



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

---

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

***FIRST PARLIAMENT***

**THIRD SESSION**

**1962-63**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Comprising Period

5th—7th, 10th—13th December, 1962

PRICE : 5s NET

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION  
LAGOS

*Federal Parliament Debates*

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

PRIME MINISTER .. .. .	Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, P.C., K.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF DEFENCE .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF FINANCE .. .. .	The hon. Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G., M.P.
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION .. .. .	The hon. R. A. Njoku, M.P.
MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, M.P.
MINISTER OF LABOUR .. .. .	The hon. J. M. Johnson, M.P.
MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY .. .. .	Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima, M.P.
MINISTER OF EDUCATION .. .. .	The hon. Aja Nwachuku, M.P.
MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari, M.P.
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki, M.P.
MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER .. .. .	The hon. Maitama Sule, M.P.
MINISTER OF INFORMATION .. .. .	The hon. T. O. S. Benson, M.P.
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, M.P.
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS .. .. .	The hon. Olu Akinfosile, M.P.
MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS .. .. .	The hon. Musa Yar'Adua, M.P.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE	Dr the hon. T. O. Elias
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS .. .. .	The hon. Jaja Wachuku, M.P.
MINISTER OF HEALTH .. .. .	Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (NAVY) .. .. .	The hon. M. T. Mbu, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS .. .. .	Senator the hon. Dr E. A. Esin
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS .. .. .	Senator the hon. Nuhu Bamalli
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (POLICE) .. .. .	The hon. M. A. Olarewaju, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE .. .. .	The hon. J. C. Obande, M.P.

**MINISTER OF STATE NOT OF CABINET RANK**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE The hon. Chief H. Omo-Osagie, M.P.

**FEDERAL MINISTERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

**Cabinet Office**

PRIME MINISTER .. .. .	Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, K.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (POLICE) .. .. .	The hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES .. .. .	S. Lana, Esq., M.P. H. M. Adaji, Esq. M.P.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations**

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMON-WEALTH RELATIONS .. .. .	The hon. Jaja Wachuku, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE .. .. .	Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin.
MINISTER OF STATE .. .. .	Senator the hon. N. Bamalli.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	M. O. Okilo, Esq., M.P.

**Ministry of Defence**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (ARMY) .. .. .	The hon. J. C. Obande, M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE (NAVY) .. .. .	The hon. M. T. Mbu, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	Mallam Ibrahim Tako, M.P.

**Ministry of Finance**

MINISTER OF FINANCE .. .. .	The hon. Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G., M.P.
MINISTER OF STATE .. .. .	The hon. Chief H. Omo-Osagie, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	T. A. Lamuye, Esq., M.P.

**Ministry of Transport and Aviation**

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION .. .. .	The hon. R. A. Njoku, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	F. E. Offor, Esq., M.P.

**Ministry of Works and Surveys**

MINISTER OF WORKS AND SURVEYS .. .. .	Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	Mallam Usumanu Maitambari, M.P.

**Ministry of Labour**

MINISTER OF LABOUR .. .. .	The hon. J. M. Johnson, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	M. A. Ezonbodor, Esq., M.P.

**Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY .. .. .	The hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	Mallam Usman Ahgulu Ahmed, M.P.

**Ministry of Education**

MINISTER OF EDUCATION .. .. .	The hon. Aja Nwachuku, M.P.
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. .	D. C. Ugwu, Esq., M.P.

*Federal Parliament Debates*

**Ministry of Establishments and Service Matters**

MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND SERVICE MATTERS .. .. . Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari, M.P.  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. . Alhaji A. A. Koguna, M.P.

**Ministry of Internal Affairs**

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS .. .. . Alhaji the hon. Usman Sarki, M.P.  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. . Mallam Aliyu Zungun, M.P.

**Ministry of Mines and Power**

MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER .. .. . The hon. Maitama Sule, M.P.  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. . Mallam Umaru Abba Karim, M.P.

**Ministry of Information**

MINISTER OF INFORMATION .. .. . The hon. T. O. S. Benson, M.P.  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. . M. Amechi, Esq., M.P.

**Ministry of Health**

MINISTER OF HEALTH .. .. . Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. . Mallam Hamza Gombe, M.P.

**Ministry of Communications**

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

**Ministry of Lagos Affairs**

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

**Ministry of Economic Development**

MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .. .. . Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim, M.P.  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY .. .. . F. U. Mbakogu, Esq., M.P.

**Ministry of Justice**

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

*Federal Parliament Debates*

**WHIPS**

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

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS**

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri, M.P.
THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	E. C. Akiwuwu, Esq., M.P.
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS .. .. .	B. A. Manuwa
CLERKS ASSISTANT .. .. .	J. O. Adeigbo M. A. Tahir
SECOND CLERK ASSISTANT .. .. .	O. A. Coker
PARLIAMENTARY CLERK .. .. .	R. I. Amaefula
SERJEANT-AT-ARMS .. .. .	E. A. Mensah, M.B.E.
DEPUTY SERJEANT-AT-ARMS .. .. .	M. C. Onyeje

**OFFICIAL REPORT OF DEBATES—(HANSARD)**

ACTING EDITOR .. .. .	H. O. Nwokoye
ASSISTANT EDITOR .. .. .	E. O. Elendu
OFFICIAL REPORTERS .. .. .	L. O. Antonio Mrs I. Harriman O. Onamuti D. O. Eneanya

## FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NIGERIA

### STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
The Deputy Speaker	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Alhaji K. O. S. Are	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr D. E. Y. Aghahowa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr B. O. Ikeh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr L. J. Dosunmu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Attorney-General	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Alhaji Mohamed-Munir	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
Mr W. O. Briggs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Muhammadu Bayero	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Muhammadu Bida	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Muhammadu Koro	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr V. L. Lajide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Ismaila Abdullahi Bici	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr D. D. U. Okay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr D. Senu-Oke	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr P. O. Eleke	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Oba S. A. Oladiran	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
M. L. Alhaji Daura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr E. O. Ifezue	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr U. O. Ayeni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr A. Adedamola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr A. F. Odulana	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Mr G. O. D. Eneh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
M. Muhammadu Gwarzo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Zanna Isa Monguno	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Ahmadu Fatika	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr M. A. Omisade	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr I. A. Brown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Minister of Commerce and Industry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Minister of Communications	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The hon. M. T. Mbu, Minister of State	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

### PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Mr P. U. Umoh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
Mr G. Yilgwen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr W. J. Falaiye	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Chief A. Akerele	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr S. A. Babatunde	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Alhaji Ahmadu Babandi, Ciroma Gumel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Saidu Zango	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE—*continued*

Mr H. O. Chuku ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr B. N. Ukaegbu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr R. N. Muojeke ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr J. U. Udenyi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr D. N. Chukwu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr U. O. Ekenekot ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
M. Galadima Maikiyari ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Attorney-General ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Mr Speaker ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
The Deputy Speaker ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Alhaji Bello Dandago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr D. N. Abii ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Minister of Lagos Affairs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Minister of Works and Surveys ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Minister of Education ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member

## FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

### Alphabetical List of Members of the House of Representatives

<i>Member</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
<b>NORTHERN MEMBERS</b>	
<b>A</b>	
M. Salihu O. Abdul .. .. .	Igbirra
M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa .. .. .	Musawa
M. Rilwanu Abdullahi .. .. .	Dawakin Kudu
Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman .. .. .	Gwadabawa South
Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar .. .. .	Katagun South
M. Garba Jabo Abubakar .. .. .	Sokoto South West
M. Ibrahim Gusau .. .. .	Sokoto West Central
M. Abubakar, Magajin Gari .. .. .	Ruma Tsaskiya
M. Mohammed Sani Abubakar .. .. .	Bauchi North East
H. M. Adjaji, Esq. .. .. .	Igala East
Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki .. .. .	Bauchi South East
M. Usman Angulu Ahmed .. .. .	Kwara
M. A. Muhammadu Alangade .. .. .	Ikara Makarfa
M. Aliyu, Sarkin Puloti .. .. .	Dange Shuni
M. Yakubu Allanana .. .. .	Akwanga
M. Auta Anzah .. .. .	Jema'a
J. A. Assadugu, Esq. .. .. .	Numan
<b>B</b>	
Alhaji Ahmadu A. Baba .. .. .	Kano West
Alhaji Ahmadu Babandi .. .. .	Gumel East
S. A. Babatunde, Esq. .. .. .	Ilorin Central
M. Baiko Maaji Kachalla .. .. .	Geidam
Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, K.B.E. .. .. .	Bauchi South West
Albatan Yerima Balla .. .. .	Adamawa North West
M. Zubairu Bamu .. .. .	Nassarawa
M. Balang U. Barami .. .. .	Biu South
M. Usman Barkono .. .. .	Adamawa West
M. Abdu Bauchi .. .. .	Kontagora Central
Alhaji Abubakar Bayero .. .. .	Gabasawa
M. Hamidu A. Bayero .. .. .	Gwaram
Alhaji Kabiru Bayero .. .. .	Babura Garki
M. Muhammadu Bayero .. .. .	Bici West
M. Ismaila Abdullahi Bici .. .. .	Jos Central
Alhaji Bello Farar Hula Bichi .. .. .	Bici East
M. Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto .. .. .	Sokoto Central
M. D. Bulus Biliyong .. .. .	Tangale Waya
Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla .. .. .	Abuja
M. Sule Abba Biu .. .. .	Biu North
M. Umaru Micika A. Buba .. .. .	Cubunawa Madagali
M. Atto Bungudu .. .. .	Maradun



<i>Member</i>								<i>Constituency</i>
<b>D</b>								
S. T. Daka, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gaav-Shangev-Tiiev
J. M. Damla, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pankshin West
Alhaji Baba Danbappa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Minijibir
Alhaji Bello Dandago, O.B.E.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwarzo East
L. Alhaji Daura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Maska
Ma Saidu Daura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Daura East
D. D. Dimka, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Angas
Zanna Bukar Dipcharima	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Yerwa
M. Ahmadu Angara Doma	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lafia
M. Abdulkadir Dukku	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dukku Kwami
M. Aminu Suleiman Dutse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dutse West
M. Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Yandaka
<b>E</b>								
J. O. Ede, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Idoma North
D. O. Enefolo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Igala South
<b>F</b>								
Alhaji Ibrahim Ladan Fari	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Jibya Kaita
M. Ahmadu Fatika	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Zaria North West
<b>G</b>								
M. Garba Gada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gada
M. Muktar Gajiram	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bornu North
M. Umaru Galkogo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Minna North
M. Garba, Turakin Paiko	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Minna South
Alhaji Muhammadu Gauvamma	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Hadejia North
C. Tanguz Gaza, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Wukari
M. Sanni Gezawa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gezawa
M. Hamza Gombe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nafada
Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sokoto South Central
Alhaji Umaru Gumel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dutse East
M. Haliru Gwandu, Wakilin Gona	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwandu East
M. Ali Gwarzo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwarzo West
M. Muhammadu Gwarzo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Karaye
Alhaji Usman Gwarzo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kiru
Alhaji Muhammadu Gwate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kura
M. Abdullahi Gwoza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwoza
<b>H</b>								
Alhaji Isa Haruna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Jos South
M. Haruna, Wakilin Daji	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Daura West
Alhaji Musa Hindu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Fune Gujba
<b>I</b>								
M. Abubakar A. Ibrahim	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Muri South West
M. Baba Shehu Ibrahim	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bosari Damaturu
M. Waziri Ibrahim	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kondugamafa
M. Isa Iko	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Zuru

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
M. Yusufu Ilesha .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Borgu
M. Inua, Wakilin Masaka .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gaya North
M. Peter Ipu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Zaria South West
M. Ladan Isa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Isa
Alhaji Zakari Isa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kaduna
M. Abubakar Isandu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Jos North West
M. D. Iyorka, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kunav
<b>J</b>							
M. Muhammadu Janguna .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sabon Barni
D. Jenwe, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Adamawa South
<b>K</b>							
Alhaji Damale Kaite .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kaura
M. Garba Kangiwa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Argungu West
M. Aminu Kano .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kano East
M. Muhammadu Kaoji (No. 1) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwandu South
M. Abdul Karim .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Muri East
M. Ali Nakura Kaura .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kaura Namoda
M. Usman Shehu Kazaure .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dawakin Tofa East
Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Koguna .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Jahun
M. Muhammadu Koro, Madakin Pategi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lafiaji Pategi
M. Datti Kudi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Birnin Kudu
M. Muhammadu Kumo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ako
Alhaji Muhammadu Kura .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Misau
<b>L</b>							
S. D. Lar, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lowland East
M. Shekarau Ka'a Layya .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Zangon Katab
<b>M</b>							
M. Abubakar Tsofo Mafata .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sokoto South
M. Abdullahi Mahuta .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Mahumfashi
M. Abdulkadir Maidugu, Dan Iyan Hadejia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Hadejia South
M. Haikali Maigari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kauru Lere
M. Ahmadu Maiha .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Adamawa North East
M. Dambo Ibrahim Maikaita .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ingawa Kankiya
M. Abdullahi Maikano, Sarkin Rafi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Rabah Wurno
M. Galadima Maikiyari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bornu North West
M. Ibrahim Na Maitama .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kazaure
M. Usumanu Maitambari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwandu West
P. Maken, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chamba
M. Iro Mani .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Durbi
M. Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Marusa-Mashi
Alhaji Mohamed-Munir, Mutawallin Kano .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kano
M. Yusha'u A. Mohammed .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kubau-Soba
M. Ali Monguno .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kaga-Marghi
Zanna Isa Monguno .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chad
M. Kalia Monguno .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dikwa Central
Alhaji Aliyu Muhammadu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gumel West
Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Moriki Zurmi
Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Gobir .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Argungu East
M. Muhammadu Sarkin Gona .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sokoto North Central
M. Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dambatta

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
<b>N</b>							
M. Ibrahim Nadabo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Danja
M. Muhammadu Nalado .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chafe Gusau
M. Wada Nas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kandara Kogo
M. Muhammed Ningi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bauchi North West
<b>O</b>							
J. C. Obande, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Idoma South East
E. A. Odo, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Idoma West
M. A. Olarewaju .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ilorin East
P. B. Olatunde, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ilorin South
M. Abdusalami Olomoda .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ilorin North
M. S. A. Olukotun .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kabba
M. Shekarau Omar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Katagun North East
E. T. Orodi, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ukum Shitire
<b>R</b>							
A. A. Ramalan, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Keffi
M. Ahmadu Ribadu .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Adamawa East
Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Adamawa Central
Alhaji Saiyadi Ringim .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ringim
<b>S</b>							
M. Abba Sadiq .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Auno Magumeri
M. Yarima Saleh .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bedde
M. Sarki Abbas Sanusi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kumbotso Ungogo
M. Shehu Shagari .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sokoto West
M. Usman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bida West
V. T. Shisha, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Iharev Masev
Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange Sokoto .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sokoto South East
M. Shehu Na Ita Sokoto .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gandi Goronyo
Kundu Swem, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kwande
Mallam Maitama Sule .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dawakin Tofa West
<b>T</b>							
Alhaji Aminu Tafida .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Binji Tangaza
M. Ibrahim Tako .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bida East
J. S. Tarka, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Jemgbar
P. Tarkende, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Iharev Nongov
M. Aba Malam Terab .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dikwa North
P. O. Tokula, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Igala North East
M. Usman Turaki .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kontagora South East
<b>U</b>							
M. Muhammadu Sagir Umar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Katagun West
<b>W</b>							
Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sumaila
M. Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Tudun Wada
M. Ibrahim Jalo Waziri .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gombe Central
M. Maina Waziri .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Potiskum
M. Umaru Dan Waziri .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwandu North

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
				<b>Y</b>			
J. A. Yacim, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Igala North West
M. Musa Yar'Adua	..	..	..	..	..	..	Katsina Central
M. Muhammadu Aminu Yelwa	..	..	..	..	..	..	Yauri
G. Yilgwen, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lowland West
M. Abba Yola	..	..	..	..	..	..	Wudil
M. Sarki Dalhatu Yola	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gaya South

**Z**

M. Muhammadu Zaiyana	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gwadabawa North
M. Saidu Zango	..	..	..	..	..	..	Zaria Central
M. Aliyu Zungum	..	..	..	..	..	..	Kanam

WESTERN MEMBERS

**A**

S. A. Abasi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan South
A. Adedamola, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abeokuta
B. A. Adeyemo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshogbo South
R. A. Afolabi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan Central
D. E. Y. Aghahowa, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Benin West
D. K. Aihonsu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egbado North
M. A. Ajasin, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owo South
B. A. Ajayi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ekiti South East
A. A. Ajibola, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egbado South
Chief A. Akerele	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oyo East
E. D. Akinbowale, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ijebu North
Olu Akinfosile, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okitipupa
R. O. A. Akinjide, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan South East
A. M. A. Akinloye, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan North East
J. A. Akinyemi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ilesha Rural
A. Akomolafe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ekiti North East
Alhaji K. O. S. Are	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan North West
Chief O. Awolowo	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ijebu-Remo
U. O. Ayeni, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afenmai North West

**D**

G. K. Dada, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ekiti North West
J. K. de-Omomadia, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Urhobo East

**E**

J. B. Eboigbodi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Asaba West
Chief A. Enahoro	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ishan East
N. A. Ezonbodor, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Western Ijaw

**F**

S. O. Fajinmi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Iwo West
W. J. Falaye, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ondo North East

**G**

D. M. Gbolagunte	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibarapa
------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---------

