessity of finding a single method of recruiting expatriate teachers for the whole of the Federation. In August 1961, a Co-ordinating Committee for External Aid to Education was set up. All the Ministers of Education in the Federation are members. Under the auspices of the Co-ordinating Committee, an External Aid Bureau has been established. This Bureau is attached to my Ministry for all administrative purposes. One of its functions is to recruit overseas staff for service in the educational field in the Federation.

The Bureau serves as a single channel for procuring external aid, both financial and technical, in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development, bearing in mind, at the same time, the Constitutional Provisions with regard to applications by the Regional Governments for assistance overseas.

The purpose of this machinery is to channel all requests and offers of external aid in men, money and material so that they could be used most effectively for the general advantage of the country. The Bureau is at present financed by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York as I have reported on a previous occasion.

This development illustrates the degree of co-operation and understanding that prevails among all the Ministers of Education in the Federation. I am happy to report that this co-operation has also developed among the officials of all the Ministries of Education.

In this connection, the work of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education and its sub-committees is fully appreciated. This

Consultative Committee, as many hon. Members know, is comprised of professional educationists and it is concerned with professional matters relating to syllabuses and qualifications and standards generally.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME: The Federal Government Scholarships Programme continues to expand satisfactorily. Hon. Members will remember that four years ago our target was 180; that two years ago, it was 540, but now, it is 1,050. Hon. Members are already aware that for each of the two years 1962-63 and 1963-64, the Federal Government is offering 1,050 scholarships including 120 for Post Graduate studies. I wish to assure hon. Members that the main concentration in the use of these scholarships will be in the fields where our manpower is low, particularly in the fields of Science and technology. The scholarships will continue to be awarded on merit and although the majority of them will be tenable in Nigerian universities, advantages will be taken of places secured for Nigerians in overseas universities especially in technological studies.

It is necessary to record that because of their special needs and problems, Northern Nigeria and the Niger Delta Special Area have each been allocated a special quota. In this connection, it is necessary to state again that it is the intention of the Federal Government to do everything possible to intensify the rate of educational development in the Northern Region in order to ensure that our educational pyramid can be properly proportioned.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION: I am pleased to note that many members have applauded the emphasis being placed on technical education in the Development Programme. I am happy to report that considerable priority is being given to this branch of education which everyone here will agree is vital to our progress and survival in this technological age.

I hope to publish, in due course, my exact plans for technical education and I am confident that hon. Members will be satisfied that it will be made an instrument of our development and will be geared to our actual needs in a pragmatic and practical manner. We may even be able to satisfy the hon. Gentleman who wishes to "japanise" our technical education system! But we shall impose no limits or restrictions on the scope and range of the training nor on the overseas countries

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]
to which our students may be sent for these special studies.

In this matter as in others, our policy of non-alignment will be followed. We want to secure the best Europe, America and Asia can give us in this technological and nuclear age. We are understandably anxious to catch up. The gap at present is big. We must do all we can to close it as soon as possible.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS: Hon. Members have shown a great interest in my proposals for Inter-Regional Secondary or National High Schools. The matter is still under serious and active consideration. The establishment of these schools raises a constitutional problem which is being resolved. I am in close consultation with my regional colleagues on this problem and I would prefer not to anticipate the final decision at this stage. I am satisfied with the friendly atmosphere that has always prevailed during the discussions on these schools which we are anxious to establish in the interest of national unity and security.

UNIVERSITIES: I wish most sincerely to thank hon. Members for the enthusiastic reception they gave to the University of Lagos Bill when it was presented by my Parliamentary Secretary. I am very happy to note the praises showered on my Parliamentary Secretary and I am grateful for the support and encouragement which many hon. Members gave him during the ensuing debate on the Bill.

The University of Lagos Act establishes the necessary organisation for setting up the University. We hope that the Provisional Council will be constituted before long so that the machinery for the University of Lagos can be set in rapid motion during this year as proposed. It is my hope, that the University of Lagos, when fully developed, will be second to none in our land with regard to academic standard and usefulness in fulfilling our urgent national needs. I hope that fullest advantage will be taken of the facilities in Lagos in the development of the faculty of Engineering. In this respect, it is hoped that the Engineering faculty in the University of Lagos will give a lead to institutions in this part of Africa. I hope and wish for the University of Lagos the highest academic excellence. *(Hear, hear).*

There is also our pioneer university institution, the University College, Ibadan, which is now over fourteen years old and which has built a high reputation of which this country can justly be proud. Indeed, the University College, Ibadan, is comparable with the best in other parts of the world and I am pleased to say on this occasion that because of its high academic standing among the universities of the world it has been accepted without question into the community of universities.

During the planning period, the University College, Ibadan, will be encouraged to develop. We expect it to expand its research and post-graduate facilities and so give opportunities to Nigerians and others interested in academic life to prepare and to discover themselves for university work. It is thought that the University College, Ibadan, is now ready to change its status to that of a full, independent and autonomous university. This matter is under consideration.

Apart from the two universities sponsored by the Federal Government, there are, of course, the other universities sponsored and supported by the regional Governments. It is proposed, therefore, that these regional universities will receive Federal Government assistance. With the dissolution of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and with the transfer of the three branches of the College to the respective regional universities, buildings and equipment worth about £4.26 million will be made available to the regional universities by the Federal Government. During the planning period it is proposed that assistance to the regional universities will be of the order of £4 million. In this connection, consideration is being given to existing courses in each branch of the Nigerian College of Technology.

OTHER GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: I have spoken of the developments which have already taken place and which are envisaged. In general, the progress of our educational development has been satisfactory. We are introducing new services such as a vocational guidance service, the establishment of extensive vacation courses, the extension of library facilities and audio-visual aids, the production of textbooks, the extension of science laboratories and new methods of modern

language teaching. We have planned to make full use of sound broadcasting as well as television as means of augmenting and assisting the number of teachers and the methods of teaching.

With regard to vacation courses for teachers we have had assistance from the United Kingdom. The U.K. Teachers' Courses for Nigerian teachers will be repeated this year. At the same time, a team of United States scientists and mathematicians will conduct courses on the new conceptions and teaching methods in science and mathematics. In this connection, I must not fail to express my profound gratitude to all the foreign governments, organisations and agencies who have offered scholarships to us to enable our young men and young women to pursue further studies in their countries.

Again, in this connection, I should mention that from one external aid source we hope to set up a scheme for the training of technical teachers. I am happy to inform the House that this scheme will begin later this year. Full preparation is in progress. I hope to make an announcement on this scheme after the plans have been finished.

THE TEACHERS : The training of teachers has been stepped up and improved very considerably during the last few years. I wish to take this opportunity of saying that we owe a great debt of gratitude to our teachers. Many people do not appear to appreciate the quality and magnitude of the quiet work which is being done throughout the Federation by the thousands of teachers of all grades. Without them and without their devotion to duty, the foundation as well as the framework of our educational structure would not exist and all the vast expansion we are planning for the next decade would prove abortive. I thank all the teachers throughout the Federation with all my heart. They are in the forefront of our investment in education.

Finally, I want to close by mentioning one matter which I believe will be of special interest to this House. I refer to the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa which was held in Addis Ababa in May of 1961. That Conference was jointly organised and convened by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in consultation with the

other United Nations Specialised Agencies. I had the honour to lead the Nigerian Delegation. The Agenda included discussions on the following problems :—

(a) Development of education in relation to African Cultural and socio-cultural factors ;

(b) Inventory of Educational needs for economic and social development ;

(c) Education as a basic factor in economic and social development ;

(d) patterns of international co-operation for the promotion and implementation of programme of educational development.

In the last week of March this year a follow-up Conference of the Addis Ababa Conference was held in Paris and again I had the honour to represent Nigeria. At this later meeting of African Ministers of Education the discussions were based on :—

(i) reviews of national education plans within the framework of economic and social development ;

(ii) analysis of current education budgets in relation to the objectives established at the Addis Ababa Conference.

It was because of my attendance at this meeting in Paris that I missed the memorable speeches of my hon. Friends and Colleagues, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Finance, respectively. I mention these two meetings because of their significance to Africa in general and of the measure of assistance which may accrue to our educational development in this country in particular. The Special Fund of the United Nations and the other Specialised Agencies of the United Nations are interested in our educational programme in the concept of the Addis Ababa objectives. But we must realise that we are no longer alone in the field. All Africa is awake. Indeed, the Sleeping Giant is wide awake and he is preparing to move forward and fast.

An hon. Member : In education ?

The Minister of Education : Yes, in education. Nigeria is a part of Africa. By investing in education in a big way as we are doing, we are assisting in the development of Africa. Let us therefore resolve to do our best as we put into effect our Federal Government Development Programme for 1962-1968. Let us also give fullest support to our "Mobilisation Budget".

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

12.20 p.m.

Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi South East): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill which is now before the House. Once more, we have in this hon. House, witnessed another progressive, historic and dynamic Budget Speech ably delivered by that illustrious son of Nigeria, Chief the hon. Festus Sam Okotie-Eboh, the Federal Minister of Finance. Nigeria is proud of this Minister because of the noble roles which he plays, both within and outside his Ministry.

I congratulate the Federal Government on its careful and well-guarded financial policies which enable this country to grow from strength to strength, year by year, socially, economically and politically.

Last year, we were told that at the end of that financial year, which was Saturday before the last, the ordinary revenues would exceed recurrent expenditure by about six and a quarter million pounds. But now, we are happy to see that the surplus is about ten and a half million pounds instead. The revenues from import duties for the same year exceeded the estimated figure by some million pounds.

Another outstanding feature of the year under review is the increase of over one million pounds in the yield from company tax. This trend is of great economic importance to the future development of this country.

On the other hand, our overall balance of payments leaves much room for improvement. We do, however, appreciate the efforts that are being made by the Government to offset this imbalance of payments and that is why we accept with pleasure, the increased duties on luxuries and other imported goods except one. That one exception, is the increased duty on petrol. Increased duty on petrol falls very heavily on the local commodity that is consumed by the man in the street, namely yams, *gari*, rice, beans and plantains. These form the major part of our local staple food. Any tax or austerity measure which affects adversely the easy transportation of local foodstuff to and from any section of the Federation, tends to defeat its own purpose.

The aim of any tax or austerity measure is to enhance the future well-being of the people. The people must be helped to exist before they

can hope to see the good results of the austerity measures. Existence is the first law of nature, and he who does not eat and live cannot expect to enjoy our future prosperity which these measures may bring. Therefore, the increased duty on petrol should be withdrawn at once. It affects the very existence of the common man.

We the people of this young nation are always suspicious of any foreign aid coming into Nigeria either in cash or in kind. We need to be told promptly each time, the terms and conditions of any foreign aid that has been received as grant or loan. The members of the public are often afraid that some strings may have been attached to such grants or loans. It is proper, therefore, that their fears be promptly allayed whenever a loan or grant has been received from any foreign country.

I very heartily congratulate the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima for his announcement in this House that Nigeria and four other countries—Ghana, Brazil, Cameroun Republic and Ivory Coast—have formed a cocoa producers' alliance. The primary objective of this alliance is to devise practical measures for arresting the downward trend of cocoa prices.

The Deputy Speaker: Is the hon. Member referring to his notes? If so, would he look up more frequently?

Mr Eleke: I hope the Minister will find pleasure in forming other alliances with other countries who are interested in palm oil, palm kernel and groundnuts in order to arrest the downward trend in prices. I hope too that new markets other than Great Britain could be found for our export products. Let us export our goods to Germany, Russia, America, Japan or wherever better prices could be obtained.

With regard to smuggling which is rampant on our frontiers, I call on the Minister of Finance to think more seriously and device means whereby this evil can be stamped out. The effect of smuggling on the economy of this country is very serious because we suffer losses on smuggled goods. There is also a loss on export duty and foreign exchange, and what is more, the seized contraband goods are destroyed. I suggest that in future they should be sold and the proceeds put into public coffers. We cannot afford to be too British in this respect.