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
				<b>K</b>			
S. O. Kolade, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oyo South
				<b>L</b>			
V. L. Lajide, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogbomosho North
T. A. Lamuye, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Iwo East
S. Lana, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan East
				<b>M</b>			
Chief S. J. Mariere	..	..	..	..	..	..	Urhobo Central
E. A. Mordi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Asaba East
				<b>O</b>			
M. C. K. Obi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afenmai East
P. D. Oboh, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ishan West
J. D. Odebunmi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egba North
A. F. Odulana, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ijebu South
A. A. Odunrinde, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshogbo North
S. A. Ogedengbe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owo North
J. O. Ogunbiyi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ilesha Urban
S. O. Ogundipe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogbomosho South
E. J. Ogunkanmi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshun South East
D. A. Ogunleye, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ede-Ejigbo
A. O. Ogunsanya, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikeja
Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, C.M.G.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Warri
Chief E. O. Okunowo	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ijebu Central
S. A. Oladapo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ondo West
S. A. Oladiran, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okitipupa South
J. O. Olaore, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oshun North East
T. O. Oloyede, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ife-Ila
Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egba South
M. A. Omisade, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ife Town
A. Opia, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aboh
D. N. Oronsaye, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Benin East
Chief H. O. Osagie	..	..	..	..	..	..	Benin Central
S. A. Oyewole, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ibadan South West
				<b>R</b>			
Chief Ayo Rosiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	Egba East
				<b>S</b>			
D. Senu-Oke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Badagry
				<b>T</b>			
J. A. Taiwo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oyo North West
L. O. Tobun, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Epe
				<b>Y</b>			
S. A. Yerokun, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Oyo Central

EASTERN MEMBERS

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
							<b>A</b>
D. B. Abii, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri East
M. B. Afanideh, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikot-Ekpene South
D. O. Ahamefula, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi South West
J. A. Akor, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ahoada North East
P. O. Akpan, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Uyo South East
E. C. Akwiwu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Orlu South East
F. A M. Amadi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka Central
M. Amechi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Onitsha South Central
							<b>B</b>
W. Briggs, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Degema
I. A. Brown, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Uyo South West
							<b>C</b>
C. Chiedozie, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Enugu
I. O. Chikelu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Udi Central
H. O. Chuku, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bende Central
D. N. Chukwu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awgu North
J. Chukwu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awgu South
							<b>E</b>
A. E. Efiang-Spatts, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Calabar
P. I. Ejukwa, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikrom
P. E. Ekanem, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Enyong South
U. O. Ekenokot, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Opobo South
U. U. Eko, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Obubra
P. O. Eleke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi South East
N. E. Elenwa, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ahoada West
O. C. Ememe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba South
O. J. Eminue, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Eket East
G. O. D. Eneh, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abaja and Ngwo
N. Enwo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afikpo South
T. I. Etukudo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Eket West
V. E. Eze, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Orlu North East
Dr K. Ezera	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bende East
							<b>G</b>
K. Giadom, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoni West
							<b>I</b>
S. U. Idiong, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikot-Ekpene North East
E. O. Ifezue, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Orlu North
J. O. Igwe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ezza
F. U. Ihe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi North East
B. O. Ikeh, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Izi South
V. Iketuonye, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Onitsha South

<i>Member</i>							<i>Constituency</i>
<b>M</b>							
A. U. D. Mbah, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri North
F. U. Mbakogu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awka South
M. T. Mbu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoja West
R. N. Muojeke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awka Central
<b>N</b>							
R. A. Njoku, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri Central
S. Nnaji, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Udi East
Aja Nwachuku, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Afikpo North
V. A. Nwalieji, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka West
N. Nwangbo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ishielu
O. O. Nweke, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikwo
S. F. Nwika, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoni East
J' N. Nwofokoda, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Izi North
Dr B. U. Nzeribe	..	..	..	..	..	..	Orlu West
<b>O</b>							
J. U. Odey, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ogoja East
C. A. Odigbo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bende West
F. E. Offor, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Okigwi Central
F. C. Ogbalu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Awka North
R. B. K. Okafor, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri West
D. D. Okay, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Port Harcourt
Dr P. U. Okeke	..	..	..	..	..	..	Onitsha North Central
M. Okilo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Brass
F. I. Okoronkwo, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba Urban
N. N. Onugu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka East
I. S. Onwuchekwa, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ahoada Central
R. A. Orok, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abak North-West
<b>U</b>							
J. U. Udenyi, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Enyong North
D. S. Udo-Inyang, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Opobo North
D. C. Ugwu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nsukka North
B. Ukaegbu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri South East
N. D. Ukah, Esq., M.B.E.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Owerri North East
B. U. Ukpong, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ikot-Ekpene Central
S. J. Umoren, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Uyo North
P. U. Umoh, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Abak South East
Chief M. W. Ubani	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba Central
<b>W</b>							
J. A. Wachuku, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aba North
<b>LAGOS MEMBERS</b>							
T. O. S. Benson, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lagos North
L. J. Dosunmu, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lagos Central
J. M. Johnson, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lagos South

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 5th December, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## DEATH OF A MEMBER

**Mr Speaker :** I regret to inform the House of the death, since we last met, of Mr Lazarus Nwoye Ezeani, Member for Onitsha North; and I desire on behalf of the House to express our sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Member.

## RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

**Mr Speaker :** I have to acquaint the House that I received letters of resignation from the House from

(i) Alhaji Abdulkadir Koguna, Member for Jahun, as from 1st September, 1962, on his appointment to an office of emolument under the Crown, and

(ii) Alhaji Usman Sarki, Member for Bida West, as from 12th November, 1962, on his appointment as Etsu Nupe.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that I have received letters from Mr Justice Sowemimo as follows :—

*“Judge’s Chambers,  
High Court,  
Lagos,  
Nigeria,  
27th November, 1962.*

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

Sir,

*Section 29 of Cap. 102 of the Laws of  
the Federation of Nigeria, etc., 1958*

*It is with regret that I have to inform you that one of the members of the House of Representatives, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, appeared before me with others on the 2nd November, 1962, in the High Court of Lagos on Criminal Information containing three counts of Treasonable*

*Felony, contrary to section 41 (b) of the Criminal Code, Conspiracy to commit a felony, contrary to section 516 of the Criminal Code and Conspiracy to effect an unlawful purpose, contrary to section 516 (c) of the Criminal Code.*

*He pleaded not guilty and having been refused bail has been remanded in custody since 2nd November, 1962, pending the conclusion of the trial.*

*Yours faithfully,  
Sowemimo,  
Judge.”*

There are three other letters in similar terms in respect of Messrs Tarka, Umoren and Omisade, and all these will be printed in the Votes and Proceedings of to-day’s sitting.

REPORT FROM STANDING ORDER  
COMMITTEE

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that the Standing Orders Committee at its sitting on 5th November, 1962 passed a Resolution as follows :—

*That Mr Speaker do report to the House, That the Standing Orders Committee has this day received, on behalf of the House, the gift of a Speaker’s Chair from the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and has expressed, on behalf of the House, most sincere thanks for this generous and beautiful gift.*

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## COMMUNICATIONS

## Radio Licence

\*O.766. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will make a statement on the revenue from Radio Licence for the first six months of each of 1960, 1961, and 1962.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications** (Mr S. F. Nwika) : The revenue accruing from the sale of radio and television licences during the first six months of the years 1960, 1961 and 1962 was :—

	£
1960 ..	8,848
1961 ..	21,648
1962 ..	65,300 (est.mated)



This large increase in revenue from the sale of licences has resulted from the increased press, radio and television publicity bringing to the notice of the public the legal obligation to obtain a licence and the penalty which may be incurred by failure to do so, and the employment of wireless licence inspectors whose duty is to verify that owners of sets are in fact holding valid licences.

#### New Post Office at Ibadan

\*O.767. Mr S. A. Oyewole asked the Minister of Communications, whether there are plans in the current economic programme for the erection of a new Post Office at Ibadan in view of the congestion in the Post Office which has become very much inadequate for serving the needs of the people in the Regional capital.

Mr S. F. Nwika : Yes, Sir.

#### Telephone Facilities to Ajassepo and Oro

\*O.768. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Communications, when he hopes to extend telephone facilities to Ajassepo and Oro, in Ilorin Division.

Mr Nwika : The extension of telephone facilities to Ajassepo and Oro is receiving consideration in the planning of the 1962/68 Programme.

#### Oro Postal Agency

\*O.769. Mr P. B. Olatunde asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to convert the Postal Agency at Oro in Ilorin Division which attained 26,000 units since 1960 into a Sub-Post Office.

Mr Nwika : Paragraph 12 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 states the criteria which qualify a Postal Agency for conversion to a Sub-Post Office. Such conversion is not mandatory. In the case of Oro there are a number of factors to be taken into consideration, and in particular whether the siting of a Sub-Post Office at that place would make the most effective contribution to development, particularly to the development of postal services in the area East of Ilorin. I have this matter under consideration in the context of the further development of postal services under the new Development Programme and

am therefore unable at present to provide the hon. Member with the information that he seeks.

#### Conversion of Postal Agencies

\*O.770. Mr H. O. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the possibility of reducing the unit of 24,000 which qualified any Postal Agency to Sub-Post Office to 14,000 units.

Mr Nwika : Some of the provisions of Sessional Paper 4 of 1957, including the units qualifying a Postal Agency for conversion to a Sub-Post Office, are being re-examined in my Ministry.

#### Sub-Post Office (Bende Division)

\*O.771 Mr H. O. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, when he will consider the possibility of building a Sub-Post Office to serve Item, Igbere and Alayi in Bende Division, near their community Hospital site, which is considered to be their centre.

Mr Nwika : The volume of business in the area is reflected in the following units of work in the three existing Postal Agencies :

Agency	1960	1961	1962
Item ..	8,696	8,304	7,347
Igbere ..	5,809	5,422	6,248
Alayi.. ..	7,049	7,466	8,090

None of the agencies is therefore qualified for upgrading to Sub-Post Office as the units are below the 24,000 units stipulated in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957.

#### Telephone Facilities

\*O.772. Mr H. O. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, to consider the possibility of extending telephone from Uzuakoli to Elu-Elu County Council at Ozu-Item, which is only 6 miles and from Umuahia to Ikwuano County Council which is about 6 miles.

Mr Nwika : The economic possibility of extending the telephone service to Ozu-Item is being considered in the planning of the 1962-68 development programme.

The question of extending the telephone from Umuahia to Ikwuano County Council will be given the same consideration.

### Amaratu Postal Agency

\*O.774. Mr D. O. Ahamefula asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he intends to convert the postal agency at Amaratu, which has attained the required volume of 24,000 units, to a Sub-Post Office.

Mr Nwika : It is assumed in this answer that the Postal Agency to which the question refers is AMARATU which was opened on 12th December, 1953.

The Units of business transacted by this Agency during the past three years are as follows :—

Year	Units
1959 .. .. .	20,915
1960 .. .. .	23,617
1961 .. .. .	22,674

1962 figure will not be ready until December. If the 1962 figure is as high as those of the 3 previous years consideration will be given to the conversion of the Amaratu Postal Agency to a Sub-Post Office during the 1962-68 programme.

### Ekpoma Sub-Post Office

\*O.775. Mr P. Dame-Oboh asked the Minister of Communications, whether the Ekpoma Sub-Post Office will be converted into a full Post Office before the end of this year, and if not, how soon does he intend to do this.

Mr Nwika : The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's question is No, Sir. Nor can I say how soon Ekpoma Sub-Post Office can be converted. I can, however, assure the hon. Member that when projects for the 1962-68 Development Programme are finally drawn up, claims of all important towns, including Ekpoma, for Departmental Post Office will receive careful consideration.

### Conversion of Sub-Post Offices

\*O.776. Mr P. Dame-Oboh asked the Minister of Communications, if he will enumerate in order of priority the 14 Sub-Post Offices which will be converted to full post offices status in the next six-year development period.

Mr Nwika : Careful consideration is being given to the question of the conversion of Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies to full Departmental Post Offices in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

It is too early at this stage to enumerate the order of priority, but it is certain that this will depend on the relative importance and the volume of business transacted in such Postal Agencies and Sub-Post Offices.

### Telecommunications Facilities for Lau

\*O.777. Mallam Umaru Maltunbi asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware of the urgent need for telecommunications link between Lau and Jalingo *via* Lankaviri and what steps is he taking to provide the service.

Mr Nwika : Although it was proposed to provide Telecommunications facilities for Lau in the 1955-62 programme, the project could not be implemented due to the delay in completing the Plateau Very High Frequency from Jos *via* Bauchi, Gombe, Numan to Yola. Lau was to have been connected to the main trunk network at Numan. Consideration will, however, be given in the planning of the 1962-68 programme for telecommunications facilities for Lau, and Jalingo *via* Lankaviri. It is also expected to complete the Plateau Very High Frequency system to Yola in the 1962-68 Programme.

### Postal Agency for Nwa Igwe

\*O.912. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, when he intends to establish a Postal Agency at Nwa Igwe near the Police station, in view of the long distance from there to both the Postal Agency in Central Annang and the Post Office at Ikot-Ekpen township.

Mr Nwika : No application has so far been received for the establishment of a Postal Agency at Nwa Igwe. When one is received it will be considered on its merit.

### Radio Licence Fees

\*O.913. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, what methods he has evolved to facilitate the collection of radio licence fees annually.

Mr Nwika : Radio and Television Licence fees are collected at Departmental Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices in Nigeria. This is supplemented by extensive publicity and house-to-house inspection of licences.

\*O.194. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, how many

persons have been convicted from 1st January, 1961 to 30th June, 1962 for failing to obtain radio licences.

**Mr Nwika:** Up to the present I have preferred to rely on publicity and house-to-house inspection. These methods have yielded good results in the increasing number of licences purchased and the amount of revenue derived from the issue of radio and television licences. The public have responded well to this campaign.

#### Post Office for Ogbete

\*O.954. **Mr C. O. Chiedozie** asked the Minister of Communications, when will construction of the Post Office at Ogbete in Enugu commence.

**Mr Nwika:** The question of priorities within the Development Programme as a whole, and of individual priorities within specific sections of the Programme, is under review. I regret that in the circumstances I am unable to say when construction of this Post Office will begin.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Trypanosomiasis Research

\*O.778. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Economic Development, in what ways has the country benefited from research carried out by the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Development** (Mr F. U. Mbakogu): As this question is a long one, the answer will be inserted in the *Hansard*.

The answer is as follows—

Trypanosomiasis, carried by tsetse flies, is rife over an area of more than four million square miles of Africa and is both a most serious barrier to agricultural development and a constant threat to human health. This country has benefited in many ways from the work of the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research on the control of both human sleeping sickness and disease in domestic stock.

Apart from working in close co-operation with the Ministries of Health and of Animal and Forest Resources of the Northern Region, in which most of this disease in man and domestic animals occurs, the Institute has recently

carried out fly surveys in potential stock-breeding areas at the request of the Western Region and advised on their suitability. Similar surveys, and also surveys of human sleeping sickness, have been carried out for the Eastern Region and specialized training has been given to some of their staff. Very recently, surveys have been carried out around the campus of the University of Nigeria at the request of the Faculty of Agriculture.

In human sleeping sickness the Institute has tried out new drugs to find out whether they cure the disease more effectively, more rapidly, or with greater safety. One of these, Melarsen, is now in general use in Northern Nigeria and another, Mel W., is under trial with some promise of good results. Work in the Institute has also greatly improved knowledge of the conditions which are liable to lead to epidemic outbreaks of the disease. A very recent discovery is that the Tiv domestic black pig can act as a reservoir of human sleeping sickness—a fact never previously known or suspected.

Many drugs, both curative and protective, have also been tried out for the disease of animals, and the conditions defined in which they can best be used. Work at the Institute has developed one entirely new type of drug and this has proved capable of preventing the particularly virulent form of the disease in pigs which can wipe out a whole herd in a few days and for which there is no other effective treatment.

Other work has shown which are the most dangerous types of trypanosome infections, of which there are many, which are the most liable to become resistant to drugs and how this resistance may be avoided or overcome.

Recent work, still being vigorously pursued, has investigated the amount of infection, and the relative incidence of the different types, in nomadic and settled domestic stock in many different areas of Nigeria, from Benue to Katsina, from Ilorin to Bornu Provinces, and at different times of year. Much entirely new and valuable information has been obtained in these surveys.

Studies on the tsetse fly which carries the disease have defined the conditions under which some are most dangerous to man and also which species in other areas are most dangerous to man also which species in other areas are most dangerous to cattle and under

Federal Parliament Debates

2731

[Oral Answers]

5 DECEMBER 1962

[Oral Answers]

2732

what conditions. Very recently it has been shown that one very widespread species which is a carrier of human sleeping sickness feeds extensively on pigs where they are available and that the pigs are heavily infected with trypanosomes dangerous to cattle and others resembling those which infect men.

Some years ago an entirely new species of tsetse fly was discovered, bringing the total to 22, and was named *Glossina Nashi* in London after the previous Director, Dr T. A. M. Nash.

Much work has also been done to provide the scientific basis for more effective and economical use of insecticides for the eradication of tsetse. By defining the night resting-sites of one kind of tsetse it has been possible to reduce greatly the amount of insecticide that needs to be applied against that species. Other studies of the long term persistence of various strengths of insecticide deposits have shown the conditions under which such treatment is most effective and those under which it may break down. This work continues and is to be extended to other existing and new insecticides.

Finally, the Institute has an international reputation of high standing. (As evidence of this its present Director was recently elected Vice-Chairman of the World Health Organisation's first Expert Committee on Trypanosomiasis and is Chairman of the International Scientific Committee for Trypanosomiasis Research). Its work is of benefit not only to Nigeria but to the whole of Africa; there is no other such Institute in the whole of West and Central Africa and, by continuing to support research on such a vital problem to economic development, Nigeria is serving not only her own needs but also those of the continent as a whole.

**Fish Production**

\*O.779. Mr J. K. de Omomadia asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will state the estimated annual tonnage of fish now produced in the country and what percentage represents import for the past two years.

Mr Mbakogu : Federal Fisheries Service estimates on following quantities of fresh fish utilised in Nigeria in 1961 (dried and smoked fish converted to fresh equivalent) :

	Tons
Nigerian sea fisheries .. ..	28,000
Nigerian fresh water fisheries .. ..	30,000
Imported sea fish .. ..	145,000
Total .. ..	203,000

These figures are necessarily very approximate and it is not possible to compare 1960 with 1961.

\*O.780. Mr J. K. de Omomadia asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether in view of the extreme poverty and ignorance of local fishermen, he will re-orientate the fisheries development programme in order to shift emphasis from pure research to technological training backed by financial assistance scheme to enable fishermen to acquire modern fishing boats and equipment.

Mr Mbakogu : The present fisheries development programme includes both research and technological projects; the technological training now in operation has resulted in an all-Nigerian owned and worked trawler in Lagos. This trawler is financed by the Federal Loans Board and the crew has been trained by the Federal Fisheries Service. This trawler is the first of a projected series of boats to be produced by the same scheme. Other training schemes are also under consideration.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) : May I ask if the Regional Governments are assisting in the fisheries industries or co-operating with the Federal Government.

Mr Speaker : This is a new question.

**Census**

\*O.781. Mallam Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Minister of Economic Development, in view of the inaccuracies in recording census figures in Northern Nigeria whether he will consider the necessity for a re-count.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : I do not know how the hon. Member came to be aware of any such inaccuracies.

Mr J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural) : May I ask the Minister to make a statement on this and allow a full dress debate to follow it.

The Minister of Economic Development : Yes, I will.

## ESTABLISHMENTS

## Accommodation in Lagos

\*O.785. **Mallam Ibrahim Na Maitama** asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will consider providing accommodation for Northern Nigeria Students attending the Federal Training Centre, in view of the difficulty they experience in finding suitable accommodation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Establishments** (Mallam S. Gezawa): The Federal Training Centre, Lagos is not a Boarding Institution and as such any person selected for training in the Centre is responsible for his or her accommodation arrangement in Lagos.

Trainees from the Regions are always informed well in advance, through their Regional Governments that, on arrival in Lagos they should find their own accommodation and also arrange their own means of transport to and from the Federal Training Centre. My Ministry, however, recognises the circumstances of trainees from the Northern Region and the difficulties they are likely to face, and where possible efforts have been made to find temporary accommodation for them. But no assurance can be given that suitable accommodation will always be provided.

## HEALTH

## Denton Street Ante-Natal Clinic

\*O.786. **Mr S. A. Oyewole** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware of the poor condition of the clinic at Denton Street, Ebute Metta, and if he will provide adequate staff and medicine for the clinic in order to release the hardship now suffered by patients who in spite of queueing at the clinic for hours on end frequently go back home unattended to.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health** (M. Hamza Gombe): I am aware that there is congestion at the Denton Street ante-natal clinic on clinic days but the problem is not one of shortage of doctors or drugs but of accommodation. All patients eventually receive medical attention but the old dispensary is now too small to accommodate the patients in reasonable comfort. Under the current Economic Programme it is proposed to build a Health Centre in Ebute Metta. Build-

ing should start early next year and it is hoped that the present hardship would thus be overcome.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

## CENSUS RESULT

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): Mr Speaker, Sir, the actual reason for the delay in releasing the result of the 1962 census to the public is the fact that the Regional Governments have not yet completed the verification which I have asked them to carry out.

Even if there must be verification and appraisal of the first counting, in any case, I must now place before this honourable House the conclusion of the Federal Census Officer, Mr Warren, after he had submitted to me a lengthy report on the preliminary figures he had received in respect of the whole of Eastern Region and in respect of some of Western and Northern Region results. I quote his conclusion:

*The inescapable conclusion to be drawn from my investigations as set out in the two preceding sections of the report is that figures recorded throughout the greater part of Eastern Nigeria during the present census are false and have been inflated. (Prolonged Interruptions).*

*The figures for the five divisions—Awka, Brass, Degema, Eket and Opobo—which have recorded increases of over one hundred and twenty per cent can certainly be rejected out of hand. To make a recommendation as to the action to be taken is not easy, although I consider, subject to the detailed consideration of the individual divisions referred to in the previous paragraph, that there will be no alternative to conducting a complete re-enumeration in the majority of divisions in Eastern Nigeria.*

*The organisation of such enumeration will be no easy task and the selection of enumerators to do the job will present very considerable difficulties. If local people were appointed as enumerators, they would presumably assist the local population as they appeared to have done in the present enumeration just held, to inflate their population artificially to obtain an increased share of amenities.*

*If, on the other hand, enumerators were to be appointed from outside, they would meet*

Sir, I believe that this Chair is also a symbol of another kind. This country and the people

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Federal Parliament Debates

2735

[Census Result]

5 DECEMBER 1962

[Business Statement]

2736

*the difficulties of lack of knowledge of the area and, in many cases, lack of understanding of the language spoken. Furthermore, I imagine that considerable difficulty will be experienced in recruiting people from outside to go among strangers, many of them possibly hostile, with the unpleasant task of exposing a fraud.*

*I feel that the co-operation of the Eastern Nigeria Government should be essential to the success of any re-enumeration, particularly in explaining to their people the importance of obtaining accurate information and convincing them that to produce information which is obviously inaccurate as the present information does not yield any benefit to them but, on the contrary, brings them into disrepute. 18th July, 1962.*

In respect of the Western Region, I quote the Federal Census Officer's report.

*He said: Of the 62 census districts in Western Nigeria, provisional total figures are available for only five due, in my view, to weakness in the census organisation in the Region, and these are shown in Schedule III attached.*

In respect of the Northern Region, no adverse comment of any kind has been made by the Federal Census Officer in his report. (*Interruptions*).

Hon. Members can now see that it is useless to give out any figures to the public under the present circumstances. When I asked the Regional Governments to verify their figures, I had full confidence in their ability and sincerity to carry out the verifications, and I would like to tell hon. Members one thing, that I do not, and nobody should, blame the Regional Governments, as can be seen from my statement, I have even asked the co-operation of the Regional Governments in doing the verification. The fact is that there have been inaccuracies and under no circumstances will I release false figures. It is not going to do any credit to the country, irrespective of anything said by anybody. I shall do my duty and if in the end we cannot arrive at any reasonably accurate figure, as the Census Officer has suggested, there can be no alternative but to do the whole thing again. If that will mean spending £5 million, we shall spend it. If the present Census is not successful, it is neither the fault of myself as the Minister in charge nor of the Federal

Census Officer, it is the fault of those who have been enumerated, and no amount of money spent can be too much if the work is to be done properly. We have spent more than £1 million and I can assure hon. Members that we shall spend more if we must have accurate census.

The whole exercise is this: it is like conducting examinations. We have people carrying out an exercise. Towards the end of the examination, or at the end of it, the supervisor (which is myself in this case) warns the people who have performed the exercise to check their figures. It is not necessary for me as the supervisor to lay down any procedure as to how the candidates can check their figures. It is a straightforward matter of checking to see if there have been over-countings or under-countings. That is the position, Mr Speaker.

### BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to make the following Business Statement for the week ending Saturday, 8th December.

To-day, 5th December, the following Bills will be presented—

- (1) Escort of Prisoners and Other Persons Bill;
- (2) Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill;
- (3) Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill;
- (4) Income Tax Bill;
- (5) Vehicle Licences Bill;
- (6) Flags and Coats of Arms Bill;
- (7) Weights and Measures Bill;
- (8) Lagos Sports Council Bill;
- (9) Tafawa Balewa Square (Adjustment of Boundaries) Bill; and
- (10) Legal Practitioners Bill.

I shall move the Motion concerning the gift of a Speaker's Chair this morning.

Tomorrow, 6th December, the Vehicle Licences, Escort of Prisoners and Other Persons, Admiralty Jurisdiction and Legal Practitioners Bills will be given their Second Readings.

On Friday, 7th December, the Income Tax Bill and the Flags and Coats of Arms Bill will have their Second Readings.

[CHIEF AYO ROSIJI]

in particular, by the way in which we carry on our parliamentary duties under the guidance of your good self, Mr Speaker.

In the short history of this Parliament, there is no doubt that we have progressed immensely. The last Speaker from whom you took over, Sir Frederic Metcalfe, impressed us immensely with his tact, with his dignity and with his intelligence and with his grasp of parliamentary procedure. After Sir Frederic Metcalfe, the present Foreign Minister also acquitted himself creditably. And now, Mr Speaker, it is your good self, and I think that not only every Member of this House, but all our people outside this House whom we represent, will agree with me that the way and manner in which you have carried out your duties, is a matter of pride to us and is a great assurance that we shall not disappoint our friends and those who wish us well.

**Mr R. O. A. Akinjide** (Ibadan South East) : There is no doubt that gifts of this nature from the Mother Parliament are welcome. As a matter of fact, interchange of gifts among parliaments is a sign of friendship. But it is my view that a gift of this nature should be only a museum piece and not actually used on the Floor of our Parliament.

Now, the history of the Speaker's Chair is well-known in Britain to students of political history, and no matter how friendly we may be with Britain, no matter how friendly we may be with the other countries, and no matter how we may wish to accept this from them, we should never forget one issue—the tradition, the spirit and the custom of our own people. We must not follow foreign customs blindly. I happen to know a little history of this country. I know the great customs of the people of Bornu; I know the great tradition, the art, the craft of the people of Benin, of the people of Yorubaland, of the Opopos, of the Fulanis, of the Oyos and so on and so forth.

I will be happier on the day when I see Mr Speaker sitting on a Chair carved either in Bornu or in Oyo or in Benin, and I will also be happier when I see the Speaker's Mace made from wood in Opobo. I think—  
(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! Hon. Members are drowning the Member's speech.

**Mr Akinjide** : The laws we pass on the Floor of this House reflect the spirit, the custom, the tradition, the needs and the yearnings of these people. It is only fair that the materials we use in passing these laws should also reflect our history and tradition.

I support the Motion.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : I should like to support the last speaker, the hon. Gentleman who spoke before me. I think some of these things that are in this House should be symbols of a discarded past. We have many things for which we are very proud which are either—

**Mr Speaker** : Point of order, the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) should first discard his name. Briggs is not a Nigerian name, Sir.

**Mr Briggs** : There is nothing in a name at all, it is the person that matters.

As I was saying, quite seriously, I think they are symbols of a discarded past—a past we should like not to remember. We should like to forget that it is an imperialist past. We have quite a lot of things which are valuable in our institution and which I think we should introduce gradually into this House. But at present, it would appear as if we are trying to forget nothing at all; we are trying to break away with nothing at all.

**Mr Speaker** : Point of order, Mr Akwivu.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : The hon. Member for Degema is protesting in an English suit.

**Mr Briggs** : I should like to remind the hon. Gentleman that I am looking forward to a day when I shall come here, if possible, with—

**Mr Speaker** : Point of order, Chief Rosiji.

**Chief Rosiji** : The hon. Member for Degema is a practitioner of the British Bar.

**Mr Briggs** : Anyway, leaving that aside, I should say also that the Speaker's Chair, as the Minister of Finance has said, is a symbol of democracy whatever we may say. And if we accept that, I hope there will be more opportunities which will be created in this

Federal Parliament Debates

2743

[Gift of Speaker's Chair]

5 DECEMBER 1962

[Adjournment]

2744

country for other sections of the Nigerian community and all the Nigerian political opinions to occupy that Chair as well.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Ordinarily, there would have been no need for me to reply to the speeches that have been made, but I think I have a sacred duty to show to the world that we are not an ungrateful lot. One or two statements have been made on the Floor of this House which I think ought to be corrected in the interests of the good name of this Parliament and of our country. It is never the Nigerian tradition nor the tradition of any civilised people to say unkind words about someone who has presented them with a gift. And what is more, this Chair is not materially different from any other furniture which I have seen in the house of the hon. Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) and I have never seen any chair made from Ogbomosho or Oyo or Abeokuta or Ibadan for that matter. So, when my hon. Friend, Mr Akinjide, supported the well-known critic of this House, the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*), in suggesting that we must bring one Chair from Sapele, another from Ogbomosho, another from Ibadan, another from Owode and all the rest of it, I wondered how many times we should

change your Chair in this House. I have no doubt that nobody would welcome a Speaker who changes his Chair as some people do.

Finally, I think that I speak for this House on this Motion when I say that we express our grateful thanks to those people who thought of us and have prepared a Chair for our Speaker with the symbol of "Unity and Faith," and I think we should justly be proud of it.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House approves and wholeheartedly confirms the expression of thanks to the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, offered on its behalf by the Standing Orders Committee, for the gift of a Speaker's Chair on 5th November, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to eleven o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Thursday, 6th December, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order, I have to report to the House the position of the parties in Opposition. At the last meeting of the House I promised that I would clarify the numbers of the different parties in the Opposition due to some controversy over that matter. The position is as follows :—

U.P.P.	..	..	25
Action Group	..	..	20
U.M.B.C.	..	..	9
N.P.C...	..	..	7
N.C.N.C.	..	..	2
Those who have not declared	..	..	3

**Mr Assadugu rose.**

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order, Mr Assadugu can make his personal explanation after Questions.

## PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** The following Paper which has been published in the *Supplement to Official Gazette* No. 95 of 29th November, 1962, copies of which have been distributed to Members, is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

The number of Police Officers (men) of all ranks in the Mid-West on 30th June, 1962 was 714. Their distribution station by station is as follows :—

Province and Station	SPOs	Insprs.	NCOs	Con- stables	Total
AREA HEADQUARTER					
Sapele .. .. .	1	2	2	3	8
DELTA PROVINCE :					
Provincial HQ. Warri .. .. .	2	1	6	28	37
Divisional HQ. Sapele .. .. .	2	2	11	40	55
Sapele Police Station .. .. .	—	2	12	51	65
Warri Urban Division .. .. .	1	4	10	36	51
Warri Police Station .. .. .	—	—	11	39	50
Daodu Police Station .. .. .	—	—	2	19	21
Ughelli Rural Divisional HQ. .. .. .	1	—	5	15	21
Ughelli Police Station .. .. .	—	1	2	15	18
Burutu Divisional HQ. .. .. .	—	1	4	10	15
Burutu Police Station .. .. .	—	1	2	20	23
Kwale Police Station .. .. .	—	1	3	14	18
Forcados Police Station .. .. .	—	—	2	6	8
Delta M.T.D. .. .. .	1	1	1	14	17

(1) The Public Funds of the Federation (Disbursement) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1962, Legal Notice No. 162 of 1962.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## POLICE

## Local Government Police

**\*O.787. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Prime Minister, whether every policeman in the Local Government Police Force reaches entry standard for entry into the Nigeria Police Force and, what is to be done now with those below the required standard.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr A. Isandu) :** The standards of entry to the Local Government and the Native Authority Police do not conform with those of the Nigeria Police.

The continued employment of the Local Government and the Native Authority Police is the concern of the employing agency.

## Distribution of Policemen

**\*788. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Prime Minister, how many police officers (men) of all ranks were in the Mid-West on 30th June, 1962 and whether he will provide a table showing their distribution station by station.

**Mr Isandu :** As the information required is extensive, I shall, with the permission of Mr Speaker, circulate it in the Official Report.

The answer is as follows :—

Federal Parliament Debates

2747

[Oral Answers]

6 DECEMBER 1962

[Oral Answers]

2748

Province and Station	SPOs	Inspers.	NCOs	Con- stables	Total
<b>BENIN PROVINCE :</b>					
Provincial HQ. Benin .. .. .	3	1	6	10	20
Divisional HQ. Benin .. .. .	1	6	13	24	44
Benin Police Station .. .. .	—	2	7	23	32
W.A.I.F.O.R. Police Station .. .. .	—	—	2	6	8
Divisional HQ. Asaba .. .. .	1	1	5	16	23
Asaba Police Station .. .. .	—	1	7	16	24
Agbor Police Station .. .. .	—	1	3	17	21
Ogwashi-Uku Police Station .. .. .	—	—	3	11	14
Divisional HQ. Auchi .. .. .	—	2	1	33	37
Auchi Police Station .. .. .	—	—	3	12	15
Ubiaja Police Station .. .. .	—	1	4	15	20
Ekpoma Police Station .. .. .	—	1	8	30	39
Agenebode Police Station .. .. .	—	—	1	9	10
<b>TOTAL (MEN)</b> .. .. .	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>714</b>

**Police Stations**

\*O.789. Mr H. O. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, how many Police Stations are there in each Region.

Mr Isandu : There are 48 Police stations in Northern Nigeria, 54 in the West, 85 in the East and 38 in Lagos area making a total of 225 Police Stations in the Federation.

**Police Motor Vehicles**

\*O.790. Mr H. O. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, how many motor vehicles are supplied to each of the Regions for Police use, and what is the method of allocation.

Mr Isandu : Motor vehicles for Police use are allocated according to the numerical strength of the Nigeria Police in a Region and to the extent of the area as a subsidiary factor. There are 204 vehicles in the North, 165 in the West, 176 in the East, and 142 in Lagos. These consist of motor cycles, saloon cars, mini-buses and land rovers.

Dr P. U. Okeke : Does the Minister always meet the requirements of the Police in the Regions, supplying all their needs ?

**Allocation of Police Constables**

\*O.791. Mr H. O. Chukwu asked the Prime Minister, how many Police Constables are allocated to each of the regions stating their respective ranks and basis of allocation.

Mr Isandu : Police constables are allocated to the Regions in accordance with the survey of police establishment which is based partly on a

ratio of police to population and partly on the extent of the area of the Region. At present there are 2,542 Police Constables in the Federal Territory, 2,523 in the North, 2,662 in the East and 2,039 in the West. Constables are graded first, second and third class but as these grades fluctuate, there is no fixed establishment for them and no separate record is kept.

**CABINET**

**Oversea Tours**

\*O.793. Mallam Ibrahim Na Maitama asked the Prime Minister if he will reduce the size of parties accompanying Ministers on oversea tours.