I would suggest that in order to combat smuggling more effectively, the Minister should now adopt an air patrol system. He should increase the number of workers in the existing preventive service of the Board of Customs and Excise. They should be well-equipped for creek water patrols. Regular and paid native informants who know the local conditions should be employed; their duty should be to give information regarding the smugglers' hiding places. The present preventive service could be properly reviewed and if necessary, the service should be reorganised.

I agree entirely with my friend over there, hon. Ekanem who said earlier that education of whatever kind, should be the exclusive responsibility of the Federal Government. The present system of education in the country tends to divide instead of uniting the people of this Federation.

Secondly, some of the Regions are finding it extremely difficult to maintain all their schools without allowing other important items to suffer.

Before I conclude, I wish to be allowed to ask a question which is very dear to my people. In the Speech from the Throne, emphasis was laid on agriculture. In the Development Plan and the Budget Speech, agriculture received the pride of place. May I then ask, what would be the fate of those who, owing to density of population, find it practically impossible to get sufficient land for major agricultural projects? I have in mind a place like Etiti County Area in Okigwi Division in Owerri Province. What other plans has the Government for them? I think that the correct answer to the problem is the establishment of industries. This will help to utilise the surplus man-power in the area and hasten the pace of employment.

That portion of our Postal Regulation which makes it impossible for postal agencies to expand unless they get 24,000 units of annual turn-over, should be expunged from our postal policy. It is a bottle-neck on our postal progress and makes nonsense of the whole thing. A more liberal policy should take its place if we are serious with the economic development of this country.

I now call on the Minister of Works and Surveys to kindly take over these important roads in Owerri Province; Oguta-Obowo-Umuahia road, Ehime-Ahiara-Aba road and Ahiara-Etiti-Okigwi road.

I congratulate the Federal Government on its bold and gigantic programme which the Speech from the Throne has outlined and, in supporting the Bill, I wish the Government the best of luck.

M. S. A. Olukotun (Kabba): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, so ably moved by Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, the Minister of Finance. But before giving my full support, I should like to voice my feelings to this House. I would like hon. Members to shorten their speeches so that others may have a chance of saying something so that when they go back to their respective constituencies they may be free from their people's questions.

In my own constituency, that is Kabba, there are inadequate facilities for communication. There are no post offices or postal agencies. I want the Minister of Communications to see to this.

I am happy that Kabba has got a telephone service but the Women's Training College there is a mile from the town and the staff are suffering because whenever they have a telephone call before they get to the town, the line is cut. I want the Minister to help extend a line there.

During the rainy season, no lorries or cars can move beyond eight to fifteen miles per hour because of the bad road. This road is a Federal Trunk A road. I want the Minister of Works and Surveys to see that the road is tarred this year so as to avoid the criticisms of the Opposition Members. I remember that during the last Federal Elections, Chief Obafemi Awolowo came to my constituency with the borrowed helicopter deceiving people that if he was voted for he would tar all the roads, give us electric lights, and so on. I know perfectly well that if the people had voted for him—

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): On a point of order, I am in sympathy with the hon. Gentleman. He is irrelevant. The point is that I am in sympathy with him and I appreciate the fact that he is trying to make his

[MR EKANEM]
maiden speech, but I would like to say that he is speaking in terms of electioneering campaigns while we are debating the financial policy of the Government.

The Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member speaking might have been irrelevant but I am not quite sure that the point of order is more irrelevant. But please refrain from discussing electioneering campaigns.

M. Olukotun : It is now time that the Lagos boundary should be extended for a few miles.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East) : The extension of the Lagos boundary has nothing to do with the Budget which we are discussing.

M. Olukotun : Two days ago, I came to my pigeon hole and found a pamphlet on the Nigerian Census, 1962. I wish to ask (*Interruptions*). If the Opposition Members are not careful enough to listen to my speech, I shall recommend them for six lashes of the cane.

The Deputy Speaker : During this debate we talk on the general economic policies of the Government. Lashes may well have a deterrent effect but I do not think that they are very much in line.

The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Six lashes is rather mild, Sir.

M. Olukotun : Finally, if the Census, as I read, is taking place in May, why does the Government not wait till the House adjourns so that when we get back to our constituencies, we may enlighten our people on how to register.

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

The Deputy Speaker : Order ! the Parliamentary Secretary is going to speak on behalf of his Minister.

12.40 p.m.

Mr F. U. Mbakogu : The hon. Member does not know that I am a Minister.

This gives me an opportunity of reviewing, in the first place, the activities and achievements of the Ministry of Economic Development within the past twelve months and, in the second place, of pointing out briefly our future plans for the coming months.

Speaking personally, I am particularly happy to be alive to-day to witness this unprecedented revolution in our economic thought and practice. For just over seven years ago, to be precise, on the 5th of April, 1955, the then House of Representatives defeated a Private Member's Motion for the creation of a Ministry for Economic Planning for co-ordination purposes between the various Federal Ministries, the public corporations and the Regional Governments. There were then fears that such a Ministry would usurp the powers and functions of the other Ministries and Corporations, that it would be difficult to work in practice as each Ministry dealt with some form of economic development peculiar to itself. Events which mock at human foresight have now shown that such fears as were expressed in April 1955 were unfounded, for nothing has made the work of the Ministry more successful than the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation which has existed between the various Governments, the Corporations and the various Ministries.

So much of the energy and concentration of the Ministry has been devoted in recent months to the preparation of the national plan, and so important have we regarded this task that other matters have, of necessity, paled almost to insignificance over this strenuous period. It is therefore a matter of great satisfaction to my Minister, to myself and to the officials of the Ministry that the outline of the plan has been so well received by the House.

So much has been said during this session about Nigeria's economic future that it would be invidious for me again to dwell at length on the subject. But I would once more repeat the point which my Minister made during the earlier debate, namely that the preparation and presentation of this Plan has been itself but the initial stage in what must be a continuing process. We are already taking steps to ensure the build up of a strong team of Nigerian economists. That is to say that the Economic Unit of the Ministry will not only be expanded but expanded in such a way as to include more Nigerian capable economists. This is a matter of vital importance to ensure the efficient carrying out of two major tasks : firstly, as my Minister informed the House during the debate; we must keep the Plan

under constant review to ensure that modifications and refinements are made in the light of changing economic needs and circumstances; and secondly, we realise that we must now start the long and arduous task of collecting and collating the data which will be necessary for the preparation of Nigeria's Second National Plan. We appreciate full well that the time to start is now, and not four or five years hence.

Turning away now from the subject of the Plan to more specific details, my Ministry has been greatly occupied in recent months with the many and varied problems relating to the Kainji Dam. Hon. Members will, I am confident, appreciate the complexity of this task which involves so many interests and will be pleased to learn that we hope that the first stage of the project—the construction of the Camp site, access roads, and so on—will be commenced within the next few months. Now that all sides of the House have welcome the decision that the Dam should be accorded the highest of all priorities in the Plan, we shall re-double our efforts to ensure that the work proceeds safely and smoothly. I need hardly mention that the Federal Government is in close contact with the Northern Government on such issues as the re-settlement of population, and so on, which will become necessary later in the construction phase.

Many hon. Members will have heard on their radios two day ago, the address given by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister on the subject of the census. This is a matter of the highest importance to Nigeria and I would seek the co-operation of all Members of the House to give the widest publicity to this subject in their constituencies with a view to ensuring the smooth and efficient carrying out of this complex operation. During the next few weeks we shall be launching a massive publicity campaign through the medium of the press, radio, cinemas and television as well as by talks and meetings in villages and hamlets throughout the country, but all assistance which Members of the House, on their return to their constituencies, can offer to ensure that the public fully understands the importance and nature of this operation will, I am confident, prove of immeasurable assistance in promoting its success. I cannot state too strongly how important reliable census data will be to the shaping of both this and the next National Plan.

Allied with the particular problem of the census, the work of the Federal Office of Statistics has been proceeding steadily during the past year, although we have been hampered by lack of staff.

During the year attempts were successfully made to improve the quality of the statistics collected and to break new grounds. To overcome the acute shortage of professional staff some Nigerian officers were sent overseas on training courses and are expected back before the end of this year. In-service training programme was vigorously pursued. A United Nations training officer under the Technical Assistance Programme joined the staff and has started the training of suitable junior officers for professional qualification. In addition, three junior officers were sent to the Training Institute at Achimota sponsored by the United Nations for a year's course of training. It is planned to send more this year and plans are afoot for sending suitably qualified junior officers for University level course either within Nigeria or abroad. Replacement of data processing machinery of the Office with more suitable equipments started during the year and will be completed in the current financial year.

During the coming months we shall embark on a large-scale Rural Economics Survey embracing the whole country. This work, which will be carried out in some hundreds of villages spread throughout Nigeria, will, we believe, provide essential data upon which we shall be able to plan for the future. Details of the procedure to be followed have been discussed with Regional Government and it is our intention to give full publicity to this project before the actual field work begins. I would ask that at the appropriate time, all Members should offer their co-operation to the Statisticians who will be conducting the Survey to ensure the success of this highly important work.

I must also mention that it is our intention to reorganise the activities of the Office of Statistics to ensure, firstly, that its work is more closely related to Nigeria's needs and problems and, secondly, to ensure the achievement of maximum benefits and that the data which it collects will be of major significance when preparing the next National Plan.

The final decisions regarding this National Plan have, of course, rested with the National

[MR MBAKOGU]
Economic Council. So great has become the work required of the Council in recent months, that it is intended in the near future to carry out a major re-organisation of its structure to ensure that it will be able to cope efficiently and speedily with the very many major problems which require to be referred to it.

Similarly, we are considering very carefully the functions and responsibilities of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research. The House will have taken note of the provision which has been set aside by the Federal Government for this Institute during the Plan period. It is intended that the work of the Institute should be related specifically to the long range economic problems with which Nigeria is faced.

I turn now to the work of the Research Departments which fall within the portfolio of the Ministry. As my Minister mentioned during the debate on the National Plan, we are concerned by the fact that in the past the work of these Departments has not been as closely related as they could have been to Nigeria's particular needs and requirements. It is therefore our intention to reorganise and re-evaluate the programme of activities of these Departments so that we can ensure that the problems with which Nigeria is faced in the field of primary production can be investigated as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

It is also intended, in the case of agricultural research, to diversify the activities of the Department so that a larger number of crops will be investigated than heretofore. Special attention will continue to be given to food crops, but is hoped that a greater measure of concentration will also be given to a wider range of such crops.

The Department of Agricultural Research must realise the immensity of its services and the importance of its responsibilities to this young but virile country and will not relax in its efforts to improve both the variety and yield in quality and quantity of our crops, both for export and domestic consumption purposes.

My Ministry now realises more than ever before that the success of our research programme can only be assessed by the amount of contribution it has made in the growth of our

economy by increasing both our export and food production to the level to which we are capable by reason of our size, population and national advantages. To this end my Ministry is committed to keeping itself geared to the policy of re-orientation and shifting of emphasis. This we cannot do without the co-operation of the Regional Departments and international agencies, like the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Our soil must be surveyed on a national level and comparative advantages studied so as to avoid wastage of effort. Hon. Members can easily see that without this the whole financial provision of several million pounds in our Development Programme, which is a concrete result of the new spirit of co-operation and mutual confidence and understanding between the Federal and Regional Governments, will be filtered away through duplication, competition and lack of co-ordination.

Much work is required to ensure the development of the great potential in Nigeria's livestock industry, and the Department of Veterinary Research at Vom, in collaboration with the Regional Departments of Veterinary Services, is alive to its responsibilities in this direction. Nigeria has a great future in the cattle industry and the Veterinary Research Departments will undertake gigantic experimental work to this end.