Mr Isandu : Efforts are being made, and will continue to be made to reduce both the number of overseas tours and also the number of officials who accompany Ministers on such tours.

**POLICE**

**Accommodation**

\*O.915. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider the desirability of providing the Police at Ikot-Ekpene with permanent quarters and offices.

Mr Isandu : Provision has been made in the 1962-63 Police Building Programme to build permanent quarters at Ikot-Ekpene. New offices will be built when funds are available.

Mr Afanideh : May I know how soon funds will be available ?

### Thugs at Campaign Meetings

\*O.917. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Prime Minister when he intends to convene a meeting of all political leaders with a view to discussing ways and means of abolishing the use of thugs at future political campaign meetings.

**Mr Isandu:** All political leaders have from time to time decried publicly the use of thugs at political campaign meetings. I do not intend to convene a special meeting to discuss this matter.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, it appears that Question O.794 is omitted.

**Mr Speaker:** Which one? Mr Muojeke may ask Question O.794.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### Defeat in Security Council

\*O.794. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, if he will explain why Nigeria was defeated by Morocco in Nigeria's bid to secure a place in the United Nation Security Council.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Mr M. O. Okilo):** The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs is going to make a full statement on this issue at a later date.

**Several hon. Members:** When?

### Diplomatic Missions Abroad

\*O.844. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, how many Nigerian Embassies or Consulates have been opened in the Continents of Asia and Europe.

**Mr Okilo:** There are at present three Nigerian Missions in Asia and six in Europe. The Missions are in India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, U.S.S.R. and Belgium.

## EDUCATION

### Technical Education

\*O.795. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Education, if he will consider establishing one of the proposed Federal Government Technical School at Aba in view of its geographical advantage.

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr D. C. Ugwu):** The Federal Government has no plans for the provision of Federal Technical Schools outside the Federal Territory. The provision of such schools and the question of their siting are matters for the Governments concerned.

### Free Primary Schools

\*O.796. Mr E. O. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Education, what is the total cost of Free Primary Schools built in Lagos Territory between 1st April, 1959 and 31st March, 1962 and how many are built for each Voluntary Agency.

**Mr D. C. Ugwu:** The amount of £976,081-19s-0d was expended on the building of 36 Free Primary Schools in the Federal Territory during the period from 1st April, 1959 to 31st March, 1962. Four schools were built for the Lagos Town Council and 32 for the following Voluntary Agencies:

Roman Catholic Mission	..	7
Anglican Mission	.. ..	8
Baptist Mission	.. ..	1
Methodist Mission	.. ..	2
Muslim Schools	.. ..	8
Others	.. ..	6
		—
		32
		—

2. It should, however, be noted that the construction of some of the buildings, which were completed within the period in question, started prior to 1st April, 1959, while others, begun in the second half of the fiscal year 1961-62, were completed only in the course of the current fiscal year (1962-63).

**Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi (Oshun South East):** May I ask the Minister why only one was built for the Baptist Mission?

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh):** I protest on behalf of the Baptist!

### Graduate Science Teachers

\*O.881. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Education what special inducement allowances are being offered to our indigenous graduate science teachers so as to make them remain and love their profession.

**Mr D. C. Ugwu :** No special inducement allowances are offered to indigenous graduate science teachers.

**Dr P. N. Okeke :** Does the Minister not think it wise for the Federal Government to adopt the same method adopted by the Eastern Region Government and offer inducement to science teachers?

**Mr O. U. Ayeni :** The inducement offered in the Eastern Region is not in the best interest of the teachers.

**Mr K. Diadom :** On a point of order, the hon. Member is making a statement and not asking a question.

#### High-Level Manpower

**\*O.918. M. Muhammadu Kaoje** asked the Minister of Education, what proposals he has for providing the country with a minimum manpower output of 80,000 post-Secondary graduates and not less than 50,000 with intermediate qualification during the next ten years beginning from September 1960.

**Mr D. C. Ugwu :** The figures given by the hon. Member are, of course, taken from Professor Harbison's estimates of Nigeria's needs for high-level manpower, and are as quoted in the Ashby Report. It must be remembered that these are estimated *national* needs and all four Governments of the Federation are concerned in planning to fulfil them. The Federal Government's contribution to the national programme may be found at pages 34-36 of Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1962.

#### LAGOS AFFAIRS

##### Slum Clearance

**\*O.919. Mr I. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, what plans he has to clear the slums in areas on the left of Nnamdi Azikiwe Road, Bamgbose and Lewis Streets of Lagos.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs (Mr E. T. Oródi) :** At present my Minister is considering the recommendations of the United Nations Team of Experts which recently visited Lagos to advise on several aspects of planning. Particular emphasis was given to the Lagos Central Slum Clearance Scheme and it is hoped that a solution to the present difficulties may be found in the United Nations Team's report.

Plans for slum clearance in the area referred to by the Honourable Member which I take to be the area to the west of Nnamdi Azikiwe Road and the North of Bamgbose Street will have to await the completion of the present scheme since it would be quite imprudent to embark on a fresh scheme not only before the other was complete but without taking fully into account the lessons which have been learnt and are still being learnt from this extremely complex exercise heavily charged as it has been with human emotions.

##### Ije Village

**\*O.920. Mr I. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs what plans he has to modernise Ije Village and make living conditions there healthy.

**Mr Oródi :** The matter of Ije Village has been under consideration for some time and it is my intention that this problem should be dealt with not so much by modernising the village on its existing site as by resettling its occupants on the mainland. The possibilities of a site on the mainland are being investigated and details should be available shortly.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr J. A. Assadugu (Numan) :** I wish to speak on the stand of the U.M.B.C. in this hon. House. As you have read in some of the newspapers or heard over the radio, in the Executive Committee meeting and general conference of the U.M.B.C. at Jos, it was decided to break its alliance with the Action Group of Nigeria. But the U.M.B.C. will still team up with them for the time being.

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

**Mr Assadugu :** We will still team up with them for the time being in the Opposition on this side of the House, in the Parliament, of course.

**Several hon. Members :** What of outside?

**Mr Assadugu :** The U.M.B.C. will not ally itself with any political party. Now, we have seen the last carpet crosser.

**An hon. Member :** Who?

**Mr Assadugu :** Hon. Members saw him yesterday, and we the remaining U.M.B.C. Members must abide by the conditions laid down by the Executive Committee and the

[MR ASSADUGU]

General Conference. We affirm that we shall fight the constitutional fight to create the Middle Belt State in the Northern Region of Nigeria and by the grace of God Almighty we shall achieve our demand. Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### ESCORT OF PRISONERS AND OTHER PERSONS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That the Bill for an Act to make provision for members of the Police Force to act as escort for persons remanded in custody or committed to prisons in the Federal territory be read a Second time.

This is a straightforward Bill and I think the object has been clearly explained in the Explanatory Note and I do not intend to make any long speech in introducing the Bill. I would also like to say, that the Regional Governments have agreed that they would at a proper time introduce similar legislation in the Regions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is not controversial and I beg to move.

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

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. The intention, I think, is to remove some of the evils that have been going on in connection with this matter. The Bill still makes it possible for warders, etc., to escort persons on remand. That is the only snag that is still there because a warder is intended to look after people who have actually been convicted. I know of cases where people who were actually committed to prison, after leaving the court, did not actually go to the prison. In some cases it was possible for other persons to be substituted to serve the sentence. Now, if the warder who is expected to receive the prisoner when he does get to prison is also expected to escort somebody from the court, that side of it is still not complete and I would respectfully ask that as time goes on that side of it should be removed so that the escort of people on remand or prisoners from the court should be entirely handled by the police.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief S. J. Mariere** (Urhobo Central): In rising to speak in support of this Bill, I fully realise that it is a Bill that does not require a long debate. I just want to call attention to the portion of the Bill which mentions "Other Persons." By "Other Persons", I think the Bill refers to persons awaiting trial or what is officially referred to as unconvicted prisoners.

As a Justice of the Peace since 1949, it has been my experience to see Police Officers who do not wear uniforms escorting persons awaiting trial and so, it is very difficult sometimes to differentiate the persons escorted and the escort. I will therefore urge that if Police Officers are escorting persons awaiting trial in their civilian dresses such officers should be in uniform. It is very, very important. I realise that the uniforms of the police and the warders at the moment are alike, that may not make much difference. If that is done it will clear the air that the escorted and the escort do not look alike.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I support the Bill.

**Mr J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural): When this Bill is passed into law, it will deal with two categories of people. The first category will be in the set of those people who are conducted to prison remand and the second category those who are actually committed as prisoners. In regard to those who have been Committed as prisoners, I hold no brief. But with regard to those people who are on remand, I feel, Sir, that it is not right that these people should be escorted by Warders. The law presumes anybody standing trial guiltless until it is proved that he is guilty. As long as he is still not guilty, he should be allowed freedom and one such freedom is that he should be escorted only by policemen and not by warders.

Anybody escorted by warders carries a blemish, a sort of stigma, that he has already been found guilty by the law of the land and is already serving some terms of imprisonment. It also puts a sort of psychological depression on the person concerned as well as his sympathisers and the members of the public who see him pass. I hope therefore that the Prime Minister will reconsider this point because that is the point many speakers have talked upon

in the course of this debate. Police officers should escort people who are being sent on remand to prison.

The second point, I would like to make, Sir, is the provision of back-dating this Bill when passed into law. I think it is wrong and improper and even illegal to back-date a Bill still to be passed into law to sometime in 1961. I feel that a Bill of this type when passed into law, should start to operate as from the date of receiving the Assent of the Governor-General acting for the Queen. I feel, and I have very strong suspicion, that there is something mischievous at the back of this Bill. The intention to back-date it to the 1st of June, 1961 is not fair, and I think this portion of the Bill ought to be jettisoned completely. We should lay our cards on the table with the face up and we should move constitutionally in this. Therefore, I appeal to the Prime Minister to reconsider these two portions of the Bill. I beg to support.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): I am happy to hear from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, when moving the Second Reading of this Bill, that the Regional Governments have been consulted and that similar Bills will be introduced in their own Legislatures.

Now, experience has shown that when a person is convicted by a court of law, because of lack of sufficient supervision or alertness on the part of an escort, such a convicted person does succeed in escaping by substituting some other person to serve the sentence for him. This has happened on two occasions. One came up and the person who did that was convicted. Another came up—all in the Eastern Region. The same thing could happen in any other Region. The Regional Governments should therefore be asked to introduce this Bill as quickly as possible.

With these few remarks, I support this Bill.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): I rise to support wholeheartedly the Second Reading of this Bill. I am sure hon. Members will undoubtedly bear me out that this Bill is timely, it is progressive, because it only seeks to legalise the present system whereby Police Officers escort prisoners and other persons to and from the Court.

It is my humble opinion that Police Officers, who are better informed about our laws, can handle this matter more efficiently than our

Prison Warders. I am sure that it is in the best interest of the prisoners themselves that Police Officers should escort them to and from the Courts because Prison Warders may sometimes man-handle them.

I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

#### VEHICLE LICENCES BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide, as respects Lagos, for the issue of licences in respect of motor vehicles and trailers for periods of twelve months and three months from the beginning of the month of issue in the place of licences expiring at the end of the calendar year or quarter in which they were issued; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

Hon. Members are aware that at the beginning of every year or quarter, there is considerable congestion in motor licensing offices. This is because section 53 of the Road Traffic Act stipulates that vehicle licences shall be valid for a calendar year or for a quarter as the case may be. The congestion that this system creates in motor licensing offices is notorious and people are known to have queued up for days outside these offices without being able to obtain licences.

This is a most unsatisfactory situation, both for the public and for the motor licensing officers themselves. The present situation causes a great deal of inconvenience for the public and the licensing officers are overburdened with work at peak periods—only to relax into relative inactivity when the rush is over.

It is important that the work involved should be spread evenly over the year. This Bill seeks to achieve this by altering the period of validity of vehicle licences from the calendar year or quarter to twelve months or three months, as the case may be, from the first day of the month in which the licence is issued. Thus a person who takes out a twelve-month licence in May 1963 would not have to renew it until May 1964. Similarly, if he takes a

## [MINISTER OF FINANCE]

three-month licence in May 1963 it will be due for renewal in August of the same year. I hope that hon. Members will agree that apart from spreading the work evenly over the year in Motor Licensing Offices the new system will prove very convenient to the public, although I must point out that it will take some time before its full benefit will be felt.

This measure has been taken in close consultation with the Regional Governments. Already both the Northern and the Eastern Regional Governments have introduced amendments to their laws in a similar manner. It has been hoped that the change will come into effect on the same date, the 1st of January, 1963, throughout the Federation. However, the Federal Government and the Government of Eastern Nigeria have been able to keep to this schedule. Not only has it been passed in the East, but they are also keeping to the schedule of making it effective as from the 1st of January, 1963. So, when the hon. Gentleman goes back to Abonema he will leave his car at Port Harcourt and cross by canoe!

The Western Regional Government will not be able to amend the Act by the 1st of January, 1963.—

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** There is no Government in the West!

**The Minister of Finance:** There is a Government.

**Mr Briggs:** Crises Government?

**The Minister of Finance:** The hon. Member for Degema is crisis himself.

**An hon. Member:** Mr Briggs?

**The Minister of Finance:** Yes, Mr Briggs is "Mr Crisis".

Therefore, the change will also be introduced there at a later date.

**Mr Briggs:** When?

**The Minister of Finance:** As soon as possible.

I am sure hon. Members will be happy to know that this Amendment will not alter the basic rate of vehicle licence fees. The fees for twelve and three months' licences will remain exactly the same as those now applied to a full year and a full quarter respectively. The schedule of fees will, however, be amended to eliminate the fees for licences valid only for one or two months since such provision will no longer be necessary.

Finally, I am also taking this opportunity to redesign vehicle licence discs. Many hon. Members are aware of the fraud and evasion connected with vehicle licences. The activities of dishonest people are made easy to some extent by the fact that the licence discs in current use are not well-printed, and columns completed in ink or pencil soon get defaced. In the redesigned licence disc the month of expiry will be prominently displayed. Also licences which would expire in 1963 are being printed in a colour different from licences expiring in 1964. For example, a twelve months' licence issued in May 1963, will not expire until May 1964. Such a licence and all others expiring in 1964 will be printed in a colour different from licences expiring in 1963. The aim is to introduce quick visual colour to assist the Police in their work. I realise that this may not be a water-tight arrangement against dishonest people, but I think we have gone a long way to meet the checking of fraud in this regard.

I beg to move.

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

**Chief E. O. Okunowo (Ijebu Central):** I beg to support the hon. Minister of Finance in this Bill which he has just introduced. I am very happy that he has touched the point relating to fraud. Some years ago in this country I remember a gentleman whose name was Mr Barker who was in charge of motor licences. The original receipt would read one thing and the counterfoil another. In view of the fact that the Minister has already touched that point, I think he will be able to ensure that fraud is eliminated.

Most commercial vehicles in this country are bought on hire purchase system. Most people, when they buy these vehicles on hire purchase, want to have them tested by the Testing Officer. You want to see the number of cars waiting for examination. These vehicles always take a very long time to examine, and their owners are compelled or tempted to grease the palms of the police officer or any other person responsible for testing them. To eliminate this sort of thing, I think the Government should be able to empower recognised motor dealers to certify that a vehicle is roadworthy. If they are able to sell cars, they should be able to give a certificate that the vehicles are roadworthy. If you

want to get your vehicle tested you do not need to go there. Whether the vehicle is road-worthy or not, you will see that you get your permit. I have run transport before and I know exactly what happens. When I speak on the Floor of this House I say nothing but the truth. It is very difficult to trap this thing, but it is a thing that obtains in this country. Therefore, I would like the Government to take a positive action about this question of testing so that people would get their vehicles tested in good time. Otherwise, this fraud will continue.

We cannot discuss the question of licences without mentioning something about drivers. Most of our drivers in this country are illiterates. They cannot read the road signs. I think that the Government has done enough by providing in many cases free primary education. I see no reason why there should not be legislation now forbidding illiterates from driving vehicles on our highways. Licences should only be given to people possessing the minimum qualification of Class II.

The other thing I would like to mention is this. If you go on our road from Lagos to Ibadan you will find many old, rotten, damaged vehicles that have not been cleared, and are responsible for most of the accidents on the road. I think the time has come when the Government should ensure that the owners of damaged vehicles should remove them, or the Government should take steps to see that damaged vehicles are removed from the highways and their owners should pay the cost of the removal. When you go to our roads these days you will find many of these damaged vehicles. I think that something should be done about them. There are so many accidents on our roads resulting in loss of lives and I think it is absolutely necessary that the Government should do something about them.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. Opia (Aboh):** In supporting this Bill, I would like to draw one or two points to the attention of the Minister in respect of the difficulties the public always encounter when they go to get their forms for licensing. There is a provision in the law for rebates for idle lorries or cars when they go for roadworthiness test. But it is very difficult to have the execution of this rebate.

The people are not sometimes told that they have to recover their rebates. For instance, if a man pays for twelve months, and then his lorry after six months has to go for roadworthiness test, as is the case, but incidentally after two or three months this transport may be undergoing repairs in order to find itself strong enough to pass the roadworthiness test, and after that he goes for a rebate, the lorry or car owner finds it difficult to recover the rebate for the period of idleness, and licences are very high. Therefore, I feel that the Minister should do something to make it clear, abundantly clear, that people who actually license their vehicles for the whole period of twelve months do not suffer, because their vehicles have to undergo roadworthiness test and suffer idleness as a result of which there will be no business returns. Then it is the place of the licensing authorities to see that the owners of the vehicles recover the period of idleness. Sometimes when one goes to demand these rebates one does not get them and, as a result, one has to pass the back way. *(Laughter)* It is *wuruwuru* that is going on all about.

**Some hon. Members :** *Wuruwuru !*

**Mr Opia :** Well, I feel that in a very progressive Bill like this, there is no reason why we should not have sufficient safeguards for people who have to pay twelve months' licensing fee.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South):** No man is forced to pay twelve months' fees !

**Mr Opia :** It does not matter. Even if it is three months I feel that during the period when the vehicle will be lying idle because of roadworthiness test, the owner of the vehicle must have to recover the idle period.

**Some hon. Members :** Yes !

**Mr Opia :** One finds that during the licensing period one is often told by the licensing clerks that the forms are all finished. Then one finds oneself at the mercy of the traffic policeman, and sometimes one has to pay something.

**An hon. Member :** How much ?

**Mr Opia :** You have touts around the licensing authority's office, and I need not tell you this. Everybody knows that. Has the hon. Gentleman not got a vehicle ? I am telling him what is happening from day to day in vehicle licensing. I feel these safeguards



[Mr Opia]

should be actually made clear, and I would like the Minister to see that they are embodied in this Bill. It is no use when one goes with one's money to license a vehicle one is told that the licensing papers are finished.

**Mr Ekanem :** They want money !

**Mr Opia :** They want money !

**Mr Ekanem :** The papers are there !

**Mr Opia :** The papers are all around !

I feel that I must make those two points clear for the Minister to find out exactly how these safeguards can be embodied in the Bill. But more still, it would be a better thing if the Minister had suggested a little decrease in the licensing fee. It is too much ! (*Applause.*) I travel from my constituency, Kwale, Aboh Division, and by the time I get here I find that my car is worn out, and then I have to get about £90 to license my car to go on a very bad road !

**Several hon. Members :** Tell him !

**Mr Opia :** I feel that this time everything is going high—licensing is going high, cars are going high !

**Several hon. Members :** Tyres !

**Mr Opia :** We want the roads also to go higher in improvement. The roads must be improved to meet the rising cost of licences. Well, the Minister is only making his points in order to get more funds from licensing fees, but nothing has been said about the safeguards of the lorry owners, the car owners, and the people who use the roads.

With these few points, I support the Bill.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) :** I have one point to make as far as this Bill is concerned. The last speaker made a good number of points, but I want to emphasise one of the points which he did not lay sufficient emphasis on, and that is the reduction of licensing fees. When this was introduced last year many Members criticised it as being very high, but the excuse the Minister gave was that it was an attempt to make people to be less interested in buying cars, and as a result have less cars, thereby making proper use of our money. I believe that device has failed, because people continue to buy cars ; they prefer to be called car owners or lorry owners even if the cars and lorries are not used, provided the appendage "car owner" or "lorry owner" is there.

**Some hon. Members :** Aye ! Aye !

[Mr Obi]

Now, the other point is that it has failed, and I am surprised to see Members saying "Aye, Aye" on this at this stage. Consider the number of people present in this House, and if you go out you will be surprised that the number of cars there does not represent one-third of us here. That is due to the fact that perhaps Members find it difficult to license their cars. Therefore, I am appealing to you, Sir, that these licensing fees should be reduced because the aim of increasing the fees has failed. The aim was to prevent people from buying cars, but people have continued to buy cars and lorries despite the fact that after the purchase the cars and lorries are jerked in garages waiting for the year to expire, and after which people jump out again in order that their people may call them car or lorry owners.

Since that has failed, the Government will get more money by reducing these fees, and people will be willing to get them very regularly because it will become convenient to them. I stress the point that there is need for reduction of licensing fees.

I beg to support.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** Hon. Members have made some points, and the only one I would like to make is on the licensing authority in Lagos. At present there are many congestions in various offices in Nigeria, but that of Lagos is terrible, and I suggest that arrangements should be made to open more offices in Lagos. This has made it possible in the past for many lorry or car owners to go to the Western Region to license their vehicles. At least, one-quarter of vehicle owners in Lagos do license their vehicles at Agege. I am, therefore, suggesting that the Minister should see to it that more offices are opened, at least one at Apapa to serve the people there, one at Yaba, and one at Ikoyi. These would ease the congestion in Lagos.

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

**Mr S. A. Ogedengbe (Owo North) :** I have a little observation to make on this Bill.

It is very encouraging indeed to have heard the hon. Minister of Finance this morning say that the Regional Governments are going to pass this law. I would have appealed to the

Minister of Justice that the Law Division of his Ministry should try and co-operate with the other Regional Governments on legislation. Before ten years ago we were having a unitary type of Government. I know that there are differences in the country and I am not suggesting that we should go back to the old days when we had a unitary form of Government. But I say that to take regional autonomy to its logical conclusion will not help us in this country. So, this Bill is very encouraging.

The Prime Minister in moving the Second Reading of the Escort of Prisoners and Other Persons Bill said that there was co-operation with the Regional Governments, and that they were going to do similar things.

Certain laws passed in this Federal Parliament can easily be adopted by the Regional Legislatures. That is the advice I am giving to the Government. As we co-operate in educational matters—and I am happy that the Minister of Education is here—so we should co-operate from time to time in the economic field, in matters affecting our laws, and so on. After all, it is not good for us to talk only of the rule of law. We should believe in it, and if we believe in this rule of law, then this law must reflect the spirit of the people too. This Bill is welcome.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I am grateful for the contributions made by many hon. Members on this subject and I would like to reply to some points made by some hon. Members.

With respect to the hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*)—I may agree with him on other matters—but I am afraid I cannot agree with him when he says that lorry owners should issue Road Worthiness Permits for their own lorries and ply them on the roads.

**An hon. Member**: He said dealers and not vehicle owners.

**The Minister of Finance**: It is all right as he said dealers. The difference between dealers and lorry owners is a difference without distinction because the dealers obviously want to sell as many lorries as possible and most dealers are also transport owners. So it is difficult for anyone to support such a suggestion. The purpose of road worthiness certificate is

to ensure the safety of the people and not the safety of the lorry. Of course, the safety of the lorry is the safety of the people; so, if a lorry is not roadworthy, and one asks the owner, because such owner wants to make money as the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*), to put his lorry on the road so that his lorry might go around as long as he has got his licence for the year in order to save his money, then the object of this Bill will be defeated.

**Mr A. Opia** (Aboh): On a point of Order; I disown the statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance. I did not make such a statement at all.

**The Minister of Finance**: The hon. Gentleman talked about lorry and asked for rebate and it is this statement that I am referring to. One either puts one's lorry on the road when it is roadworthy or one suffers the consequences of one's inability to put it on the road and that is no reason why one should think that rebate ought to be paid if one's lorry is bad. If that suggestion is to be followed it will mean that people whose lorries are already bad mechanically, will like to claim a rebate for no justifiable cause. So, it is impossible for the Government to do that.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): No, no.

**The Minister of Finance**: The hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) says no. Of course, the hon. Member pulls his canoe about instead of taking his lorry or car (*Laughter*).

The hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) mentioned the case of illiterate drivers. The hon. Member will agree with me that in those days when illiterate drivers were driving lorries, there were less accidents on the roads than we have to-day.

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

**The Minister of Finance**: Yes, there were less accidents on the roads. It is true; they were more careful than these so-called educated boys who handle the steering because they cannot find employment in the offices. Driving is a profession, and if somebody is good enough to learn how to drive and is properly licensed, I cannot agree with the suggestion that such a man should be disqualified from driving. No body is illiterate to the point that he cannot read road signs. Police road

## THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

signs are made with arrows and written words and if an illiterate cannot read the written words, he can at least understand the arrow signs and will be able to know where he is going.

I agree that, if it is possible, we should have our drivers educated but some illiterate drivers, I must say, have good sense of responsibility and are very careful because they know their limitations.

**An hon. Member :** But you are not a driver !

**The Minister of Finance :** I am a driver. I obtained a licence to drive my own car when you were still at school.

The question of road worthiness is not part of my duty ; my duty is to collect revenue. But I agree with the view that the testing of lorries should be done expeditiously and efficiently. I am not suggesting that there has been no delay ; the testing of a lorry or a trailer requires some time and one ought to be able to test it properly otherwise people will just patch things up and bring them to the policemen and expect the policemen to pass the lorries without proper examination. The lorries will then go on the roads without brakes and run into some precipice and take tolls of lives in the country. I feel this is very difficult. No one is suggesting that there are no unnecessary delays but much as there are delays, there are also good reasons to check the lorries properly before they are licensed, and I think the time has come, in view of the increase of lorries in this country, for more vehicle inspectors to be employed by the police.

The final point made by the hon. Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) is that the number of vehicles outside this House does not amount to the number of hon. Members here. If that is so, then I think I should check with the Clerk of the House whether Mr Obi has drawn his travelling allowance on a false voucher. (*Laughter*).

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) :** Sir, I protest. I want to say that I have brought my car and that it is fully licensed.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

VEHICLE LICENCES BILL : CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

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

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Finance).*

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** Some hon. Members have described this Bill as a timely one and I rise to associate myself with them.

I want to mention particularly those international drivers coming to this country. For instance, somebody going to Ibadan, leaving Lagos, making his way through Shagamu to Iperu, on and on to Ibadan, will see that the road signs are there, but the names of the villages through which he will pass are not there. He does not know when he gets to Shagamu. It is not written there. He will never find it there, and this is one of those things—

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. This is not licensing.

**Mallam Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central) :** In supporting this Bill, I should like briefly to comment on two points which I find have not been tackled. Though the advantages which may accrue from this Bill have been made abundantly clear by the Minister of Finance, yet two disadvantages have not been cleared away.

One is in respect of the fact that the present provision made in the Bill might in one way or another cause the public to pay increased fees for their licences. At the moment the public pay for licences quarterly, half yearly or annually. One who pays for a whole year has the fee reduced. At the same time, one who pays for a half-year benefits more than one who pays for a quarter. At the moment, a man can pay at any moment or in any month. We are allowed to pay as the case may be and in this way it is very likely that the Government might find it profitable indeed to help the people pay more fees for their licences than is the case at the moment. So, I appeal to the Minister to see that accurate calculation is made to see that the public do not pay more than what they are paying at the moment.

The second point which I want to bring up might be to the advantage of the Government. The Minister has pointed out that fees can henceforth be paid say, from May 1962 to May 1963. Supposing I pay from November 1962 to November 1963, and during that period, Government finds it necessary to reduce or increase licence fees that might cause technical difficulties which the Minister himself has observed in the present system.

I feel that this should be carefully looked into so that Government may make it run from January to December.

**The Minister of Finance:** I want to assure the hon. Member for Sokoto West Central (*Ibrahim Gusau*) that this Bill does not contemplate any change in the rates or in the fees for licences at all. On the contrary, it even assists the car owner. For instance, if you buy a car in January, and you want a first quarter licence, you will pay for three months: the same thing applies if you were to buy a car in February and you want one quarter. Although you have lost one month, you still pay for three months. But in this case, if you pay in February, it will be a quarter of three months exactly ahead of your time, the time in which you pay. So it will be really three months and not part of the three months.

My hon. Friend talked about yearly licence for a year which ends by 31st December. Oh well, if my hon. Friend is interested in that, all he has to do if he buys a car in June, is to take six months licence that ends on 31st December, and then start in January again to end on the 31st December. So if you are a December man, you go in January and end in December, but if you are not interested in December, you buy your car in May, you license it for one year which may end on 31st May, or 30th April of the succeeding year.

**Mr D. Senu-Oke (Badagry):** At the start of this debate, one important point was made, that is, the question of the delay in and difficulty of getting the licensing forms. This was evaded. It is very important.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to confer jurisdiction in admiralty matters on the High Courts of the Regions and Lagos and to abolish the original jurisdiction in admiralty matters of the Federal Supreme Court, be now read a Second time.

The existing law is that when there are cases concerning Admiralty, the action should be brought in the Federal Supreme Court as a court of first instance. This has brought hardship in the past and it is the purpose of this Bill to correct that position, and make it possible for cases arising in the various Regions as well as in Lagos to be taken in the Regional High Court of the area and for appeal to be taken as in other cases to the Federal Supreme Court, as a Court of Appeal.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

**Mr R. O. A. Akinjide** (Ibadan South East): This is a good and welcome attempt to reduce the present congestion in the Federal Supreme Court, and I hope that the learned Attorney-General will spare no efforts in trying to reduce this congestion further. It is well-known to many practitioners and I hope the Attorney-General agrees with me, that the Federal Supreme Court is at the moment being over-worked. Appeals come from the Northern Region in civil and criminal cases. In the same way Appeals come from the Eastern Region, from the Western Region and from the Federal Territory of Lagos.

Apart from that, there are very many references on Constitutional matters, since these are not within the competence of the High Court. Added to this, before the advent of this Bill, is the jurisdiction of admiralty matters.

May I also say that another way by which this congestion can be reduced as promised by the Attorney-General last time is the division of the Federal Supreme Court into two streams instead of one stream as at the moment. We realise that effort is being made in that direction, but may I say that progress is rather slow. Appeals lodged in 1960 are still pending up till now unheard and, if I am correct, I understand there are at least 200 appeals now pending at the Federal Supreme Court.

[MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

It is not my wish and I am not making any attempt to disparage that Court. It is doing its best; it is very good and there is no complaint of any kind against that Court at all. In spite of all these handicaps, that Court is doing excellent work and any effort on the part of the Government to reduce this congestion, I think will be welcome on the Floor of this House.

Secondly, our laws on cases of this nature, on admiralty matters, are mostly still British laws and I hope the Attorney-General will, within the least possible time, make a re-statement of these laws and embody them in our local Statutes instead of having to refer to British Statute laws, so that we may know what our own admiralty laws are.

Mr Speaker, I welcome the Bill.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): (*Interruptions*). Those people there will not allow me to start my speech. This Bill is not presented to a House made up of only lawyers and, therefore, any man like myself who is not a legal practitioner can have a say. That is why I was sent here.

My hon. Friend the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) has just spoken about congestion in the Federal Supreme Court. I think this is a device to reduce the congestion. If Regional High Courts are empowered to take up admiralty matters, then we have reduced the congestion in the Federal Supreme Court. I very much welcome the Bill, but I would urge the hon. the Attorney-General to look into this admiralty law and to remove from it any section which tends to show that we are still in the colonial days. We want a new Bill in this connection to be introduced into this House during the next sitting of the House. The Attorney-General is a hard worker and I know he will do this. If this is done, when we speak of an admiralty law, we will speak of the Nigerian admiralty law.

At the moment, we are going to amend the British law of admiralty. We want our own. With these few words, I support the Bill.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**: I would refer to only two points which are directly relevant to the Bill. The first is that hon. Members will remember that

at the August sitting of the House we passed the Merchant Shipping Act; there is no such thing as Admiralty law. As much as possible, we have tried to codify the Nigerian principles governing cases of collision at sea, in that particular Act and in a number of other Acts like the Fatal Accidents Act, and so on. We have made reference to these already so that there is no need to bring any fresh law before this House called Admiralty law.

The second point is that I was very surprised to hear that the Federal Supreme Court had become so congested that there could be as many as 200 cases pending before it. That is not my understanding of the present position of this matter.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

**Mr Speaker**: There should be a short break.

*Sitting suspended: 11.30 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 11.47 a.m.*

#### LEGAL PRACTITIONERS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): Mr Speaker, when last April I introduced the Legal Education Bill, I told the House that that was only the first stage in an operation which would require another Bill to complete the scheme of reform in respect of the legal profession. To-day, I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to regulate the legal profession and for matters connected therewith, be read a Second time.

This is a fairly long and somewhat complex Bill which I would commend to the House for what it is worth. It is the result of just over two years of negotiation and bargaining between me and the Nigerian Bar Association on the one hand and the Judges of our various courts in the Federation on the other. I cannot say that this represents a unanimous view of the three participants, but I think it represents the best compromise that we could achieve at this stage.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to certain salient features of the Bill. The first part which is very important in the

present context is the provision in this Bill for the establishment of a General Council of the Bar. You will find in section 1 subsection (2) the composition of that body, and you will notice that on it the Nigerian Bar Association is heavily represented. That, I think, is as it should be. This body will be the final statutory organisation for the regulation of the Bar.

The next important section to which special attention should be drawn, I think, is the provisions you will find in sections 6 to 9 concerning the disciplinary machinery which will replace the existing arrangement under the Legal Practitioners Act. This disciplinary machinery consists of two parts: the first is the Legal Practitioners Investigating Panel to which all complaints against lawyers can be made, as at present, and from which appeal will lie to a further committee of the Bar Council—that is the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal. This Tribunal, as hon. Members will notice from section 6 (2) and section 7 (1) (c) in particular, has the power to make certain recommendations and to give directions which would have the effect of ordering the Registrar to strike a person's name off the roll or suspend that person from practice by ordering him not to engage in practice as a legal practitioner for such period as may be specified in the direction, or admonish the person concerned. This will depend on the extent of the offence which the practitioner concerned may be deemed to have committed, but generally the idea is to discourage lawyers engaging in what we regard as unprofessional conduct.

The third aspect of the Bill to which I want to draw the attention of hon. Members relates to the provisions to be found in sections 10 to 14 dealing roughly with a new committee to be called the Legal Practitioners Remuneration Committee. The aim of this Committee is to draw up a tariff of fees that will in future be chargeable by practitioners from their clients when handling legal business, whether in court or outside it.

We feel that in the place of the present uncertainties it will be better if there is some sort of regulation of the fees that lawyers are allowed to charge for certain categories of legal business that they do on behalf of their clients, and that when this tariff is introduced the clients will be able to enforce their rights under it by appealing to the courts in the conditions laid down

particularly in section 11 subsections (2) and (3) where it is expected that any lawyer who wants to charge his client will be under a duty to submit a bill of charges specifying the various items of business done on behalf of that client and saying exactly how much the client is liable to pay in each heading. This bill can be examined by the client who, if he feels that the charges are too high, has his remedy by appealing to the courts for the matter to be gone into and for the necessary charges to be taxed, as we say, that is for court officials to go into the matter and see whether the charges are reasonable in the circumstances.