Special mention must be made of Nigeria's intention to participate with neighbouring countries in a mass vaccination campaign with the object of eradicating rinderpest from the face of this country. Experiments so far carried out at Vom on rinderpest vaccine production by the Virology Division has attracted world experts and Vom has been chosen as the centre for an F.A.O. joint project between Nigeria and her neighbouring countries. (*Hear, hear.*) Progress is being made in the eradication of new cattle disease through the production in Vom of a vaccine which is exported to as far away countries as Sudan, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. During the coming months steps will be taken to intensify the recruitment of more qualified Nigerians to take up vacant posts in the Department and, in particular, to fit in qualified Nigerians in the policy-making sections of the Department. Qualified officers will continue to be recruited overseas where necessary through specialised agencies to meet the requirements of the

Federal Parliament Debates

1389 [Appropriation (1962-63) Bill : 11 APRIL 1962

Second Reading]

1390

Economic Programme. Training of more officers in basic qualifications and post-graduate work will continue.

As for Fisheries, Members will be aware of the decision to establish a modern fishing terminal at Lagos at which ocean-going vessels will be able to land their catches. This will substantially add to export earnings, provide employment and improve the diet of our people. The work of this Department will not be concentrated merely on Lagos. Two new research vessels have recently been commissioned, one of which will be largely used for shallow waters in the Delta area, the other for deep water investigations. The Government will be co-operating with other West African governments in the hydro-biological research programme known as the 'Guinean Year'. The Department is also conducting work at Lake Chad and will later carry out investigations in connection with the fisheries aspect relating to the Kainji Dam.

In the field of Forestry, we fully appreciate the vast potential wealth of Nigeria's forest produce. The main objects of the Department's utilisation programme are therefore to promote better use of existing forest products by reducing waste in logging and saw milling, by using more species and by assisting the development of local industries using Nigeria timber. In addition, the Department will take all steps necessary to provide the efficient collection, purchase, storage, testing and distribution of seed for re-forestation by quick growing timber trees, and it will undertake a tree breeding programme to produce high yielding and quick growing forests of superior quality. It may surprise Members to learn that at the present time Nigeria is a substantial importer of timber. The Department will give special attention therefore to the problem of the production of species which will adequately substitute these imports.

In the debate on the Development Plan, mention has frequently been made of the external aid contribution which will be necessary to ensure the implementation of this ambitious programme. It must not be forgotten that an equally important contribution to ensure the success of the Plan will be necessary in the field of technical assistance. My Ministry, which is responsible for the handling of all

technical assistance projects for Nigeria, is fully cognizant of the major task which the co-ordination and submission of all applications for technical aid will lay before it. It will be of interest to hon. Members to learn, for example, that during the past year a total of 266 experts for work in Nigeria have been provided under various multi-lateral and bilateral aid arrangements, whilst 434 Nigerian trainees have been sent abroad under these arrangements. Also of interest, perhaps, is the fact that during the past fifteen months the United Nations, under the Technical Assistance Board and Special Fund, has approved a series of projects valued in excess of \$9 million for Nigeria. Small though these figures may appear in relation to the huge tasks which lie before us, they do illustrate in some measure the enormous amount of work which will require to be undertaken.

Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Mr A. Akomolafe (Ekiti North East): Speaking on this Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, quite rightly there is much that commends itself to the ordinary man in the whole exercise in the entire dissertation of the Minister of Finance in his application of the general principle of the economics of under-developed countries.

There is a lot in his application of the principles of unbalanced budgets and in particular his treatment of the six-year Development Plan, the fiscal policy necessary both to execute the Development Plan and to execute our recurrent expenditure, his treatment of the functions and development of the Central Bank, especially in relation to its duty as a controller of our finances and spending, as a stabiliser, also of our currency as a means of boosting up our economy and development, his elaborate and belaboured hair-splitting on domestic saving and his pet subject of which he is an expert—loan policy—and the notorious subject of smuggling which, to be sincere, is a bane and I must commend the handling of such a slippery subject by the Minister.

However, notwithstanding the hon. Minister's declaration at the opening of his thesis that economics is not an exact science whose condi-

[MR AKOMOLAFE]

tions are absolute and finite and must not be treated as such, yet his arguments—most of them—still foundered on the hidden shoals which come from being over-meticulous.

In many cases, he did not take sufficient account of conditions precedent and antecedent to arriving at his conclusions. Experts on public finance on both sides of this honourable House have pulled the shreds of his rosy fabrics into bits. They have done enough, and I shall just, with your permission, Sir, give one example to illustrate. In assessing the part of the current revenue which may accrue to capital development, and in expatiating on the means of draining negatively, of course, expenditure to produce this balance and also simultaneously stimulating production to enhance such favourable balances, the hon. Minister of Finance committed two crimes :

- (1) his over-tightening controls of such common articles as wearing apparels, petrol and so on which will react on the common man and reduce his potentialities for saving ;
- (2) the profit margin which he envisaged has been too inelastic and does not take cognisance of external and internal situations. The figures were too much to the right and the scale needs to be slid a little to the left. After all the farmer must not be so sure of a favourable harvest as to over-estimate his gains.

Sufficient on these points, my main comments are on the Public Service. In commenting on the Public Service, I will crave your indulgence that, that being my subject, I will be allowed to go a little into details and I will leave the figures and statistics until the Committee Stage. I have already filed an Amendment. I have been to the Ministry of Establishments.

I have met the Permanent Secretary who to me, appears an experienced, intelligent man who is capable enough of handling the heavy and complicated duties of using the Ministry's skills and getting the Civil Service on an even keel. But to my mind, he appears a little weighted down by the old ideals of colonialism, the type of people who by circumstances have been boiled too hard by the imperialists overlords and therefore do not very easily agree with the younger elements who probably have ascended too fast, and I think, in holding such

a key position, it is necessary that a man of his position—I know it is difficult—should have a bit of a broader mind.

I have observed a number of points which were mentioned on the Floor of this House and I must give the credit to many hon. Members of this House for a number of suggestions given in the past and the way they have been carried out. I was intending to make some quotations, but I will not. I will just make references, considering that the time is short and many more people would want to speak.

Some of the things we mentioned on the Floor of this House and which we asked to be done about the Public Service are integration, pooling, Nigerianisation, organisation and a better deployment of staff. In this connection I wish to refer—not quoting because of time—to the hon. Minister of Establishments' speech of April 11th, 1960 which is found at page 1024, second paragraph of the *Hansard* of that day under Control and Nigerianisation, and my suggestions on April the 14th, 1960, which also are contained at pages 1270, paragraph 2 to the end and page 1274.

Now I wish to give credit where credit is due, but I want to say that I have been highly impressed with the arrangements of the pool system which has been carried out in that Ministry and also the Department of Nigerianisation which used to be separate has been integrated under an officer who is known as Under-secretary for Nigerianisation and the Organisation and Methods and Staff Investigation Branch of that Ministry also has done very careful job in assessing the capability of each Public Servant or potential Public Servant and in docketing them and therefore in deploying them. Then the In-Service Training and the award of scholarships schemes also merit some commendation, particularly the close liaison between that Ministry and the Ministry of Education. But I have a number of criticisms.

In the pooling system, we gave two suggestions :

- (1) that the categories of Public Servants serving should be pooled and indexed analysed and carded.

Well, that has been done under three heads of the secretarial class, the executive class and of the administrative class, but the other aspect of the job was not done. We suggested that

all potential civil servants, that is people who are not even in the Public Service or who are in the Public Service of other Regions or who are even students in other parts of the world also be pooled. That means that our Nigeria Office should do the exercise of making out a list of our students, what they study and so get them set out here so that when any of them applies, it will be easy to know exactly what he is worth. Well, that has not been done.

The second side to that part two, is, in England for example, and other European countries of the world, today there is a good number of students who are stranded. They are stranded not because they have not got the brains, but because the money is not there, and in one of those two references I have made in the past, particularly my speech of the 15th April, 1961, which is found at pages 1661 to 1665 of the *Hansard* of that day, we made suggestions that people asking for scholarships, deserving students who are good enough should be assisted.

I was at a reception for a student a few days ago and the student, in giving the history of his life in England, said how long he stayed and how but for some strange circumstance he might have been stranded. Yet he had the brains right enough but the funds were not forthcoming, but by a strange circumstance he had some funds somewhere and he was qualified in the field of Accountancy which is a difficult one. Well, that is one example out of very many. Thus if the Nigeria Office and the Office in Washington and the Office in Bonn will have a careful catalogue, analysed, indexed and carded of our students, we will be saving a lot of potentialities and our lack of staff, of manpower, I think will be very much reduced.

My second criticism I shall give when I come to the Committee Stage. There is too much glut in the Executive Class. There are many of them who have been there for years and many of them according to their age who may never get higher, not because they are not capable, but because the glut is just lumped together. They are not analysed so as to give them the necessary opportunities in other places. As I said I will give some examples when I get to the Committee Stage to illustrate very carefully what I mean.

But I cannot see much sense in the wrungs of the Executive ladder. You have the Assistant Executive Officer, the Executive Officer Grade II, Executive Officer Grade I, the Senior Executive Officer, the Higher Executive Officer and the Principal Executive Officer. To my mind, it is a good way of keeping the better brains down. I suppose if those wrungs of the ladder are made less and are made shorter, it will be easier to climb to the top. When we come to the Committee stage I will give some details but all these various E.O.s' S.E.O.s., and scale C.E. 1-5, I cannot see why that scale cannot be made 1-3, making only three stages in the Executive grades.

Now, my major complaint is with the Nigerianisation Department. Looking through some of the papers, and listening to various Ministers who have given themselves so much self-praise about Nigerianisation in their various Ministries, one would think that we had almost got to the top of our ladder, which is far from being the case. As I said, I will give some illustrations now which are not details but I will give some details later.

Now, one discovers (and I shall give some examples) that the deployment of staff is not at its best. There are people who are put in places where they are square pegs in round holes and if the pooling system and the grading had been carefully done, I think such a thing could easily be avoided.

Secondly, I have discovered in a number of Ministries and in some corporations—by the way, Sir, I rather feel that even though the corporations are autonomous bodies just under supervision of Government, I think their autonomy is, to some extent, a detriment to the general progress of the service of this country—that there are some white bosses who still feel : “Well, if we cannot pin you down in your Ministry we can do so in the corporations.”

There is a Chief Engineer, Robinson or Robertson or whatever he is, in the Port Authority, who sees no good in employing Nigerian engineers. If a qualified Nigerian engineer applies there for a job he is told that he has not got the qualifications required, and even if he has got the qualifications required, he is told that he has not got the necessary experience and is told, “I am afraid there is nothing we can give you ; perhaps the best we

[MR AKOMOLAFE]
can give you is to make you a pupil engineer." I know of three such cases, and not up to fifty per cent of the whites who are with him have the qualifications which are required of our Nigerian boys ?

There are also one or two cases of a similar type in the E.C.N. There is a Commercial Accountant there who is usurping the place of the Statistician and the type of job which he ought to give to him he will not give to him because if he did, he would become redundant and he would have to opt to go. Therefore he is keeping part of the job to himself and the Nigerian, who has been made the Statistician, is just being made to do some donkey job.

As I said, I have just given you those two examples, but I could multiply them. I have discovered one or two also in the Navy ; I have discovered some in the Works Department and, in the latter case, during the Committee stage I am going to give some clear examples.