Now, I would want to draw your attention again to section 5 in which provisions have been made against lawyers who are found to have caused some kind of financial or other damage to the course of their clients as a result of culpable negligence. Negligence in this sense is a very wide term; it covers both acts as well as omissions on the part of lawyers. If they neglect certain of their duties to safeguard the interest of their clients and these are regarded by the court as sufficient to damnify the lawyers, they may be made to refund the cost of loss.

The other aspect of the Bill to which I think I would like to draw your attention is the section that deals with safeguards for clients. As most hon. Members who have had business with lawyers and the courts must know, at the moment there is too much of clients' money getting mixed up in certain cases and we are trying, in section 15, and I think also in section 16, to compel all future cases to be properly banked. The lawyers will now be under a duty to see to it that clients' money is kept in a separate bank account and that records relating to clients' cases are carefully kept and preserved for the clients so that in this way there would be not much opportunity for members of the public to continue to complain about the way their monies are being handled by some of the members of the profession.

Then, in section 17 you will find the various penalties that are provided for infringement of many of the rules laid down under this Bill.

I think it is only necessary for me, finally, to refer to a very controversial issue, and that is the provision of section 3, particularly section 3

[MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

subsection (5) which, if I may have your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to read to the House in order to bring out the importance of that provision.

*"If, on the date when this subsection comes into force, the name of any person (other than a citizen of Nigeria) is on or deemed to be included in the roll and that person is on that date not ordinarily resident in Nigeria, his name shall by virtue of this subsection cease to be enrolled; and the registrar shall amend the roll accordingly."*

In ordinary language, that means that in effect from the date of coming into operation of this Bill all lawyers who are non-Nigerians and who are not ordinarily resident in Nigeria will cease to be members of the Nigerian Bar.

I beg to move.

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

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : May I say that this Bill on the face of it is welcome and we have to congratulate the Attorney-General for bringing this Bill at this time.

The legal profession is one of the noblest professions and, as a matter of fact, it is the only profession which is designated as 'honourable'. (*Interruptions*)

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order—

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

**Chief Akinloye** : I think that the attempt of this Bill is to provide for the regulation of the practice so that the profession will not only be honourable in name but will also be honourable in substance. The Attorney-General, when introducing the Second Reading of this Bill, spoke with some amount of inhibition when he said that he was putting this Bill before the House for all that it is worth. I think it is a very frank confession and the attribute of a great man. I will only appeal to him that he should spare no effort whatsoever to take heed of valuable and important considerations and suggestions made either on the Floor of this House or outside it because he himself has admitted that for the past two years he had had consultations not only with the Nigerian Bar

Association but with the Judges in coming to this. He also admitted that there is no unanimity at all among the three parties in bringing this Bill before this House. There are, therefore, certain obnoxious aspects of this Bill which I think we should draw the attention of the Attorney-General to and ask him to see that these obnoxious aspects are removed.

The first one concerns the General Council of the Bar. This is welcome, but I think, in view of the fact that this Council is to serve the Legal Practitioners, and in view of the fact that this Council will regulate the activities of the Legal Practitioners, we feel that the President of that Council should be democratically appointed.

**An hon. Member** : By election.

**Chief Akinloye** : By election at that Council.

The second point is the portion dealing with the remuneration of legal practitioners. When the hon. Attorney-General was making his speech, some Members of this House who are laymen were jubilant that the fees or remuneration of legal practitioners will, by this Bill, be banked. May I say that this aspect of the Bill has no precedent whatsoever in any part of the world. There are certain sections of various parts of the law which provide for the scale of remuneration that can be charged for filing, for deeds and so on, but, I am still open to correction, I do not know of any law pertaining to the profession of legal practitioners which is exactly like this one. In Nigeria today, there are other learned professions, there are teachers, doctors, surveyors and so on, and I know of only one particular instance, and that is the professional surveyors' remuneration, which is set down in law, and the difference is that the provision for the remuneration of surveyors stipulates a minimum below which a surveyor cannot charge. What this law proposes is to fix a ceiling of remuneration above which the legal practitioners cannot go. The amount of effort and good work a lawyer puts into a case cannot be compared with what is required in other cases, and, like old wine, a good lawyer is made by the long experience and hard-work which he puts up particularly in his case. The legal practitioners' market is an open one. There are over one thousand lawyers in this country to-day and new ones are coming in in crops daily. The market is open to litigants to go and choose a particular

lawyer they want. But if you know that a particular lawyer is good by virtue of his hard-work, experience and training, you must be prepared to pay what he charges you.

**Several hon. Members :** No ! No !

**Mr Speaker :** Members on my right must refrain from persistent interruptions.

**Chief Akinloye :** I look at it from this aspect that to try to put a ceiling on the remuneration chargeable by legal practitioners will work hardship on litigants because if a good lawyer is to defend anybody or is to prosecute a case for you and you want him at all costs because you believe that he can do that job and that he can satisfy you because of his past performances and experience and he says, "I am not going to handle the case because here is a law which says I cannot charge more than £50, and for me to put all this effort into this case I must charge you £100". It is the client who is going to lose in the long run and it will be unfair to let the clients lose because of this unnecessary provision.

I will not like to mention other points, but I will only make this appeal to the Attorney-General, that the Third Reading of this Bill be not taken immediately this morning but that it should be taken at another day so that there will be room for the Attorney-General to hear different views not only on the Floor of this House but also from the Nigerian Bar Association itself on certain aspects of this Bill, and where they are reasonable the Attorney-General will have the opportunity of considering them and taking those amendments into consideration.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** In the first place, I am not a lawyer. The Bill before the House might have been more straightforward and easier had it not been for one point, and that is where it seeks to allow legal practitioners to be in Native and Customary Courts. It is in paragraph 4.

**The Minister of Justice :** That is exactly what this Bill does not do.

**An hon. Member :** Alkali.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago :** Alkali or no Alkali, it is there. Lawyers in this honourable House and I think outside the House are quarrelling

with the Bill because it seeks to protect clients. I can understand their argument, but I do not agree with them.

I support the Bill and I do not agree with the lawyers who are quarrelling with the Bill because it seeks to protect a client, which I may be tomorrow.

I support the Bill.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** This Bill, as my hon. and learned Friend has said, should generally commend itself to Members of this House.

There are one or two points which I deem necessary to point out and I am doing this because, laws may be made, but they do not normally necessarily command the acts of men. No man, except a man who is criminally-minded all the time, will wish to break the law. The very first provision about which I wish to speak is in respect of reciprocity of practice—that our country men, Nigerians, should be able to practise in the countries of other lawyers with the same legal system who come here. There has been an attempt on the part of this Bill to give to the Chief Justice the power to allow certain other people to come into the country. I think in so far as this provision continues to remain in this Bill, it is bound to work hardship in the future. There are a number of people who, through their ingenuity, are bound to say that the persons they want may be anywhere and they wish to bring them. In this respect, I feel that this provision which gives to the Chief Justice the right to allow certain other people to come into the country to practise should be taken off the Bill completely.

There is one other point, about certain fees to be paid by lawyers every year. If I had my way, I would raise the amount stipulated by this Bill. I think that lawyers who are Queen's Counsel should be able to pay at least 25 guineas a year and those of us who have been at the Bar for more than 10 years should not just pay 5 guineas : we should pay a minimum of 10 guineas per annum. We live by this profession and our first duty is to help the profession. Some people might say we might want to reduce what the law puts on us. I think it should be raised ; we should be forced to pay more.



[MR OGUNSANYA]

There is another provision under this Bill about Queen's Counsel to whom, in most parts, this Bill does not relate at all, which allows them to work in partnership with other legal practitioners. This should not be allowed. I think, if we are going to take into this country the system of other lands in this particular respect until perhaps some day when we have our "President's Counsel", then it will be a different thing. In other countries these Queen's Counsel are not allowed to be in partnership, and it should not be allowed in this country.

Similarly, there is this sort of right of audience now being given by this Bill by reference to certain sections therein to certain lawyers who are in full-time employment, and which I think should be removed. When a lawyer is appointed as Secretary to a Council or as Secretary to a Board or as an employee of a commercial firm, he earns his livelihood there full-time. There is no reason whatsoever why in addition to that he should also be permitted to appear in the Courts. It is just too bad. There are many instances of certain members of the public service of this country and of the commercial firms who are on comfortable salaries already, still coming into the Courts to practise. This should be discontinued. It is really not fair because in the one case, the declaration of their income will be based on a full-time employment, and what they earn out of that will have no record whatsoever.

Speaking for myself on this issue of lawyers coming into the country, the Bill is quite clear. I agree. But the whole resentment by members of the profession is not so much because we do not like non-Nigerians; the sum total of the trouble is to be found in Nigerians themselves in the sense that some of the people, mostly expatriates in this country, do not sufficiently accept the present status of the country. Whenever they have to engage lawyers of their choice, as has properly been known now, they prefer the few expatriates in the country. I have no objection to anyone being chosen because of merit, but particularly these commercial firms and other organisations should realise that by choosing an expatriate in Nigeria, not because of his eminence but because he is white, they are doing damage to their own country-men. (*Hear, hear*).

I would like to speak about this issue of remuneration. My hon. and learned Friend,

the Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) has spoken about it. I think this section 10 should disappear completely. Personally I am opposed to anyone charging excessively. In law, it will sound very well. I say this because I myself on several occasions with very great reluctance agreed to lead junior counsel in certain matters which they were handling on their own. I told the clients, "Look, I am not interested in the case. If I must go in, these are my charges. If you agree, I come in, if you cannot pay the charges, out I stay". Speaking quite seriously, this is not the only profession in this country. Why should it be the only one to be taken for specific treatment all the time? (*Interruptions*). The point I am making is that if this will not go out completely, if the hon. Minister is insisting on fixing a maximum, he should at least fix also a minimum. If he fixed a maximum and he does not fix a minimum it will be out of place.

There is one other point I wish to mention, and that is the question of precedence. We feel insulted on this issue of saying that any lawyer who is in the public service should take precedence over all of us at the Bar. The thing is not only absurd, but is colonial in mentality and no more. In the days when the British were masters, all the crown counsel were white people and the result was that they were specifically made to take precedence over every member of the Bar who was a Nigerian. Now hon. Members will see the absurdity of it. I am not opposed to the Attorney-General of the Federation, Attorneys-General of the Regions, the Solicitors-General of the Regions; naturally they take precedence over all of us. There is no doubt about that. The Queen's Counsel all take precedence over us, there is no doubt about that. But to pass a law wherein my own student in England will return as a lawyer, take a job as a crown counsel in the Attorney-General's Chamber right away, and will take precedence over me as a senior member of the Bar, is revolting. No one would wish to do this sort of thing. It is because the civil servants have a lot of say.—(*Interruption*). It has become the practice in this country for Permanent Secretaries (*Interruptions*). I know, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (*Mr R. B. Okafor*) is always in the midst of Law Books, but he is not a lawyer yet. Therefore, I am sure that the Members of this House will help to see that this is out of it because this is absurd. When a

counsel is a Q.C. he is senior to the hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) he is senior to the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosumu*), he is senior to all of us. He is senior even to the Minister of Information (*Mr Benson*) and the Minister of Communications (*Mr Akinfosile*) if they happen to go back to the Bar ; and he is senior to the Minister of Foreign Affairs the (*hon. Faja Wachuku*), and save for the fact that the Attorney-General is already a QC, if he had gone out to practise, his own small boys in the Attorney-General's department would be his seniors. I am sure, in this spirit the Attorney-General, will agree to have this deleted.

Mr Speaker, when this comes to the Committee Stage we shall be able to thrash point by point the slightly obnoxious part of the Bill. I beg to support.

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo East) : I think that there is a general attitude of mind among hon. Members that lawyers should be impoverished. After all, this is a profession which is open to every hon. Member. There is nothing like a closed-door policy in this profession—

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : Who will be your client ?

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Mr Abii, you must refrain from interruptions.

**Chief Akerele** : As has been said, there is a certain aspect of this Bill which is very revolting, and I do hope, that Members will agree with me that any Law which is discriminatory in its approach should be condemned. After all, the legal profession is not the only profession in Nigeria. Three months ago we passed the Legal Education Act. A few months after that we have this other Bill coming in ; and the most discriminatory aspect of it is that even the remunerations of members of the profession are being controlled. I think not only is this against the profession itself, but it is not in the interests of clients. I cannot see how somebody who is in a position to pay for my services will come to me and I will not be able to do justice to my conscience in accepting his brief, knowing fully well that he can afford the fee. I must confess that by this Law I will not be doing justice to him in accepting that brief. And what will be the after effect of this ? Most of the practising lawyers will have to refuse quite a lot of briefs. If, for instance, a man like the hon. Member for Gwarzo East

(*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) (I hope he will not be in trouble), wants an eminent lawyer to defend him and that lawyer charges certain fees which he can very well afford, and he tells the lawyer that if he charges more than what the law allows he will have his remedy, well, who is at a loss ? He will be told to go somewhere else.

**An hon. Member** : Where ?

**Chief Akerele** : To another lawyer who can afford to take the prescribed fees to defend him ; but he will be losing because he will not be having the advantage of a counsel of his choice. Not only that, there is this provision under section 10 where even in the Membership of the Committee itself we have the Attorney-General who by this Law is to be the Chairman ; then we have the Attorneys-General of the Regions ; the Chairman of the Bar Association and two other members of the Association—which means we have four officials as against three members of the profession whose interest is at stake.

**An hon. Member** : But they are all lawyers ?

**Chief Akerele** : There are four people who are not practising members of the profession against three. Not only that, the quorum of the Committee shall be three, of whom one shall be the Chairman ;—that is well taken care of—or some member of the Committee nominated by him to act as Chairman. Of course, the inference is that if the Attorney-General of the Federation is not there the next man will be the Attorney-General of one of the Regions. So, it is clear that the Chairman will always be there. What happens if the other two nominees of the Bar are not present ? Then there is a quorum of at least three. If the four Attorneys-General are present, they can sit down and take a decision affecting the destiny of the practising members of the profession. I think this provision is very unfair, and as has been said the whole of this section should disappear. After all, lawyers are not all that unkind—

**An hon. Member** : In many cases, they are.

**Chief Akerele** : And they charge fees like people in other professions. We have very many lawyers in the country to-day. If you go to somebody and you feel his charges are too high you are not bound to take him, you can go somewhere else. Then, what is

[CHIEF AKERELE]  
 the necessity of this provision if you have no right of choice? If you come to me and I charge you one hundred guineas and you feel you cannot afford it, it does not mean that you either pay it or you do not have your case tried in court. If you come to me and I charge any amount which you do not agree with by all means you can go somewhere else. There are very many lawyers in the country. This provision, with due respect Mr Speaker, should go.

Speaking also on the provisions of section 4, I would say that that is very much welcomed and I agree with the hon. Mr Ogunsanya that the fees should be increased to twenty-five guineas, ten guineas and three guineas respectively. This is a point which we hope the Attorney-General will take into consideration. If we do not pay this money then we cannot practise. You may find yourself in court appearing for a litigant and then somebody will just rise up and say, 'My Learned Friend, you have no licence and could not be heard'. It is most embarrassing and I think, that attempt must be made to get the Registrar of the Courts concerned at least three months before the time is due, to write to practitioners informing them of the date so that they can pay, just like renewing your driver's licence. I know very many of us forget to renew these licences until we get caught by the police not because we do not want to pay or to renew them. You see, the intention is not a willful intention to default or not to pay for the licence but because by human nature you just forget.

I think, that the Attorney-General will look into this aspect and see to it that Members of the profession are kept informed by the Registrar of the High Courts concerned as to the date of payment.

Lastly, the hon. Mr Ogunsanya did mention this order of precedence. Paragraph 4 of Schedule I authorises persons to practise as Legal Practitioners by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 2 of this Act. These persons thus take precedence over members of the Bar irrespective of their years in the Bar. Those people are such officers in the Public Service of the Federation or a Region as the Attorney-General of the Federation or the Region, as the case may be, as by order specified. It is not even a question of D.P.P. or Crown Counsel; these people are just

ordinary members of the profession in that section of the Ministry who by an order of the Attorney-General take precedence over the practising Barristers with long years of practice. I think, Sir, this is obnoxious.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West): Though I am not a lawyer, I am going to speak out of my experience. Those who cry for Nigerianisation here and there are the people who always send hundreds of applications abroad for lawyers to defend them. This is a very shameful thing. We have got over two hundred lawyers in Nigeria and we have got more than seventeen Q.C.s in Nigeria, who are as qualified as those whom we always ask for abroad.

I think this is a very welcome Bill because those who speak against the Bill are people who have no confidence in our lawyers. If we have got confidence in our lawyers why should we ask for lawyers abroad? Some people take the laws of the country into their own hands and when they are convicted they send hundreds of applications for Q.C.s abroad and this is a very shameful thing for them to do. We in Nigeria are doing things for all Nigerians.

Mr Speaker, we have to thank the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice for introducing this Bill. I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi** (Ilesha Urban): I have to join my colleagues in praising the industry of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. He has brought to this House a very comprehensive Bill which has its good aspects but which unfortunately has its bad aspects too. I would like to thank the Members of the House for the change in their mood after listening to some solid arguments from former speakers. All we are asking for in this House as Members is a fair deal for those people outside who are citizens of this country and who happen to be lawyers and live by this profession.