My next point is that even some of our own senior heads need to reorientate their attitude. I know in one Ministry where the head of that Ministry is a very efficient and very intelligent man. He happens also to be Permanent Secretary to one of our ablest Ministers and the pair make a very good combination. But what this Permanent Secretary does is to get the youngmen and give them the hard jobs to do. He does not condemn them when they do them well, he keeps encouraging them. But I know of two more. One of them happens, most unfortunately, to be in a very key Ministry and he does not see any good in the Senior Assistant Secretaries and in the people under him. He indulges and reveals in saying, "You are no use", making bad remarks on their minuting and so on and giving them very dangerous confidential reports. Well, I think if we have to undo ourselves, well it is just too bad.

Now, to get on. To be able to make this Public Service a Nigerian one we have had to do with some less qualified people and they are getting out. Then why should it be the duty of an indigenous head of a Ministry to feel that because his expatriates are of the old colonial standard, which is not relative to our present standard, he should bring some people down under the pretence that they are no good ?

If the whites say they are no good and you say they are no good who, then, is going to do the jobs.

There is no propriety in my naming the Ministries here. I have talked to one or two Ministers concerned and I take it that they are handling the matter.

There is another point again which I have to mention. I think that the whole Nigerianisation policy is a bit too cautious. In my speech in 1960 I advised that if our problem was great, it needed a great remedy and that we had to take very bold steps.

That reminds me that this Parliament's life is now half-spent so may I suggest, quite seriously, and thus not playing up to anybody or just trying to be "Opposition", but suggesting in absolute honesty, that I think that now that this Parliament has spent half of its life, there ought to be a Parliamentary Commission to review the progress of Nigerianisation so far. Something in the nature of the Solaru Commission which started this, is what I have in mind, so that we will know how far we have gone without deceiving ourselves and know what will be the next step to take. I am giving this suggestion with all humility and without any ulterior motive at all.

Furthermore, the scholarships and the in-service training scheme are definitely not to any profitable extent, geared to our needs. I have studied this Paper and it is lop-sided. I have made the promise that I was not going to make any quotations until the Committee stage, but I want to say that, in this, you will find a good number of aspects which have been adequately met and there are some technical aspects which have been very dangerously neglected. I think that if we continue at that rate, in the end, we will have a lop-sided public service in this country. That is why (in opposition to the hon. Minister of Education) that I disagree violently with this principle of National High Schools. I am not saying that there should be no National High Schools and I am not saying that they should not be inter-regional but what I would like us to have are international Polytechnics.

It is being proposed that the Federal Emergency Science School should be converted to a National High School. I think that is no use.

Lagos is very well suited and they have a lot of equipment there so why not convert the place into a Polytechnic? Why not spend the money that it is proposed will be spent on these National High Schools on building workshops, more laboratories and equip the place for conversion to a Polytechnic so as to give us more technicians, which we require and which, to a large extent, we are sending overseas?

An hon. Member : Finally.

Mr Akomolafe : Not finally yet. I am still on this Nigerianisation point. There are one or two cases, specific ones, which I have referred to the hon. Minister of Establishments and, as I said, it is improper for me to mention them here again. I only wish that he will look into the complaints of the Union of Printers and of the Federal Training Centre at Broad Street.

Next, I was talking about the pooling. You will find out that according to the speech which the hon. Minister of Establishments gave here last week, it is a good line-up of the policy-making aspect of Nigerianisation. Of the remaining five expatriate Permanent Secretaries, two of them are going, but the other three do not know what is going to happen about their going, even though there are men available to take their places. But I wish to say that one of them is in a key position and I think that by now, with all due deference and without any bias, he should be replaced, and that is the Permanent Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Finance.

Furthermore, the immediate line-up below that in the Deputy Secretary grade, where there are eleven of them, is a good one; but there is a bad gap between that and the Senior Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary grades. That also ought to be amended. It is all right in the S.A.S. grade—there are quite a lot of them. But when we come to the Assistant Secretary grade, the gap is dangerous and it ought to be amended, or covered up.

Finally on that point, and not on my speech I would want to ask humbly the hon. Minister of Establishments when he replies to our debate at the Committee State, to let us understand exactly what are his plans within the next twelve months about the arrangements for our students overseas and about the arrangements for the employment of those of our

students who are here and still have to wait for four months without employment, whereas they are qualified. I know of a particular person who was given a Federal scholarship, he came back here for a job but he has not been given one; he asked to be released to go to another Region, but he has not been released to go, and he qualified in a subject which we need very much. That is just one, there are many more. I want the hon. Minister to make sure that when these men come back they do not have to keep roaming round his offices and looking for jobs when we say we want the men and they are here.

An hon. Member : That man is your cousin.

Mr Akomolafe : Let the man be my wife, if it is possible.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr E. Ezonbodor) : Sir, how could a man be his wife? (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker : That is a question.

Mr Akomolafe : As I said, I am now leaving that point and I am just saying one or two things generally on the Budget. I do not know why we still have to pay subvention to the colonial Audit. If we say that our Audit Department is an independent one, why do we still have to pay subvention to the colonial Audit? I do not know why we have to do that.

At page 14 of this *Mobilisation Budget* the hon. Minister of Finance condemns property ventures like housing on the ground that they are unproductive. I think that is most uneconomic. If you want people to be at the optimum of their productivity, there are certain basic principles and basic needs which they must have: they must be able to feed well, they must be properly housed. You cannot expect anybody who is not in a convenient environment to do his best. So, I think that even though there is no sense of direct money-making productivity in them, they are as productive as our industries and they should not be discouraged.

Sir, I happen to understand, unfortunately, that one or two Embassies in this country are behaving in a manner not very noble. There is one particular Embassy, I think it is called the Ivory Coast Embassy, which rented a

[MR AKOMOLAFE]

house from a Nigerian land-lord on certain terms to be terminated at six months' notice on either side, but which terminated that agreement in less than a month. Not only that, through the agency of this land-lord, they obtained some furniture and they have not paid the man for the past six months.

An hon. Member : Diplomatic privilege.

Mr Akomolafe : I think they are using their diplomatic privilege very wrongly, and we should not allow our country to be made a ground for stinking diplomacy.

One final thing, Sir. Sometime last week when I was speaking on the Development Programme, I said something about the transport system, and when the Reporter recorded me he very cleverly omitted the material word 'autobahn'. After reading through the *Hansard*, I went to him and incidentally the lady nearby happened to have been to Germany and therefore knew what an autobahn was. My deduction from that is that it will be advantageous if our top officials in this Parliament are given just one or two months to tour certain other Parliaments overseas (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I make no apology for saying one or two things about my constituency, for after all they sent me here. I want to appeal to the hon. Minister of Communications to look into the needs of postal and telegraphic services in Ekiti Division. We require post offices and telegraph offices. Of about 17 main towns in the Division only three have telegraph exchanges. By the way, Sir, lest I forget, I want to give my personal commendation to the Minister of Communications. I think his Ministry is the most Nigerianised of all the Ministries. I can see that he has hopes for a Director-General and his Assistant which posts, I am sure, will definitely be filled by Nigerians. Let him employ these men to give us the postal services which we require in Ekiti.

Sir, I beg to support.

3.35 p.m.

Mr J. K. de-Omomadia (Urhobo East) : Sir, I rise to join the chorus of praise and congratulations to the Federal Minister of Finance for his *Mobilisation* Budget. The speech is as practical, far-sighted and dynamic as it is

inspired by every sense of responsibility, self-sacrifice and patriotism. It is a striking reflection of the great qualities of *Omimi Ejoh* which everyone, not excluding even the sworn enemy of progress, is bound to admire in the Minister. By this Budget, Chief Okotie-Eboh has added yet another lustre to the crown of his glory as the country's safe-keeper. (*Hear, hear*).

There are just a few points I would like to dwell on in the Speech and this is an humble attempt to help the Minister in his most intriguing task of total mobilisation for the greatest good of the greatest number. I am in total agreement with the call for self-denial and wholesale sacrifice on the part of everyone, so that we can have the means whereby we shall translate our lofty ideals into reality. In doing this, however, emphasis should be laid on the rich paying more and the poor paying less. Unless this necessary adjustment is done, the *status quo* of inequality and exploitation bequeathed to us by our former colonial overlords, would remain *ad infinitum*.

The call for national vigilance against inflation could not have been wiser; except, however, something is done and done very quickly, we shall find ourselves faced with the dangers of an expensive austerity—what a contradiction in terms! Government should—

- (1) Control the prices of imported goods, especially the essential commodities.
- (2) Protect our young indigenous industries against unfair competition from expatriate concerns and overseas manufacturers.
- (3) Control house rents in all the cities of the Federation and set up a nationally co-ordinated housing programme in concert with the existing regional Housing Corporations. Here, Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Federal Government to consider establishing a housing corporation to own small houses for workers in large cities starting from Lagos, then Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Ibadan, Enugu, *et cetera*. The capital could be subscribed by the different Governments. This will also tend to strengthen the tie of unity binding the diverse Regions of the Federation.

(4) Evolve a minimum national wage structure which will bridge the gap between

the upper income groups and the lower income groups.

(5) Increase hours of work for the Civil Service, possibly, introducing the two-shift system as in the mercantile houses.

(6) Minimise overseas tours of Ministers which in the main tend to be very uneconomic. If we must continue to win the sympathy of overseas investors and creditors we must, by all means, be credit-worthy.

(7) Emulate the modesty and patriotism of other places like Guinea by stopping the practice by which Ministers go about with police orderlies. They should move freely with their people in harmony and confidence. Only people conscious of guilt go about in perpetual fear.

Government should hold controlling shares in all major industries and commercial ventures in the country, be they expatriate or indigenous. Government should investigate the extent to which Nigerianisation is carried out by expatriate firms. I say this because there is the cajoling policy of appointing nominal African managers whose status, remuneration, and responsibilities are merely clerical. If we must attract foreign investors to our programme of large-scale industrialisation, Government should consider as priority number one the question of a tourist industry. This is a matter of supreme economic necessity and national prestige.

I congratulate the Government on its decision to bridge the disparity in the Nigerian pound at present linked by an Act of Parliament to the British pound. I am happy that the parity will now be expressed in gold so that Nigeria, too, could decide what adjustments should from time to time be made in the official exchange rates between our Nigerian pound and the currency of any other country.

It is gratifying to observe that our currency notes and postage stamps will be printed in this country in future, and also that we shall have our own mint. I must say, Sir, that whenever this comes into operation the head of our Governor-General, Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, P.C., should be printed on the notes, postage stamps and coins.

I also congratulate the Government on the increased duty imposed on a variety of luxury goods such as tea, coffee, fresh meat, poultry,

fresh fish, fruits and jam. The increase on imported drinks, I must say, is welcome. I would like to urge that the Government should now encourage local industries to improve—

An hon. Member : Much as we appreciate that the hon. Member is making his maiden speech, he should at times be looking up since he is speaking to you and not to—

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member please face the Chair and speak.

Mr De-Omomadia : I was saying, that I would like to urge the Government now to encourage local industries to improve the age-long locally produced gin with several names : *O.H.M.S., Apetesi, Make-Make, Push-me-I-push-you, et cetera.*—(Laughter).

On the question of increased duties, I would like to suggest that the duty on imported luxury goods, like polish and other similar goods which are used by only the rich and not by the poor, be increased. This will certainly protect local industries.

Consistent with our Foreign Policy of non-alignment, we should pursue the question of foreign aid with more sincerity. We have got £80 million from the U.S.A. ; let us now seek similar aid from the Soviet Union, so that the unfortunate impression is not created that we are a satellite of the Western Democracies.

Turning to the Economic Development Programme, I wish to say that particular attention should be paid to rural areas. The various agricultural products in the rural areas should be tapped with a view to assisting the farmers financially I have in mind Urhobo Division where cassava, palm produce and rubber are the chief agricultural products. The farmers should be encouraged with loans to develop and improve their products.

Electricity supply should also be extended to rural areas as this will help very largely in the industrial programme. I would like to ask that the gas turbine station to be commissioned at Ughelli be extended to Oleh in Eastern Urhobo as it will be only economical to do so in view of the industries that are envisaged.

I would like to speak on communications. Rural areas should be supplied with modern postal facilities and communications. I will mention that in my constituency—Oleh—the

[MR DE-OMOMADIA]
postal agency has now exceeded the 24,000 units laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957—a level qualifying a postal agency for conversion to a sub-post office. It is disappointing to observe that a telephone service opened at Oleh on the 11th July, 1960, ceased to function after a week or so and since then no attempt has been made to put the service in good working condition.

Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Urhobo East (*Mr J. K. de-Omomadia*) is in the second world !

Mr Speaker : I know of only one world.

Mr de-Omomadia : It is disappointing, Sir, to observe that a telephone service opened at Oleh on the 11th of July, 1960, ceased to function after a week or so, and since then, no attempt has been made to put the service in good condition.

Adequate policing is very essential in the rural areas and I would like a police post to be opened at Oleh.

One cannot help mentioning the appalling condition of our roads. When the Federal Government undertakes a detailed survey work on road reconstructions, some major roads which are at present under the Regional Governments should be included. I have in mind roads like those which are commercially and economically very important, such as the Benin-Warri road, the Warri-Agbor road, and the Warri-Ughelli-Kwale road. I must emphasise that these must be included in the programme because the economic stability of the people of the area depends on the availability of good roads for their trade.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja) : In contributing my own quota to the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Federal Government's Development Programme for 1962-68, I wish to thank the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers and all the experts who took part in the preparation not only of this *Mobilisation* Budget but also of the Development Programme.

In addition to this, I have very few points of observation to make. In the field of agricultural research, I have to remind the Ministers connected with this that during my speeches in the past I always made it a point of note that

most of our people in the Federation of Nigeria are under-fed as compared with most of the people in most other countries of the world. The remedy for this could only be obtained from a mechanised method of farming which will yield adequate supply of foodstuffs to nourish the ever increasing number of people in the Federation of Nigeria.

Concerning trade and industry, I welcome the Federal Government's intention to participate in the establishment of an iron and steel industry.

In conjunction with this, may I bring it to the notice of the Government that there are many iron deposits in many places within the Federation of Nigeria. The indigenous people of this country used to tap them ever before the British occupation of the country, but this privilege was refused the people by the British after their occupation. I would like the Government to re-investigate the possibility of mining this iron ore. I know, for example, of one place in the Kawu village area of Buari District in Abuja Division where there is a big iron deposit which should be mined and used in connection with the proposed iron and steel industry.

As regards electricity and power supply, I welcome the Niger Dam project. My main hope is to see that when the project is completed, the neighbouring towns such as Pategi, Lafaji, Kutigi, Zuru, Kontagora, Abuja, Lapai, Guhi, Nuya and Agari should get a good supply of electricity, as charity begins at home, and then other towns, big and small, throughout the Federation of Nigeria will get their supplies.

In connection with transport, I appeal through the Chair to the Minister of Transport and Aviation to see that River Guara is made navigable as from its Girmija confluence with Niger River up to Izom so as to ease the transportation of cash crops such as cotton, soya beans and other foodstuffs.

With regard to communication, before I say anything, I should like to make a request to the Minister of Communications through the Chair that it is the wish of the whole House to call back and condemn the Government's White Paper No. 4 of 1957 and to substitute it with another independent White Paper which will cater for our independent needs. I want the Minister at least to promise to produce a

White Paper which, I hope, when done, will cater for the needs of the masses and be in agreement with the wishes of the whole House.

I should also like to remind the Minister of the urgent need for a Post Office and other postal facilities at Lapai Town, and the establishment of Postal Agencies in the following towns: Bwari, Izom, Wura, Gurki, Tuku-shura, Kuja, Kubi, Gombe, Dangora, Kwali, Ebbo, Nuya and Gube. All these big towns are due for postal and other telecommunication facilities.

In dealing with education, I should like the Minister to make technical education go side by side with primary and secondary education so that when our children leave school, they will be sure of at least the simplest possible means of livelihood. At present, more than 50 per cent of primary school leavers are left stranded and without any means of livelihood, as they are not afforded the opportunity of either entering into secondary or technical institutions or being recruited into offices or other places of employment. Something must be done in the very near future so as to help them.

In addition, I want the Federal Government to establish technical training centres capable of taking about two thousand children from senior primary schools each year in each Province throughout the whole Federation of Nigeria. This will help a lot to improve the present situation of unemployment in the country.

Sir, I beg to second.

4 p.m.

Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) : The hon. Federal Minister of Finance deserves praise for his voluminous Budget Speech on the famous *Mobilisation* Budget, and this most Members have done. By *Mobilisation* in this connection is meant, I think, all efforts to harness all our resources to achieve our desired objective.

It will usher in eras of various possibilities : an era of plenty of opportunities for our children for all forms of education, secular and technical, at all levels up to university stage ; an era of plenty of financial assistance to our small businessmen and *entrepreneurs*, to enlarge or expand ; an era of plenty of industrial projects being established in various centres in all the

Regions in the Federation to absorb a great many, if not all, of the unemployed and school-leavers, year in and year out ; an era when every worker in independent Nigeria should resolve to turn a new page so that his output may well justify his appointment and salary ; an era when our Federal Minister of Finance will think less of leading Economic Missions abroad to raise loans, but rather will think more of consolidating all available resources in the country and finding new avenues to improve the country's finances ; an era that should bring good and reasonable prices commensurate only with costs of production to the food producers ; an era when every human "stegomyia" in this honourable House should change attitude and practise real politics and not spite or hate ; an era when the hydra-headed dragon of squandermania will be exterminated from our Federal Ministry of Finance, and his seat permanently removed from the Council of Ministers.

Mr Speaker, the Federal Minister of Finance has announced certain austerity measures in order to save the country's finances from ruin, but there is something more to be done. If the country's finances are being saved, the country's productivity and reputation should also be saved from being disgracefully lowered, by applying austerity measures to eliminate laziness, idleness, unfaithfulness and dishonesty from the rank and file of the Civil Service.

In order to pull together to success, every worker should regard himself as one of the links that make a long chain for pulling the nation to prosperity. Every worker should keep it always in mind that if he, as a link, is broken, then the chain of progress becomes weak and perhaps useless and the country's progress will be adversely affected.

At this juncture it has to be stressed that academic qualifications should not be the only deciding factor for preferment of any kind in the Civil Service, but strong character, high morals, responsible spirit, honesty of purpose, and others, so that we may be proud of our Civil Service on which the nation largely rests for the implementation of its policies. This is especially important in the case of those aspiring to posts in the upper segment.

Reliable and thoroughly efficient people are required to man our ocean steamers, our warships and our airplanes. I wish to advise strongly in this connection that the Royal

[MR AKINBOWALE]
Nigerian Army, the Royal Nigerian Navy and the Royal Nigerian Air Force should not be hurriedly Nigerianised because of the intricacies of these undertakings. Very careful selection of likely candidates should be made and thorough training given so as to produce experts in these fields in the overall interests of the country.

Finally, the new increases in the prices of many commodities, as well as cuts in the emoluments and allowances which have been announced, will in due course amount to large sums of money. These are great sacrifices which the Nigerian public have been called upon to make; they are sacrifices which make certain people who were hitherto very mobile, now and henceforth immobile, to say the least. The emphasis in this connection is on the increase in the price of petrol which is sure to affect our mobility—the market women, the traders, the artisans, and in fact all who travel over short or long distances in various circles. Therefore, the *Mobilisation Budget* becomes the “*Immobilisation*” Budget.

Lastly, I wish to advise strongly therefore that whatever is realised from these various sources by way of increases in prices of goods should be judiciously appropriated.

I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Yerokun (Oyo Central): The debate on the Appropriation Bill ranges over a wide variety of subjects and enables hon. Members to raise topics in which they are especially interested.

In my present frame of mind, I will implore the will of the House and the Government to arrange for an immediate revision of the Standing Orders so as to allow more days for Members to participate in the debate on the Appropriation Bill.

I have to congratulate the Federal Minister of Finance and all the Governments of the Federation for the peaceful way and manner in which they have introduced certain economic restrictions, commonly called austerity measures, without any political upheaval. British Guiana and her two neighbouring countries in West Africa introduced similar measures and landed themselves into untold hardship and disturbances. Shall we not thank God and our Government?

Whether we like it or not, there are many people who are willing to go to great lengths to escape from tax liabilities. Take, for example, the well-to-do Lagos market women who in 1959 or thereabouts collected well over £19,000 illegally and on false pretences on the allocation of their market stalls to other women, and later financed the Action Group Party. These same women failed to pay 10s or so as income tax. I will leave this matter for the present.

It is very encouraging to learn that a Nigerian has been appointed to understudy Dr Prasad, the present Economic Adviser to the Government.

Police. I humbly appeal to the Prime Minister to give us a Nigeria Police Station at Iseyin to serve Oke-Iko and Shaki districts. God knows how much our people suffer under the Local Government Police! Since last year we have not heard anything about the illegal and unconstitutional appointment of a Superintendent-General of Local Government Police by the Western Nigeria Government.

Mr Speaker: Order! I think this is a matter you could well raise at the Committee Stage when we come to the Head of Police.

Mr Yerokun: *Ministry of Commerce and Industry.*—I still cannot understand why loans are very difficult to obtain from the Federal Loans Board by applicants outside Lagos, when a Bill has been passed in this House to ease the situation.

This Government should encourage the improvement of local industries, particularly the native cloth industry, of which my constituency is the premier supplier in this country. There should be a scheme to assist peasant population to better their output in quality and quantity in series of indigenous industries.

Telecommunications.—I have to express grateful thanks on behalf of the people of Iseyin to the Federal Government for the new telephone office at Iseyin. I hope similar facilities will soon be extended to Oke-Iko and Shaki.

At present in Nigeria, nothing is of more importance than the development of modern telecommunications. There are some parts of Nigeria where it takes two to four weeks for

Federal Parliament Debates

1409

[Appropriation Bill :

11 APRIL 1962

Second Reading]

1410

communication to be delivered and a reply received. The 1962-68 Development Programme must not allow this state of affairs to continue.

The next point I will talk about is Electricity and the hydro-electric system. The Niger Dam Project will consume the major part of the financial provision for electricity development. Proper arrangement should be made for the rehabilitation of the people of Bussa whose area will be badly affected.

Not far from Iseyin is a waterfall at Ikere. I think that investigation should be carried out to see whether this waterfall can be harnessed to generate power for the use of people in Iseyin and Oke Iho district. Government should also explore the possibility of making river Ogun navigable from Shepeteri *via* Iseyin to Abeokuta.

I now go over to the transport system. The importance of providing a better road system throughout the Federation in order to ensure reasonable contact with our large and ever growing population needs no further comments.

I notice that in the Development Programme, steps have been taken to improve international communication. In this connection, I would suggest that Government should construct a road from Ijio to Opara river in Iganna district, thereby linking Save in the Republic of Dahomey with Oyo Division in Nigeria. In view of the drive against smuggling of goods, Ijio is an ideal place for a preventive service station.

I would now like to speak about medical and health services. The necessity for improved medical facilities have been established and the major emphasis in the health programme should be on the training of more conscientious doctors and other medical staff. The control of leprosy should also engage the attention of the Government and, in consultation with other Governments, a contributory health insurance scheme should be introduced to help the suffering masses.

I turn over to education. Government should aim at the extension and improvement of the standard of secondary and post-secondary school education. The provision of four National High Schools, one in each Region including the Mid-West Region, is to my mind hope-

lessly inadequate. (*Hear, hear*). However, I must take this opportunity to implore the Government to establish the one for the Iseyin whenever it is time.

Under the Development Programme, a princely sum of £975,000 has been earmarked for boarding accommodation and the rebuilding of the Methodist Boys' High School. I congratulate the Federal Government for this generosity.