Up till now, nobody has brought any Bill to this House to regulate the fees of the surveyors or to tell the doctor what to charge when he treats anybody for headache, etc. Lawyers' fees are not arbitrary as is popularly believed. Lawyers charge fees when they think of the inconvenience and the efforts they have to put into a case. We have to think of the number of adjournments, the expenses and generally, all that has to be performed by way of helping

the clients. As it is, if a limit is to be fixed by a committee headed by officials who no doubt are skilled lawyers but unfortunately are not able to appreciate the difficulties lawyers outside suffer in performing their duties, I am sure that it will not be possible for them to do justice to the cause of lawyers. They cannot, in any case, anticipate the number of adjournments involved in a particular case or the number of hours a man has to do in his private study, in his private library, to collate the facts and the law in a particular case. I think it is only fair that lawyers should not be subjected to this kind of treatment which is not meted out to other professionals in this country.

We have seen cases where a lawyer would receive perhaps two hundred guineas on a case and people think it is fine. Let us say it is a land case, the surveyor who goes out to cut traces in the bush and draw plans may charge four hundred guineas, and that money is promptly paid. The lawyer does not get his money in bulk. He charges two hundred guineas, the man pays fifty, he will go to court several times, the court will say, "Oh! we shall have to adjourn. You get your money in bits." Now that we cannot get more than a certain amount, there is no doubt that there will be no difficulty in evading the payment of our money. I am sure that the hon. the Attorney-General does not want to contribute to the impression that lawyers just fleece their clients of money without rendering adequate service for the money they get. I think the Attorney-General should please delete this particular clause in the law.

My hon. and learned Friends have made a point about the payment of money annually by lawyers. It has been said that some lawyers should pay more than has been laid down in some cases. I agree with that, but I think it will be too much on the part of Government, after taking money from lawyers when they enrol, to take one-quarter of this money just to be contributed by lawyers annually for their own benefit. I think if the idea is to provide for the Bar Council, then one-quarter of the money to be taken off is a bit too much.

Moreover, there should be provision that the Registrar should send letters to lawyers warning them that the time is almost up for the renewal of their licences, as it were. As

may happen under this law, a man may be appearing in a court far away from his headquarters, one day he is there, but by midnight the licence expires, it is then that he finds that he cannot legally appear in the court the following morning. I think this is a situation which should be guarded against.

There is another clause dealing with some offences. It is stated in Clause 17 that when a man performs a duty which he has no right to perform, it would appear that he has to perform it the second time before he can be punished: such as preparing documents which he has no right to prepare because he is not a lawyer. But under this Clause it says that if he does it a second time, then he will be punished. In other words, he can do it the first time and get away with it. If the law is meant to protect everybody, not only the clients but also the lawyers, this should not be the case. If there is any provision in the law which says that a man should be guilty of an offence for performing a second function which he should not perform, then he should be guilty and should be punished straightaway. There should be no second time for such offence.

Now on the question of the President of the Bar Council, I think any lawyer will consider it a great honour to be the President of the Bar Council, so that it is something worth aspiring to and it should be an incentive for any lawyer to make sure that he is of good behaviour, that he is liked by his fellow members and he comports himself in a way that his chances will be very bright. But when it is as a matter of law that the Attorney-General must be President of the Bar Council, I think such an incentive will be lacking. Luckily we have an Attorney-General who is very popular amongst lawyers in this country to-day and who can be sure that at any time if he seeks to stand for an office he will, without doubt, be put in. But that will not be the case all the time. Not only that. An Attorney-General requires only ten years. When I say ten years only I do not mean that it is a very little time. It requires only ten years to qualify for the post of Attorney-General. You may have people who are fifteen years, twenty years at the Bar and who are of proper behaviour, but suppose you have this law as it stands, then it means they will never have any chance at all. That is a very vital point. After all, whether or not lawyers must be protected, they have

[MR OGUNBIYI]

certain rights which ought not and should not be taken away from them. That is just one point. I am sure that we, as lawyers, shall always be of good behaviour and must see to it that as respectable citizens of the society, as one Colleague has said, as the only honourable profession in this world, we shall always see that we lay good examples. I do not think that it is a bad profession as some people say and we should try to avoid any impression to that effect so that people should be encouraged as much as possible to join the profession.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): A lot has been said and quite a number of grounds have been covered with regard to most of the points. I shall not belabour them—only one respect about remuneration. Most lawyers will remember that sometimes a case may take three months, a year two years, and if you set up a maximum of the fees charged, a case, by virtue of adjournments, extends to a year, two years or three years, you cannot charge anything more, you cannot even charge any refresher. In my chamber I have a case which was filed in 1957, a land case. If you charge a maximum rate—

**Mr A. Opia** (Aboh): On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) left his business and has come to the Chamber to make noise.

**Mr Briggs**: What I am saying is that with regard to that case which was filed since 1957—five years ago—if you have charged a maximum fee, you have got to go through five years of litigation, you go to court every time that the case is called and yet you must be on that fee; you cannot charge any extra fee; you cannot even charge any refresher, and you cannot tell the client to give you a refresher because he knows that by law you have taken your maximum and nothing more. He cannot give any more. I think that is a very unjust thing and we are all appealing to the Attorney-General who has been regarded as reasonable, whom I will qualify as very generous, to consider it.

The last point I am making is that there are too many officials in these Councils. In the Bar Council we have the Attorney-General, the Attorneys-General of all the Regions—that is about five officials—and then twenty members of the Association. But of the twenty members of the Association and five

officials, eight can form a quorum. I am asking Mr Speaker to imagine the situation in which there are five officials present and only three non-officials to form the quorum, and the business of the Council will go on. I think that is very unfair. Not only in the remuneration Committee, the officials are mentioned also in the Disciplinary Committee, in the Panels—in almost all of them you have officials—Attorney-General of the Federation and the Attorneys-General of the Regions. I think it is an unwarranted intrusion of the Government into what should be properly called a private profession.

I feel that I would support some of my hon. Friends who said that the Presidentship of the Bar Council should be elective. The Attorney-General should not automatically become the President of the Bar Council. I think if there is anybody to be automatically the President, I should say that it should be an unofficial member of the Bar Association and not the Attorney-General. I think he is getting too official and there again, I will have to appeal to the Attorney-General in that respect.

With regard to certificates, I think it should be left to private practitioners. It should be left to their sense of honour to keep on paying their dues annually and not to be given a formal certificate like vehicle licences. They should leave it to individual members, to their conscience and sense of honour to consider that annually it is their duty to keep on paying to maintain the Association. They must not be compelled by an act of law to be paying every time.—

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): On a point of order, my learned Friend the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is not a member of the Association.

**Mr Briggs**: I am not representing the Association here. I am representing the Nigerian community which has sent me here. I am saying that we should be left to our sense of honour and our conscience to maintain the Association of which we are members.

I beg to support.

**Mr D. O. Enefolo** (Igala South): These lawyers are too sentimental. They are talking just to safeguard their own profession. I do not think they are speaking as Members

representing a constituency, because I am speaking on behalf of the masses of people who are not lawyers in their own constituencies, who fall victim to some of the unscrupulous lawyers. Let me say that in these charges—*(Interruptions)*.

**Mr Speaker :** Lawyers should please remember that this is not a law court.

**Mr Enefola :** Those who have spoken this morning were drawing comparison with other professions and said that the law profession should not be the only profession that should be legalised in the way that our respected Minister of Justice and Attorney-General has issued this Bill. I think that this Bill is very timely and that it safeguards the interest of those who fall victim to lawyers in this country. First of all, I must say that cases in Nigeria to-day do go high just as diseases go high, because instead of going down, cases are still increasing more and more in our courts. The more we have cases, the more people go to engage lawyers in order to defend them and if the Government is doing its best to combat diseases by trying to give us free medical facilities and free education in order to make this country a progressive one, then there is no other alternative for the Government than to curb the activities of these lawyers who go about to dupe clients, because clients do not know.

Regarding charges, I feel, from the layman's point of view, that the Attorney-General is quite right in section 10 in regulating the charges of lawyers in these cases, because some of them who are very good lawyers sometimes go under the pride that they are very good and as such think they can charge anything they like. Well, if they are very good, and they have the sense of honour, they should at the same time be reasonable in their charges.

I am not a lawyer, but from the layman's point of view, I wholeheartedly support this Bill and any measure the Attorney-General has taken to regulate this profession, especially when there is no other alternative for the Government than to regulate these charges and curb the lawyers' attitude towards the public. I wholeheartedly support this Bill, and I think there is no clause that should be deleted or taken out of it.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** In welcoming the Bill, I must state that there are certain provisions of the Act that need not be there at all.

Many speakers had laid emphasis on some of those important points. On the question of remuneration, you know that lawyers are self-employed persons and, like other self-employed persons such as Film Stars, Journalists and professional footballers, their remunerations should not be tied down by somebody. It depends on the efficiency of that person concerned. That is the reward of genius, that is the reward of efficiency. As soon as somebody is efficient, he has acquired the right that nobody should regulate the amount of his fees. As has been said by somebody, there is no precedence of this kind in other nations. I think that if a legal practitioner is efficient, the operation of the law of demand and supply should operate in this case. If he is wanted by every client in all parts of the Federation, surely he is entitled to remuneration that will compensate for his energy. It might be that he is efficient because he devotes more time to studying his case. It might be that he is buying many law books. It might be that he is gifted to be very efficient, very intelligent. The law cannot be used to derogate his efficiency. In this respect, I think that, perhaps, the Attorney-General will have a second thought, at least to give not the highest ceiling or the maximum, but the minimum and say, "You must not, if you want to conduct a case, take below this. But above that you can go to any height".

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! It is one o'clock and sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

#### SITTING OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I am sure that hon. Members will agree that next week we have some very important Bills and even one of the Bills which we will be debating next week will require a two-thirds majority. Some hon. Members are complaining that their cars have not been overhauled and they have some difficulties. So, I think that if it is the wish of the House that the debate on this Bill, Legal Practitioners Bill, should continue this

## [MINISTER OF FINANCE]

afternoon, and if there is time we should go into Committee. If we do so then on Saturday there will be no sitting of the House and Members will be free to perform their private duties and get ready for Monday. I just want to take the pleasure of the House if it is the wish of the House.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): I wish to oppose very vehemently this kind of rush which we are going to witness. This Bill, the Legal Practitioners Bill, affects the interest of a large number of people in this country. All that we are asking for is that we should be given time to debate it. Nobody wants to rest on Saturday. We have come here to do State business. We were voted into this House to work for this country. We do not want to rest on Saturday. So, I am saying that nobody has asked the Leader of the House for a rest on Saturday. Nobody has begged him. We do not want it. So, we want to continue the debate. Give everybody the opportunity to debate it thoroughly and adjourn the debate if necessary, with the permission of the Attorney-General, to Saturday.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): I rise to support the statement made by the Leader of the House. We want to get through this Bill as soon as possible. We do not want to be held to ransom by the lawyers. The lawyers have done everything in this country and this is the right time for us to get them and we should see that they pay heavily for all they have been doing. We want to finish this Bill today. We will go into Committee, read the Bill the Third time and pass it into law.

**Mr Briggs**: On a point of clarification, from what the hon. Gentleman is saying, this Bill is intended to be a punitive one and it should go to a special committee. If that is so, will the Attorney-General tell us what committee?

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): While I do not want to create the impression that there is a sort of conspiracy by the profession against the laity on the Floor of this House, I wish to say that I am all for the debate continuing on Saturday. But I do not agree with the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) that nobody wants a rest on Saturday. We all want a rest on Saturday. But the main thing

is that after all Saturday is partially a national holiday. And if we cannot continue with it on Saturday I do not think it will be beyond the practice of this House to find another convenient day for debating it.

As for the statements and venoms poured out by the speaker before me against the lawyers I only wish to say that lawyers generally do not seem to be liked. But the astonishing thing is that everybody saves up to train his son or his relation as a lawyer. And I am sure that not only the Member for Uyo South West (*Mr Brown*) but the Leader of the House who is so well-known for his generosity has accounted for and is still accounting for the production of a large number of lawyers. And we do hope that he will continue to demonstrate his affection for the legal profession.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): I rise to support what the Leader of the House has just said because there is sense in it. What is the use of continuing to repeat ourselves over and over again? We are not elementary school pupils. The point is that brevity is the soul of wit. You should speak your mind on the point and that is that. But all that we are saying so far is unnecessary repetition. We have before us important Bills to go through. The Leader of the House being a mature parliamentarian knows the system. This is not common to Nigeria only; it is a common parliamentary practice everywhere.

**Mr Briggs**: In the North?

**Alhaji Bello Dandago**: Well, whether in the North or whatever the Region, Mr Briggs, I have been in this House ever since you started.

**The Minister of Finance**: By the grace of God.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago**: So, Mr Speaker, what the Leader of the House has said is a lot of sense, and it is in accordance with parliamentary practice, and I beg to support it.

**Mr Speaker**: Is it the wish of the House that we proceed to Committee Stage after the Second Reading to-day?

**Hon. Members**: Yes.

## LEGAL PRACTITIONERS BILL

**Mr Speaker**: Will Mr Muojeke continue with his speech.

*Federal Parliament Debates*

2791

[*Legal Practitioners Bill*]

6 DECEMBER 1962

[*Legal Practitioners Bill*]

2792

**Mr Muojeke :** Mr Speaker, Sir, when the House was rising in the morning I was commenting on the remuneration aspect of the Bill. I was saying that while it might be desirable that a minimum ceiling is put it is illogical and unnecessary that a maximum ceiling be put into the Bill, because, in the first place, it is very difficult to assess the work performed by lawyers. I can take two illustrations, one from the chamber work and the other from the court. In the case of the chamber work, Lawyer A is given a deed of conveyance; he is asked to convey a piece of land. The document is badly typewritten, badly spelt, badly prepared, and then he expects what the law gives him, say fifty guineas. Lawyer B does it very well with perfection, and as a result he also is entitled to fifty guineas. In this case, Members can see the illogicality of placing a maximum fee which a lawyer can get.

Let me take another example from the work of a lawyer in a court of law. A lawyer might go to court and conduct a case so badly that the case is lost, the client is sentenced, perhaps executed or imprisoned. Well, he is entitled to what the law gives him. Then another lawyer goes to the court, prepares his work by spending many sleepless nights; he burns candles, he buys law books, in fact, he spends his energy in order to get his client free, and when the client is acquitted this Bill is asking him to receive the same fee which the law gives to that lawyer who has failed in his duty. What I am trying to say is that to state a maximum amount which a lawyer will take in this case is quite illogical. It is not even in the best interest of the litigants, because if that is put in the Bill it means that we are placing a premium on mediocrity and we are not talking about efficiency. After all efficiency is the result of hard work and it is what a lawyer works for. With these remarks I think that perhaps the Attorney-General will consider deleting this provision from the Bill.

I would quickly go to the section which says that there shall be taking of annual practising licences. This is where lawyers come to be classed with dogs, cats, double-barrelled guns, for which we all renew licences annually. Once a lawyer always a lawyer in Britain or any other Commonwealth country. If the Government wants to get money from the lawyers they can ask them to pay a definite amount but not

by way of asking them to pay every year. It means that a lawyer who continues to be a lawyer for fifty or sixty years will be expected to be queuing to get annual licences.

Again, the application of this section will work towards injustice. In the first place, a lawyer regards himself as being independent in his profession. He is independent, but once he knows that if he goes to court perhaps the Bench will ask for his annual licence when he has not got it there in his pocket and that he might be asked out, injustice comes in: and if that be the case, if the lawyer can go to court with this sort of fear hanging around him, then he might not discharge his duty to his client, and I think the purport of this Bill becomes nonsensical. It is not useful either to the lawyer or to the client which the lawyer is representing. Even if the Government wishes to provide facilities to impecunious litigants let them evolve a policy of legal defence on the lines spoken of by the Governor-General in his Speech from the Throne read to us in this Parliament, instead of trying to do it in such a way that it will be injurious not only to the litigant himself but also to the lawyers.

The last point I want to make is about the title of the Bill. Having regard to the contents of this Bill it is called Legal Practitioners Bill. I think it would be appropriate to call it Legal Practitioners Liability Bill because it prescribes the do's and don't's, how a lawyer shall do this and how he shall not do that; so that the title of the Bill should also be changed to enable a litigant or any other person interested in this Bill to know immediately the purport and the aim of the Bill.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): We welcome the main provisions of this Bill, and as has been rightly pointed out by the hon. the Attorney-General this Bill substantially receives the approval—I do not want to use the word 'approval'—it substantially receives the blessing of the Bar Association. As he said it does not represent the unanimous view of the legal practitioners as represented by the Bar Association on the one hand and the judges and himself on the other, but for our part, that is the Bar Association, we have expressed our thanks to him because the Bill



[MR AGHAHOWA]

because otherwise there might be abuses. But when you think of a contentious matter that has to go to court and may have to stay in court for as long as four or five years, it is unreasonable, except you have the means by which you can judge that this should be the ceiling as far as the lawyer should go in respect of his fees. I would cite a typical example. If a particular matter goes to one lawyer for, say, 40 guineas and the litigant wants his lawyer from Benin whereas the case is taking place in Lagos, no consideration has been made for the loss to be suffered by that practitioner, due to absence from home, the risk involved in his travel, his cost of living while away from home and then his transport and other needs. Could it be expected that a lawyer who travels some 200 miles to defend a client should really have a ceiling with another lawyer who lives within that district and charge the same fee? It might be said, oh yes, you could charge for your transport, for your hotel bills and other things. But as a provision of the law has stated that you should not charge beyond what it entitles you to charge, if you take more from the client, the client has his remedy of getting it back from you. I would say that instead of putting a ceiling that way the Attorney-General should put a minimum the lawyer should charge. I would like the Attorney-General to respond to this because he is known for his sense of fairplay and justice.

The provision for legal defence should be brought to the knowledge of the people with greater emphasis, that is if a litigant is unable, because of financial inability to prosecute a just claim, at least he has his right to apply to the Judge of the High Court to get a lawyer retained for him under the principle of action *in forma pauperis*. I think that will go along way to relieve the public of any hardship brought by some members of the profession who might have a tendency to be unscrupulous towards them.