The Federal Scholarships Board should establish a sort of sub-committee in the Regions to deal with applicants from each particular Region. This will certainly save a lot of time. For example, the Board does not expect applicants from the United Kingdom to come down to Lagos for interview; the London Office handles this.

I would like to say something about agriculture. There must be a co-ordination of agricultural, veterinary and forestry development programme. A lot has been said on this, so I will confine my observation to fisheries. Nigeria has a vast area of fishing water. Government should invite fish culturists for advice. The Fisheries School in Hong Kong would gladly provide one if approached.

My next point is about the Ministry of Justice. Both lawyers and laymen in this honourable House have had several occasions to congratulate our learned Attorney-General for his efforts to bring our laws up-to-date. I think he should continue to do this until all traits of imperialism or colonialism have been removed from our laws.

The Marriage Ordinance should be reviewed immediately. Divorces are rampant in this country to-day both in the court of law and customary courts. An elderly Bishop has suggested that a Minister of Public Morality should be appointed, and I think Mr Ekanem will be a good man for this job ! (*Laughter*)

I would now say something about our sports, our efforts to develop a sound mind in a sound body. I have to congratulate the Federal Government for not neglecting the mind, and the souls of the youths in this country. There are financial provisions for various sports and

[MR YEROKUN]
community development organisations. I must, however, sound a note of warning to our sports organisers and managers. There is plenty of time between now and the next Empire Games at Perth in Australia. It is not sufficient to raise funds for the trip to Australia; we must raise athletes worthy of this country. The Cricket Association must be prepared to go to Ghana next year and return with the ashes.

The only solution to the lack of progress in our football standard is the immediate dissolution of the N.F.A. and the appointment of a caretaker committee in its place. The present Association is full of confusion, intrigue, character assassination and lack of administrative experience. Within a year of its formation, the council paid well over £10,000 as hotel fees. Nobody will be surprised that all these anomalies have led to the resignation of its former Treasurer, Mr Adebajo, that highly respected businessman.

Mr Speaker : I think you have gone a little bit too far.

Mr Yerokun : I wish to make some comments on Lagos affairs. The Lagos Town Council should be persuaded to divert more buses to the Apapa area to serve the workers in that area. The activities of the so-called Eyo should be curbed. All traditions which remind us of our inglorious past should be abolished.

I beg to support.

Zanna A. Musa Hindi (Fune Gujba) : In rising to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill 1962-63, I shall not start in the same way as some hon. Members started, by congratulating the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Finance. I should like to start by referring to what Shakespeare said: "The life of man is liable to so many changes and accidents", that philosophy does not allow us—*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker : Order, order! I do hope that hon. Members will stop private conversations which drown the voice of the Member speaking.

Zanna A. Musa Hindi : That philosophy does not allow us to glory in prosperity which may endure but for a time, one is accounted happy unless he whom God has blessed to the last.

There are certain points which I would like to mention. I think that the economics and finances of this country cannot be healthy if the rate of production is not improved. If I may say so, production in this country is low and I would like to say that it is not because our people do not want to work, they are always capable of working. I can speak authoritatively about my own constituency which is completely a rural area. There is no amenity whatsoever which the people enjoy as a result of activities of this Government. I would like to say that the country requires quite a lot of work done particularly in the rural areas.

Turning to the Development Programme, I call it an "unreliable economic policy" if we base our policy on getting revenue from custom and excise, that is from export mainly. This would mean that the country has no economic policy on which to base its further development. I should like to suggest that we embark upon a plan of real industrialisation—a bold scheme of industrialisation to be undertaken in four years, divided into two. I would like to say that the first part of this plan should be devoted to the production of consumer goods, which will, for instance, include utilisation of the existing sugar and wheat in the country, or the establishment of a sugar or wheat plantation. Then we will follow the establishment of a factory or machinery to develop this product into sugar and flour so that we no longer rely upon imported sugar or flour. The other two years of this Six-year Development Plan should be used for the establishment of industries, beginning with light industries. We can start with shoe-making, bicycle-making and allied commodities.

I would also suggest with every due regard to our economy at this time that if we attend to the production of consumer goods and cultivate light industries, we shall have to place some tariff on imported goods so that our consumption will be confined to articles produced in this country. These steps are vital to our national existence in so far as our present Budget gives us only the hope of relying wholly on our export duties for revenue.

Turning to the *Mobilisation* Budget itself, one would really feel that the presentation of the Budget Speech is unique, comprehensive, modest and remarkable in many respects. One feels after listening to the *Mobilisation*

Federal Parliament Debates.

1413

[Appropriation Bill :

11 APRIL 1962

Second Reading]

1414

Budget that we are going to live in another Nigeria and if I heard the Minister of Finance correctly, he seems to be satisfied with the progress being made in Nigeria to-day.

I will now speak on the Maiduguri airport. A malicious rumour came to me not long ago that the Federal Government wants to discontinue the maintenance of Maiduguri aerodrome which is at present lacking so many amenities such as runway lighting, terminal building and some other buildings in that area. At present, the office of the Air Control Officer has been shifted to about five miles away from Yerwa Town and it is very difficult for passengers to travel five miles before they can obtain their air tickets. It is up to the Minister of Transport and Aviation to prove that this rumour is false and unfounded.

Finally, I hope that this policy laid down by our Ministers will be pursued with great vigour and we all hope for our Ministers' success, endurance and tolerance in the execution of the public duty that is now before them.

I beg to support.

4.22 p.m.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

The past year has been one in which Nigeria has consolidated the advances made in many spheres immediately prior to independence. This trend has been reflected in the work of my Ministry.

The downward movement in the number of trade disputes brought to my notice during the last year has continued and during 1961 there were only 95 trade disputes, and in only four cases did I find it necessary formally to appoint conciliators in accordance with the Trade Disputes Ordinance. It should not be assumed from this reduction, however, that my Labour Officers are now less busy than in the past. On the contrary the correct inference is that they are now, because of the improved staff position, able to devote more time to preventive duties by making their services available to industry whether there are disputes or not.

In the preventive field, I hope to establish within my Ministry a personnel advisory service which would help in the introduction of modern management techniques. A training

scheme will also be worked out in consultation with the employers' association for the training of Personnel Officers for industry.

Unhappily, the split in the Central Labour Organisation continues, but I am hopeful that at a meeting which, I understand, is to be held in May, it may be possible to establish unity once again in the Labour Movement. I am sure that all Sides of this House will wish to join me in thanking the members of the Reconciliation Committee and in particular the Speaker of this honourable House (*Hear, hear*) for the work they have done and in wishing them every success in the onerous task which they have undertaken.

My Ministry will continue to give active support to trade union education as the only way of getting workers to run their organisations in a manner to ensure that their interests are properly cared for. In this connection, it is hoped to increase the facilities provided through the assistance of the University College, Ibadan and to explore the assistance which the new universities can render in this important field.

Last year, I was able to report that Nigeria had attained full membership status of the International Labour Organisation. For the first time, the Federation was able to send a fully representative tripartite delegation to the 45th Session of the International Labour Conference which was held in Geneva in June 1961. As hon. Members are aware, Nigeria moved a formal Resolution at that meeting inviting the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to call upon South Africa to withdraw from the International Labour Organisation in view of her racial discrimination policies, and I am happy to report that this Resolution received the unanimous support of the Afro-Asian countries and was adopted by the International Labour Conference. That Resolution has now formally been communicated to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and I hope that hon. Members will see in this concrete evidence of the Federal Government's intention to ensure social equality and human dignity for Africans wherever they may be. (*Hear, hear*).

With the rapid industrialisation of the country, the work of the Factories Inspectorate has increased correspondingly. The number of accidents from factories and docks reported to the Inspectorate is already almost up to 1,000.

[MINISTER OF LABOUR]
a year, and there are a great many more accidents which are not accounted for. Accident prevention in industry is at present receiving world-wide attention, and I intend convening a National Safety Conference, in which all sides of Industry throughout Nigeria can get together in an attempt to focus attention on the requirements of the Factories Act in the field of industrial safety and welfare.

In the Employment Division of my Ministry, an Employment Market Information Service has been set up and its first basic report has been issued. An Occupational Research and Classification Unit was also set up last year and an interim classification has been compiled for the use of the placement services of the Employment Exchanges. These two achievements will ensure that the best possible use is made of our manpower resources.

I am fully aware of the number of unemployed workers in the country and am most sympathetic to their problem. I am doing my best to find work for these people but neither I nor my Ministry can make work where none exists; we cannot create jobs but we can, through the employment exchanges, put suitably qualified unemployed workers in contact with employers who have vacancies. I am happy to be able to tell you that we now have 17 employment exchanges throughout the Federation. I propose in the coming year to extend the service to the growing industrial areas.

Last year, the National Provident Fund Act was passed and, up till now, the main work of the Fund has been the registration of workers. A total of about 50,000 workers has been registered and it is anticipated that there will be a sharp increase in the next few months of workers in the private sector. When the first phase of the scheme is completed by 1st October, it is estimated that there will be a total of 360,000 members of the Fund. On the whole, it can be said that the Fund has now taken roots and that the scheme has made a successful start. I cannot over-emphasise the very real advantages of the scheme which will help to provide for the need of the ordinary man in retirement or in time of real difficulty. It is a great step forward towards removing fear of want and impoverishment in old age.

The welfare of youths is receiving adequate attention, and through the activities of the various youth clubs, the young people are encouraged to spend their time usefully for the welfare of the community at large. It is hoped during the year to organise a Youth Festival in Lagos that will give the public an opportunity to see what the various youth organisations have been able to accomplish and to demonstrate the useful contributions which youths can make to the progress of the nation.

Nigeria has invited the Commonwealth Youth Movement to send representatives of young people from all over the Commonwealth to Nigeria at the time of the Trade Fair next October. The object of their gathering, known as a Quest, is to provide opportunities for selected youths to see the Commonwealth and to meet its people.

The development of Co-operative Societies of all types in Lagos continues to receive my attention. I am convinced that effective Co-operative education for the leaders of tomorrow can best be carried out through the establishment of co-operative societies in schools. To this end, School Co-operative Thrift Societies are now being organised in the secondary schools in Lagos to inculcate the spirit of thrift in the students, while at the same time giving them the opportunity to run their own business in a democratic way.

To-day, we are faced with a gigantic bid for economic development. This means we need a great deal of capital. Capital means saved-up money, hence my interest in these thrift societies which form the bulk of the Co-operative Societies in Lagos. The standard of living of a modern community is determined by the creation of a financial atmosphere which helps to increase the credit worthiness of the members of that community. To this end I am encouraging the development of credit facilities among existing co-operative societies in order to enable the members to enjoy the benefits of credit without suffering the demoralising effect resulting from going to money lenders.

The Government will continue to encourage sports and to improve our performances in international matches; and to this end, the National Sports Council in which Regional

Federal Parliament Debates

1417

[*Appropriation Bill* :

11 APRIL 1962

Second Reading]

1418

Governments are co-operating will be inaugurated shortly. The main task of the Council will be the development of sports with a view to raising national standards in sports. I intend also to set up soon a Sports Council for the co-ordination of sports in Lagos.

Hon. Members will agree with me that His Excellency the Governor-General has been prominent in encouraging all forms of sports and by his regular presence at various meetings had done a great deal in inspiring our sportsmen all over the country. As the Minister responsible for sports, I must place on record my appreciation of His Excellency's efforts to encourage sports in the country.

The National Stadium at Surulere is the baby of the Federal Government, and everything is being done to develop it to reflect its importance. Funds will be provided for a further development of the Stadium, and I hope that before long, a proper stadium that will do credit to Nigeria will be constructed.

As regards, Fernando Po, I am sure hon. Members have heard enough about this; and if I interpret your feelings correctly, I think you are perfectly satisfied with the steps Government has taken.

Several Opposition Members : No ! No !

The Minister of Labour : I am happy that only few voices are raising this objection.

Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu North East) : I rise—

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town) : I refer to Standing Order 25 (11).

"Except when the House be in committee no Member shall speak more than once on any proposition before the House except in explanation if the Member then addressing the House chooses to give way or to a point of order or, in the case of the mover of a substantive Motion or of an Order of the Day, in reply, but any Member may second a Motion or amendment without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate if he do so formally by saying 'I beg to second'".

Mr Speaker : Order. Dr Mbadiwe has not spoken on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill since he was elected to this House.

Dr Mbadiwe : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill so eloquently and lucidly moved by the Minister of Finance. Last year, the Minister of Finance moved the—

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : The hon. Gentleman is referring to last year when he was not here.

Dr Mbadiwe : Sir, last year, the Minister of Finance made the Sovereignty Budget Speech, described by the then President of the Senate as a marathon speech. That was a budget to close an era—it closed the colonial era.

I see in this present Budget, which is the Mobilisation Budget, the opening of a new chapter, a chapter which I would call a proclamation to the entire world that this country has emerged into financial sovereignty. I see many stresses in this financial budget which, if carried to their logical conclusion, will place this country in a new setting.

First of all, one of the most prominent features of this Budget is that Nigerians must depend upon their own resources to build their own greatness, which means they must learn to save and they must save. That is one characteristic of the Budget. We cannot depend now, or for many times, or for many years to come on resources from outside this country, therefore saving becomes very imperative.

Another feature which this Budget carries is that for many years we have been attached to the apron strings of the British Exchequer. They dictated what the whole content of our pound should have. To-day, under the new plan and proposal we will determine in Nigeria what is to be the gold content of our pound. We shall also bring down our gold to the Nigerian port in the Central Bank.

We were told before that every pound we use has a secured gold reserve. Secured where ?

An hon. Member : Bank of England.

Dr Mbadiwe : Secured in the Bank of England, but not secured in Nigeria. We are now bringing the gold reserve to the port of Nigeria in our Central Bank. It is our economic future—dependable gold.

[DR MBADIWE]

For the first time the Budget announces that commercial banks, whether foreign or indigenous, must henceforth look up to Nigeria for their own financial decisions and not to financial decisions outside this country.

It has happened many times that interests in our commercial banks are not dictated in Nigeria. They are dictated from the financial stand point of the British Exchequer. We have arrived now to end what we may call financial individualism. These are the high lights. Henceforth the Minister of Finance of the Federation of Nigeria will determine what reserve any commercial bank should have, whether it should be foreign or Nigerian liquid security. Before, that was not there, and that is why I feel that the decision to repatriate our own assets from the United Kingdom is the beginning of financial independence never propounded before in this country. That is why I say that this Budget is the beginning of a new chapter in our financial history. (*Hear, hear*).

I see in the Budget that Government is going to introduce security printing and printing of our own currency notes in this country. Do you know that we are now just mere agents in using the British postal order? We are only collecting commissions, nothing more, nothing less. But under the new system of having our own security printing we shall make our own currency notes, money orders, postal orders, and stamps here in this country. This was not so before. We depended upon England.

This is a country having independence but living in economic bondage of another sovereign nation. That is a great feature of this Budget, and I think that the Minister of Finance should congratulate himself as well as the Federal Government itself for having devised a Programme which to-day brings this country into real maturity in its financial manipulations.

On July 1st the West African Currency notes will no longer be legal tender in this country. So that we will have a perfect control. It is easy for people to gather West African Currency notes from other countries and empty them in Nigeria and take out our own currency notes. That will end on July 1st. These are the traces of greatness.

What I would ask the Minister of Finance as well as his Colleagues in the Government to observe is that we have given so much power

to the Central Bank as we never gave it before. The Central Bank is now getting powers which it never possessed. That power is a sacred trust. With all the decisions and features of this new Budget given to a Bank, we must make sure that all countries will continue to have confidence in the Central Bank. We can only do it this way. I believe in Nigerianisation any day, but there are certain points in Nigerianisation beyond which I cannot go.

There is nationalisation wholesale, and there is nationalisation with caution. In our Central Bank we shall nationalise. We shall dictate the policy and the monetary content of our pound. We shall bring our reserves back to this country. We shall make it clear to the commercial banks, foreign or indigenous, that we shall dictate the monetary market in accordance with our own trade standards, but at the same time the advisers and the people to carry out this scheme must be experts. Be they Nigerians, or Germans, or Russians, they must be experts who can do it.

It is so clear that money increases when there is confidence. Once confidence is shaken money flies away and is lost money. I am in a position to know this. This confidence must continue. I must say that the Ministry of Finance and the Exchequer of this country have so far taken great care of the Central Bank, and as a result there is abundant confidence in the Central Bank. I think that the Governor of the Bank, Mr Fenton, is doing a very nice work. He comes from England. I do not care about the colour of his skin. I want efficiency, and he has got it. Let this House give a directive to the Ministry that once there is confidence and there are men who can man the important positions let those men continue. But confidence in our monetary system must not be shaken.

Our monetary system is sound. Our pound enjoys great confidence throughout the world, and I want this to continue.

Another thing is that you cannot have an overall control of our financial machinery without dictating how the price of our produce should be fixed. The Minister of Finance talked about the fixing of our prices in consultation with the Regions. It is a very bad financial risk for every Region to fix its own prices of cocoa, groundnut, or palm oil in isolation. There is nothing like financial

isolationism. It is, therefore, very necessary that the Ministers of Finance of the Governments of the Federation should meet to determine that what happens to this country will depend only upon their collective action, acting with the Regional Boards, in consultation with the Central Bank. We want such an interplay. Only with such an interplay can we make sure that a penny sunk into any produce will effect more purchases and, consequently, more production.

There are so many people with various financial theories and financial sentimentalities. Such people think that by cutting down the price of palm produce by one shilling, they would get more money into the coffers of the Government. But it is when that is done that initiative for production is killed.

It is only if the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance of the Federation work in conjunction with the Regional Boards that we can have uniform price rates; that we can know when to raise prices, when to reduce them and when to level them. Only that will help us. But if we continue with this practice of raising or lowering prices at will, our farmers would most likely cease to climb up to cut the palm fruits because they would feel that prices are not stable. But if we cut prices and yet produce more, more revenue will be realised and the Government will collect more money into its coffers.

Therefore, set the experts to work. The financial territory is a territory of professional men. It cannot be run with just the open and naked "strong-eye". Experts must do the work.

I agree with the four theories of diversification made by the hon. Minister of Finance. I do not question them. But there is one thing which I would like to say, and that is that this Budget is one presented without fear, but industrialisation as contained in it is industrialisation with timidity. Industrialisation with timidity is not the answer to the question.

Let me explain myself. The Nkalagu Cement factory has been operating now for over four years and it has since then been producing cement. It can produce up to 400,000 to 500,000 tons of cement. But this is not enough for our use and we are still importing up to 400,000 tons.

What we should do is to gear up our production capacity of cement and increase the volume of production of cement which can be produced at Nkalagu, at Abeokuta and, probably, Sokoto if it goes in for cement production. That will help us greatly. We would produce all the cement that we need and export to West African countries the excess which we do not need.

Let me cite another example. We are spending more than £35 million on textiles alone, and yet there is a textile mill in Kaduna. What is holding us from expanding our mill in Kaduna and intensifying production in existing mills? I know that there will be a mill at Aba soon and in other places, but I am concerning myself now with the mills already in existence.

By industrialising with timidity—scratching little here, small there, an unimpressive amount the other side—we are doing ourselves no good. Let us plunge in and take the current while it serves. Only in this way can the imbalance of trade continue to diminish. We will not be helping ourselves if we continue to take small amounts here and there. We must industrialise in such a way as to be able to export our primary industries which are our produce and also our secondary industries which we are now beginning to have. After all, Egypt exports cement to this country, and so does Israel which has a population of not more than three million. Why, therefore, can we not develop our industries and export to neighbouring countries like Dahomey? What is preventing us from exchanging trade with them by taking what they have and sending them our excess products? It is shameful that, at present, we cannot even produce the maximum of our capacity of consumption. I do hope that the first step in our economic development will be to strengthen and expand those things which we now have and find ways of making them reach maximum capacity of production instead of having them half way.

I said that we are industrialising with timidity because we still allow ourselves to be saddled with experts who come to help us in disguise. They are more desirous of protecting the markets overseas. They give us only little help so as to help their brothers in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world. We should let them know that we are

[DR MBADIWE]
aware of their attitude. We should let them know that we want a production target of 800,000 tons of cement and that they are paid for their knowledge to help us reach that target. If we go by the gradual process of economics, we would never, even in ten years, reach our height.

There is now much talk about imbalance of trade with Japan. We buy £26 million worth of goods from Japan alone but Japan does not reciprocate. I think that the solution is not to make Japan take from us what she does not want. Japan should be invited to set up industries here and help us to industrialise.

I have said before that we are putting all our eggs in one basket. We depend very much on a few countries. When Japan and Russia wanted to industrialise they went throughout the world to invite people of talent from different countries of the world to help them with their industrialisation. We can similarly ask Japan to come here to establish industries and so help us to industrialise.

I have heard so many speeches already on the question of insurance. We welcome the Government's proposal to set up a £1 million Insurance Company, but I would at the same time ask that the Government should examine the existing Insurance Companies to find out which of them are African-owned. By "African-owned" I mean those Companies where sixty or fifty-one *per cent* of the shares are owned by Africans. The Government should not go into the market to destroy these existing African Companies. Rather, the Government should examine those that are already existing and give them support in whatever plans they want to carry out.

As we said before, the Government cannot always run a business, but the Government can always run a profitable business. The best thing is that the Government should start these profit-making businesses and at the same time make sure that the existing companies under the aegis of the Africans are well protected.

I would suggest that the Government should enter into life insurance business. People talk about the enormous profits which insurance companies make on insurance, but I say that not all insurance businesses bring

profit. For example, motor car insurance business is not profitable. I am speaking from practical experience. Most of these insurance businesses do not bring in profits and are not good risks. But there is money in life insurance business. Therefore, I am asking the Government to consider the possibility of entering into this business which is just like the provident fund business, because when people insure their lives they will not all die at the same time; some will live. Even if the Government pays out premiums in respect of the insured, there will still be surplus money. This is how the Government can get some money. I will urge the Government to use its influence to go into this business through which it will be doing very useful services to the citizens of this country. I am sure that men will rather insure with the Government since they will be certain that the premiums will be respected in future. At the same time, they will see these premiums as savings for their children.

One tax measure which the Minister of Finance has not seen fit to introduce is what I would call 'charity tax'. I want the Minister of Finance to consider very seriously the introduction of charity tax, whereby men who wish to contribute to certain social institutions approved by the Government will have up to five *per cent* of the contribution tax free. If the Government is busy with economic development, we should make the citizens of this country to care for their hospitals and schools. If they contribute for such institutions, it will be necessary for them to be entitled to some tax deduction.

I come to the duty on petrol. This has been what I will call the real sovereignty budget.

An hon. Member : That was presented last year !

Dr Mbadiwe : I know, but this is the real sovereignty budget ! I would suggest that in future if we want wage and price stabilisation, we should be careful of how we tax petrol and commercial vehicles. If we can find no way to amend it, let us declare a two-year moratorium, which will be made clear to this country. But if we tax petrol and commercial vehicles, certainly the lives of the people in the rural areas will be affected. Our people do not have

any other means of going to the market : to-day people go from the hinterland to the bigger commercial centres to buy their food, and once we tax petrol and commercial vehicles, food prices go up. Therefore, we want a moratorium. We do not want to give labour the cause to agitate for increase in wages and salaries because it will make nonsense of the Development Programme. (*Interruptions by Mr Bown*). I think the Member of Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) will have to return to his constituency !

Mr M. A. Omisade (Ife Town) : On a point of order. I think the Member for Orlu North West (*Dr Mbadiwe*) should not refer to any hon. Member but should address himself to the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker : While I may say that there may be cause for the point of order raised, I think also that there is cause for Members to comply with Standing Order 27 and keep to their own seats.

Dr Mbadiwe : I suggest that the Development Programme should call for no wage increase, and I appeal to the labour leaders to accept that.

While I say that the Minister of Finance should declare a moratorium on petrol and commercial vehicles, the constant demand for petrol by the Regions should be stopped. We should find another agency because their demand is getting too much and the tax on petrol is getting higher every day. We must put a stop to this. I give you two alternative sources—there can be no elimination without substitution.

The Deputy Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member, in his enumerations, to please note that he has only two minutes more.

Dr Mbadiwe : The Government has called the Regional Governments to join hands with it to monopolise pool betting but some of these Regional Governments have not accepted this offer. I would say that if we tie down in Nigeria the money which our people send to the United Kingdom, we will have surplus money and, therefore, need not tax petrol. The Government should seek their co-operation, although some are not willing. I am sure that if the Government puts its feet down and says that it is not going to increase taxes on things like petrol, they will yield.

Another thing is that there should be an excise duty on soap. Since there is an excise duty on beer and cigarettes, there should also be excise duty on soap.

I thank the Minister of Finance for this excellent Appropriation Bill. Once we have heeded to this sovereignty and known what we are going to avoid, then we can sing with Longfellow as *Omimi* sang in last year's budget :—

*“Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State !
Sail on, O Union, strong and great !
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate !”*

I beg to support.

5.11 p.m.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill and to praise the Federal Government for its bold Development Programme.

I also want to register my thanks—

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : On a point of order. The hon. Member is reading his notes. It may be that he was trapped in a lift the other day and that is why he is reading now.

The Deputy Speaker : I think that point of order is premature.

Mr Babatunde : The hon. Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is just trying to retaliate.

I wish to thank the Federal Government on behalf of my Emir and the entire people of Ilorin Province for the Niger Dam project. This project will create more employment for the people in the area and more business for the local traders. Also, the missionaries will be successful in their evangelistic work because more people will come to Ilorin Province as a result of this project.

As for the austerity measures, I would like this House to let the whole nation know the need for them because people are thinking already that these measures become necessary due to Government's misappropriation of its funds or that Government is running short of

[MR BABATUNDE]
money. They should be told that we introduced these measures because we do not want our various development projects to depend solely on money borrowed from abroad.

I would suggest that the Federal Government should allow some Regional Governments to introduce some types of austerity measures alone. When I say Regional Governments, I mean the Action Group Government of the West. At the time when the Western Regional Government promised the daily paid workers 5s-0d, the Eastern Regional Government promised 7s-6d but when they saw that it could not work they retreated, but the Western Government persisted and ran short.

Mr Brown : On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like the hon. Gentleman to be a little bit slow so that we may be able to follow his speech.

The Deputy Speaker : All that the Standing Orders provide is that the official language is English ; it does not really dictate the speed at which any Member should speak.

Mr Babatunde : Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want the hon. Minister of Finance to know that everybody is appreciative of his good work, but he must listen to our protests about the increased price of petrol because Members on all sides of the House have been hammering against this increase. He should review this matter immediately.

I want to subscribe to the idea of the Prime Minister touring all African countries. I would not recommend to him to do so unless he is invited. If the Prime Minister goes to any place uninvited and he does not have a good reception, we have no grounds for complaint and this will be a disgrace to Nigeria.

I want also to speak about prison and prisoners' comfort. I know that many things have been said about this but I want some people to know that a prison is not a place of comfort and that if prisoners are given too many amenities people will want to go there. I would suggest that the Government should empower prison authorities to give political prisoners and minor offenders only some latitude, but certainly not all prisoners.

On the question of Lagos affairs, I would like to advise the Minister of Lagos affairs to listen carefully to the agitation of White Cap Chiefs. I would mention especially Chief

Kosoko who was alleged to be directing Market Women to do everything that the Action Group told them. He infused fear into them and asked them to do all sorts of things, not in the interest of peace in Lagos, by agitating unnecessarily. If all the Chiefs should have pardon, this Chief Kosoko should be disciplined. I want the Federal Government—

Oba Oladiran : I protest on behalf of Chief Kosoko. There is no reason why he should be dragged into this debate.

Mr Babatunde : The hon. Gentleman is not an agent of Chief Kosoko and it has nothing to do with him.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu) : On a point of order, Sir, I am referring to Order 5 with a view to eliciting some clarification. Order 5 refers to Mr Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and is on page 10. Here it is said that—

“When Mr Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk at the Table, the Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair in the House and shall be invested with all the powers of Mr Speaker until the next sitting of the House.”

(2) Mr Speaker may, at any time, ask the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair temporarily without formal communication to the House”.

I am thinking that when the Deputy Speaker takes the Chair he should be addressed as the Speaker and not the Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker : I think that, first of all Standing Order 5 (1) does not apply in this case. With respect to Standing Order 5 (2), it deals with the powers invested in the Deputy Speaker when he is sitting in the Chair ; it certainly does not deal with appellations.

Mr Babatunde : Thank you very much again, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to subscribe to the question of passport control. If I have my way I will advise the Federal Government to give some priority solely and wholly to people making the pilgrimage to Mecca. I do not support the idea of issuing passports to every Tom, Dick and Harry, because some people obtain these passports to go to England and get stranded. Their guarantors, instead of fulfilling their obligations, apply

to the Federal Government to repatriate these short-sighted people at Government expense. This is wasteful and some measure of control should be exercised. Only people going to Mecca should be given some latitude.

I would also suggest that the issuing of passports should not be taken away from the Police.

Chief Akin Olugbade : On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker the debate now is on the Budget Speech or the Appropriation Bill and it is because so many people want to speak that the time is being extended till twelve o'clock to-night. I suggest that these irrelevant statements being made by the hon. Member should be disallowed.

The Deputy Speaker : I would have objected and indeed, I would object to any speaker going into very great details of any particular Head, Ministry or Department, but so far the hon. Gentleman speaking has confined himself to very brief passing statements. (*Interruptions*). Order. I do sincerely think we will get on much more quickly and much better if we are not terribly sensitive.

Mr Babatunde : As I have said, I do not wish that the business of issuing passports be taken away from the hands of the Police. However bad the Police may be, we cannot compare them with civilians because if they caught and brought to court, the court will deal more severely with them than with ordinary civilians. An example of this is the Western Government. They took away the licensing of vehicles from the hands of the Police and we now see how many people go to prison out of the District Council clerks. That is the reason why I say that the Police should retain the work of issuing passports.

Talking about industrialisation, we said that we should invite Japan. I agree that they should be invited to come here but we should not lose sight of clinging to the British manufacturers because all Japanese goods and manufactured articles are very inferior. I do not say that they should not come here, but we should be very careful not to risk our total resources on Japanese industries alone.

When we hear that British manufactured goods are the best, it is no exaggeration at all. I heard many people talk ill about the British

Government and their activities, but the British people are just like teachers. No one wants to forget his teacher or the principal of the college he attended. Whatever we may be to-day, they have brought us up. If there are some of them that are not good, we should deal with them singularly.

For instance, in our Province, we have a very good Resident, Mr B. A. Abbott, who happened to be my principal before. He and the Secretary-Typist in his office are all such good people that we would like them to be here for twenty-five more years.

The Deputy Speaker : We are dealing with the general economic and financial policies of the Federal Government, and if the hon. Gentleman would insist on elaborating on the qualities of a British gentleman, he might as well relate those sterling qualities to the Government's financial policy.

Mr Babatunde : Talking about insurance Companies, I have been identified with insurance companies for many years and I wish to sound my warning to the Federal Government, not to listen to people trying to put their hands into this business. I want every hon. Member to know that the insurance companies will very much like that we take out insurance for our cars—those that are compulsory—but the idea of comprehensive insurance that will throw them into liability, they do not care whether it is taken or not. I have to sound the warning that it is not a paying business at all. It needs to be well examined. If the Government does not examine it well, we will see that Government's money will merely be lost in paying compensation.

According to the Deputy Speaker, I will leave some points that I want to make and deal exclusively with finance.

The Budget that has been drawn up shows us what we have to do and I want the nation to know that we have not adopted austerity measures because the Government has run short of money. We just want to show the nation that we can make some sacrifice of a kind, starting from the Ministers and the Legislators.

As I am not given to making long speeches, I beg to support.

5.25 p.m.

The Minister of Finance : First of all, I must say that I am both deeply touched and genuinely grateful for the almost universal support which all sides of the House have given to the policies which I outlined in my Budget Speech and for the many constructive suggestions which have been offered. This spirit of co-operation and the restraint, which have characterised the debate, at once portray our growing maturity and provide an excellent augury for the future.

The whole aim of the monetary and financial policies which I outlined two weeks ago was to make possible the successful implementation of the National Development Plan and, in particular, to accord with our reasonable national aspirations that our economy should stand on its own feet and not be dependent upon any other. Some Members indeed may have been surprised that the Federal Government should have adopted all these far reaching policies covering so many fields of our economic life.

It is true that suggestions covering some aspects, but by no means all, of the policies which I announced have been advocated both in this House and elsewhere, but the Federal Government will not be blown by the wind of political opportunists. We are not hasty climbers and we do not rush in where angels fear to tread without thought of the consequences. We give the most thorough consideration to all the manifold implications before embarking upon any major shift in policy. Indeed we should be failing in our duty if we did not do so. Prudence rather than undue conservatism is our watchword.

It is obviously impossible for me, in replying to the debate, to deal with all the valuable suggestions made by Members from all Sides of this House who have spoken. Nevertheless, I can assure this House that all the points raised have already been noted and are even now being examined. I cannot promise that the Government will accept all the suggestions made—some of them are in fact mutually contradictory. One Member suggested, for instance, that Government should make available housing mortgages and loans at a much lower rate of interest than now prevails. Another Member, on the other hand, suggested that the rate of interest which Government had proposed to pay on the new Savings Certificates

—five per cent per annum—was too low. If Government is to pay more for the money which it itself borrows, it is difficult to see how it can lend to others at a cheaper rate. But I can assure this House that every suggestion made will receive the most careful consideration.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : What about the interest on Treasury Bills to the Lagos Town Council and the Nigerian Tobacco Company ?

The Minister of Finance : Treasury Bills to the Nigerian Tobacco Company ! We do not give the proceeds on Treasury Bills to any other Company. The proceeds on Treasury Bills are either utilised by the Federal Government or are given on loan to the Regional Governments.

Chief Akin-Olugbade : I am referring to the interest on it.

The Minister of Finance : The interest that is payable is universal. It does not discriminate. If one invests his money in it, or in any other Company for that matter, indigenous or expatriate, naturally, the rate of interest is the same according to the denomination.

Several Members, notably the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*), spoke about external loans, complaining that I gave no details of where the money was to come from, how it was to be repaid, and what other strings might be attached to it. I spoke at some length on these questions in my Budget Speech, referring to the firm offers of aid which we have already received. It is not reasonable to expect that foreign governments and institutions would have by this time committed themselves to making available the whole of the external finance which we require.

Before we can expect them to do this they must have had an opportunity to scrutinise our Development Plan and, particularly, to satisfy themselves that Nigeria for her part is doing her utmost to put her house in order and to mobilise her own resources—with due deference to “K.O”, “to mobilise all the mobilisables”. This condition, I am sure, has now been satisfied with the adoption of the policies which I and my colleagues in the Regions have already announced. It is my