Further, as regards the powers granted to the Chief Justice to issue a certificate to anybody not ordinarily resident in this country, I feel we have a kind Chief Justice now, but there might arise a Pharaoh who never knew Joseph; there might be another Chief Justice, human nature being what it is who may not measure up or may not be held in high esteem as we do generally about our present Chief

Justice. I would respectfully appeal to the Attorney-General if he might consider that, in the issue of such a certificate, members of the profession whose interest this Bill is intended to protect, should be taken into confidence and their opinion sought.

Many hon. Members have spoken on the order of precedence in court. I think they have sufficiently spoken about the policy which is contained in the particular section dealing with precedence. It sounds preposterous that a boy who came in some five or six years after another man because he chose to go into the public service, should, by a manipulation of any interpretation of this particular legislation, take precedence over him. We agree that in the profession the Q.Cs., the Attorneys-General invariably take precedence. But when there is legislation saying that any lawyer because of the accident of his particular appointment must take precedence over his senior, I think the independence of the profession is being seriously invaded. We are seriously appealing to the Attorney-General to consider amending that particular section.

Further as I have said earlier we are still seriously appealing to the Attorney-General on this question of ceiling, because you cannot have a ceiling without having a minimum, you cannot have a top without having the bottom. One would concede that fairness is the basic tune of this legislation if there had been any suggestion of a minimum fee which any solicitor or any practitioner can accept in respect of any type of litigation. It does not attempt to set any minimum, but it attempts to set a maximum. I would like to say that Engineers, Accountants, Medical Practitioners, Surveyors, have all the latitude or encouragement that one would expect for an independent profession, but the legal profession, for reasons which are sufficiently not explicable in this Bill, is chosen to be discriminated against.

With these few remarks I beg to surport the bill.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** After reading through this Bill and listening to speeches made by Members of this honourable House who are not legal practitioners, my impression that the main objects of this Bill are not conducive to the interest of the lawyers, is confirmed.

After reading through the explanatory memorandum, I see that the main purposes are obvious. I should think the first one is to bring the legal practitioners under the control of the Executive. The second purpose is to afford protection to clients, and the third, to my mind, is to usurp the powers of the respective Benchers of the four Inns of Court to which lawyers who are practising in Nigeria belong.

It would appear that this Bill does not take into consideration that the relationship between a legal practitioner and a client is personal. Those of us who have been fairly long in practice know that most of the clients who patronise us are regular and they scarcely could go to any other lawyer unless the personal relationship between them and their lawyers have been very badly strained. It would appear further that this Bill does not take into consideration the fact that a client goes to a lawyer of his own choice for protection and for the best service. Clients do not just walk into any lawyer's office in Lagos, or in Enugu, or in Ibadan, or in Kaduna. With the exception of floating clients, most of the regular clients and their families go to specific lawyers for legal services. I think it is a dangerous trend on the part of the Government to try to put legal practitioners under the control of the Executive and to attempt by law to regulate the relationship that should exist between legal practitioners and clients.

The other point I observe in this Bill is that it attempts to discriminate against lawyers in particular and legal practitioners in general. We all know that in Nigeria to-day there are so many professionals. For a long time attempts have been made to restrain Government medical officers from engaging in private practice but the government has not succeeded in bringing any law to restrain Government medical officers from using even government hospitals, drugs and staff for their clients who have paid them private fees. But it would appear that because lawyers are in the limelight in the public life of this country they should be the first victim of the government. It is paradoxical that people who help to make other people kings are always the first to go when the king assumes power. That is what is happening in this country to-day, and this Bill typifies the way the Federal Government is thinking.

We have always said it, perhaps with justifiable pride that we achieved independence in this country without shedding a drop of British blood. The fact is that that has been made possible because lawyers have been in the vanguard of the struggle for independence in this country. If some of my hon. Friends who are bricklayers or carpenters or blacksmiths have had to lead the fight for the independence of this country we would not have had cause to be proud to-day. It is lawyers that have had to look through the laws and through the Constitution to help in accelerating the speed of our independence, and unfortunately it is lawyers that are being persecuted to-day in this country.

I said earlier on that this Bill is discriminatory in its nature and I am not sure whether it is not against certain provisions of the Constitution of this country. There is no Law at the moment regulating the practice of Architects, Surveyors, Journalists, Accountants, Bankers, Civil Engineers, Teachers, employees of the government, Mechanical Engineers, Theologists, Aeronautical Engineers and even professional politicians.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : On a point of Order, Sir, Will you tell the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) that three-quarters of the lawyers are often litigants.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : Mr Speaker, I do not understand what the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Mr Abii*) is saying. After looking through the Bill I feel that it is a retrograde step, having the stamp of the major party in the coalition, the N.P.C. If you look at certain sections or Clauses of the Bill you will find that the Sharia Court and the Court of Resolution in the Northern Region are excluded. The Native Courts and the Customary Courts too are excluded, but lawyers are to be put under the control of the Executive. If you look at the Constitution of the General Bar Council and the Panel to be set up under this Bill, the government executive—the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Attorneys-General of the Regions, the Solicitor-General and the D.P.P. figure prominently in this Council and these people—

**An hon. Member** : You mean the U.P.P. ?

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I am not referring to the U.P.P., the Useless Peoples' Party.

**Chief A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) who is saying that U.P.P. is a Useless Peoples' Party must not forget that the Action Group Party is the Auctioneering Group Party.

**Mr Speaker**: That is no point of Order.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: I said earlier on that all the lawyers in this country belong to the four Inns of Court and they are subject to the discipline of their respective benchers. You have the Lincoln Inn, the Grace Inn, the Middle Temple and the Inner Temple, and we are looking forward to a day when we will have in this country the Elias's Inn, the Mbanefo's Inn, the Njoku's Inn and perhaps the Akwivu's Inns of Court.

Now, a Bill is being introduced to usurp or to forestall such people from dipping hands into their pockets and creating Inns of Court to which graduates from our Law School in Nigeria could belong and I think it is a dangerous step to put lawyers who are supposed to protect the liberty of the individuals under the control of the Executive, particularly the array of Attorneys-General who have taken the Oath of Loyalty in their respective cabinets. I think it is a dangerous step and that is one of the reasons why I find it difficult to support this Bill.

Lawyers belong to the honourable society and according to the traditions of lawyers they charge fees or take fees, and according to the history which the hon. the Attorney-General of the Federation himself knows, the robe all lawyers who practice in the courts of the Monarchs which we follow in this country wear has a small pocket at the back where clients who feel satisfied with the performances of their legal representatives before the courts of the Monarch put in any amount of money that they can. That is why lawyers do not issue receipts for the money they take. This is another attempt to destroy this noble tradition of lawyers and this Bill further disregards the fact that lawyers practising in this country have not got the same qualification.

There are different types of lawyers in this country—some people put all their time to the work and I know some lawyers who work sixteen to eighteen hours in a day in Nigeria and I know some who work four to five hours

and spend the rest of their time attending social functions, chasing their girl friends about and drinking for the rest of the day.

While talking on the question of remuneration, I think when we get to the Committee Stage we shall take the Clauses one by one.

One other point which this Bill seems to disregard is this. If a Minister of State is charged with stealing a tyre or a car battery—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Uyo South): My point of order is that much as we are privileged in this House, the names of Ministers should not be connected with stealing.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order. I am inclined to agree that hypothetical instances should not be carried too far.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade**: Well, I will say that if a messenger is charged with stealing a battery or a tyre and he goes to a lawyer to defend him, the lawyer, even though he may have to work harder than he would if the messenger had been a Minister or an ex-Premier, would have to charge him according to his own status; but if this Bill is passed and the charge fixed by the Bar Council or whatever body it is, is ten guineas for defending an accused person who has been alleged to steal a tyre, the ex-Premier or Minister normally values his own liberty and the good name far more than the ordinary messenger. A law should not be made to regulate the discretion of a lawyer in such respect. And that is why I think that this Law is an encroachment upon the relationship that should exist between a lawyer and his clients.

If a millionaire is sick and he is to undergo an operation in the surgery of a medical practitioner, he is of course, not going to pay the same amount that a scavenger would pay for undergoing the same operation.

I think that I find it difficult to support this Bill, because most of the important clauses of the Bill are obnoxious. There is an attempt to talk about negligence of legal practitioners in the Bill. Under the definition Clauses there is nothing like negligence. We know in the law, of course, or in the practice of Solicitors that they can be held liable for negligence. Well, there is an exception Clause in the Bill quite all right but it is the term negligence that

should be defined by this law, otherwise any litigant who loses his case either civil or criminal may attempt to prove or to establish negligence on the part of the legal practitioner.

We should realise, that there are no specialist practitioners among us in this country. In a place like England or America you have specialist legal practitioners, people who devote all their time to certain branches of the law, who even know about any new book coming out on that branch of the law. But here most of us are general practitioners. Some of us have aptitude for certain branches or departments of the law, Some of us are more knowledgeable in criminal law, others in merchantile law, others in estate matters, but most of our clients do not know that. If, for instance, they take their conveyances to a man who spends most of his time on criminal law, he will have, perhaps, to consult a clerk in order to put up a proper conveyance. Then you want him to charge the same fees as somebody who is well versed in that department of the law.

Mr Speaker Sir, after considering all these points, I find it very difficult to support this Bill and I think in its entirety that Government should not make an attempt to control the practice of legal practitioners in this country and subject them to the influence of the Executive.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr T. O. Elias): I would like to make a few comments on this Bill at this stage. Many of the detailed points raised by the various speakers I think, would be better dealt with at Committee Stage.

The first point I wish to make quite clear is the one made very much about my being put down as the President of the new General Council of the Bar. I think it is important to point out here that this Bill had been in draft for a long time and the Bar Association and all those who were interested saw this Bill. This particular provision was there and no objection was raised at all until five days ago. That was when I had finally met the Bar Association on this, taken them into confidence, given them the text for about ten days before that and the Bill had had been printed. That was the stage at which it was suddenly discovered that the clause who was to be the President of the Council should not be there.

I do not feel very strongly about this at all. It does not matter to me in the least whether I am Chairman or not Chairman of the General Council of the Bar. But the point I want to make, Mr Speaker, is this, that the degree of confidence which I have reposed in the Association has not been sufficiently reciprocated in connection with one or two of the criticisms they are now levelling against this Bill.

It is not, I think, strictly accurate to cite examples of other Commonwealth countries in this matter. The whole of this Bill must be regarded as a kind of arrangement—as I said in the morning, a compromise—between two fairly separate issues. In this Bill we have recognised the existing practice in Nigeria as in most Commonwealth countries of recognising all those who practice at the Bar as barristers and Solicitors. We have heard all the arguments on the side of the barristers but we have not heard enough from the lawyers on the solicitors' side of their work which is what this Bill really sets out to regulate more than the barristers' side of the profession; and I did not really want to sound querulous over this or I might have brought some of the original drafts suggested to me by the Bar Association on some of the Clauses now being disputed. For example, the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) rightly observed during his contribution and again earlier on this morning that most of the criticisms we have heard have come from people who have shown the least interest in the work of the Nigeria Bar Association. If they had attended many of the meetings of that Association, if they had come to many of the meetings, the private conferences we held as well as the annual conferences that were held to consider aspects of this Bill, I am sure many of them might have withheld some of their criticisms.

Now, as for the requirement for the provision in section 4 asking that three-quarters of the money collected by the Registrar of the High Court on their behalf should be handed to them, with the remaining twenty-five per cent retained for certain services to be rendered to the Association or on behalf of the Association, I think the least said about it the better because I do not really want to wash dirty linen in the street. The reasons we have really undertaken to do this service on behalf of the Association are well-known to lawyers and the work that

[MINISTER OF JUSTICE]

the Registrar will perform, for your information, includes the keeping of a register, which will necessarily mean that an additional clerk or two will have to be permanently employed to keep the proper register of lawyers who have paid their fees, to keep the necessary accounting books and for all these people to be paid salaries and allowances, and so on. How could you do it with less than a quarter of the total money being collected on their behalf? These are the reasons why we have suggested the proportion of a quarter and if after we have worked this Bill for some time and come across difficulties, of course, this Bill could always be amended in the light of experience, but I do not think any Government will be regarded as sufficiently responsible as to undercount itself and hand over ninety *per cent* of what we are not sure yet how much the members of the Bar would respond and pay up and then undertake services such as the publication of this list of practising lawyers and then find itself short of money. We cannot subsidise the Bar Association so openly because other workers who belong to other Trade Unions have raised many objections on this particular aspect of the Bill with me and I had chosen to go this length in order to meet the Bar Association's wishes half way. I think it is better for us to leave that particular aspect of the matter.

The other important point raised concerns section 10. Opinions on this section have varied from "throw-it-all-out" to "modify-certain-aspects," and one of the most recent suggestions from the Bar Association has been not to reject this clause 10 which was in the original draft submitted to me by the Bar Association. And that is why the hon. Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) surprised me when (as I know he has done as much as anybody in that Association to get this Bill to this stage) he suggested that we should take out section 10 altogether. Now, in clause 10, two points have been made to me in the last few days by the Bar Association. One was that the number of two for their members who will serve on the Remuneration Committee should be raised to three, a suggestion with which I am fully in sympathy and which we shall consider at Committee. The second point concerns the word "maximum" in 10 (iii) (a), and the suggestion made to me

by the President of the Association was that the word "maximum" be dropped. That was all the Association would wish to say. How could anybody sit here and legislate for minimum charges? I think that is really ridiculous. There will be no point at all in fixing minimum charges because if he looks at the Solicitors Act of 1957, the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) will find that that is exactly what is there and what the hon. Member copied to me—his Association on his behalf—originally and I accepted most of the things put to me. I am sure that some of his colleagues, including himself, would not have accepted those suggestions.

The final thing concerns the Schedule to the Act. Objections have been raised to item 4 of the First Schedule on the grounds that "*Persons authorised to practise as legal practitioners by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section two of this Act*" be deleted, because they say that it is possible for Crown Counsel to be senior to those who are in practice. I think we are confusing terms here. We have to distinguish between seniority and, according lawyers, precedents on those occasions that they happen to appear in court to handle Crown cases. Our purpose under that particular item is to make it possible to have a uniform principle throughout the Federation whereby the Solicitors-General, as well as the Director of Public Prosecutions and possibly their deputies be included to rank immediately after the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Attorneys-General of the Regions and the Queen's Counsel. All these three categories would rank in order of precedence when these people appear in court, but the Solicitors-General and the Directors of Public Prosecutions we consider hold such important offices in the Legal Departments of the various Governments of the Federation that it would not be in accord with the dignity of their office if they were subjected to rough treatment in court. It is to be remembered that they are going to appear in Government cases only on their appearing on behalf of the Crown. This is not that they are going to appear in private litigation. As soon as they leave their office they lose this particular precedence which they will enjoy immediately below the rank of Queen's Counsel.

If hon. Members would have a look at the provision of some of the Commonwealth countries, contrary to what has been asserted

so many times this morning and this afternoon, hon. Members would find that this is not an isolated instance. But, of course, I am entirely in the hands of the House of the final thing they would decide about that matter.

May I mention, finally, that references have also been made to Commonwealth countries where they make, say, the chairman of the Bar Council or some other officers chairman. If hon. Members will again look at the Legal Provision Act of 1960 of Ghana or the Bar Council Act of 1896 to 1926 of India, hon. Members will find that the arrangements are there and specific officials are made chairmen of these Associations.

*Whereupon the Minister of Information (Mr T. O. S. Benson) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

*Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Original question put and agreed to.*

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

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS BILL : CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ESTABLISHMENT OF BAR COUNCIL).

**Mr R. A. O. Akinjide** (Ibadan South East) : In Clause 1, we have "Nigerian Bar Association". What we have is "Nigeria Bar Association" not "Nigerian Bar Association".

**The Chairman** : Order ! May I point out something for the convenience of the House. I am informed that "Nigerian Bar Association" is a typographical error—printers error. It will be corrected when the Bill will be finally printed.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central) : I gave notice to the effect that Clause 1 be amended as to provide for the President of the General Council of the Bar to be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Council.

I do not intend to speak at length on it. I have heard what the hon. Attorney-General has to say. He said he is not forcy about it, and that is what one would expect of a man of his standing. He cannot just force himself on his colleagues ; it is not necessary because he is the Attorney-General. This is an organ of the Association and we have a right to pick

and elect anybody as our own Chairman. Surely, if he commends himself to us, we should pick him, but it is very wrong for the statute to impose a Chairman on us. Instances have been cited of Ghana. It is this same group of people who say that Nigeria is different from Ghana. It is different from any other Commonwealth country. The desire of the Nigeria Bar Association is that the General Council of the Bar should be presided over by an elected Chairman. And what is more, the hon. Attorney-General did make his statement that it was only ten days ago that this Bill, in its present form, was sent to the Association and, five days later, he got the recommendation and the suggestion of the Council of the Association to the effect that it should be left open to the Council to elect its own Chairman at an Annual Meeting.

As the hon. Attorney-General said, that that is entirely a matter for the Council, I do not see any reason why any Minister who is not a lawyer should be forcy about it, having regard to what the hon. Minister of Justice said for himself. I, therefore, move that the Amendment be made.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I rise to oppose the Amendment, and in doing so, I would like to say that I respect my hon. Friend as a good lawyer, but he should be able to divorce his Parliamentary practice and stewardship from his Bar Association business. This is a body of law makers and not of legal practitioners. This House is not going to be dictated to by a Bar Association outside this House. The Attorney-General has told me and has appealed to me that he will like this particular Clause to be amended, but I told him that I am sure that I speak for this House, and in as much as we appreciate his modesty, we are not going to allow this House to be dictated to by anybody outside it. I am sure that the Chairman of the Bar Association now, when he was the Attorney-General of the Western Region, if such an amendment was to be put to any law in the West, would be the first to oppose it and he—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, it should be brought to the notice of Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh that the Chairman of the Nigeria Bar Association is an elected Chairman.

**The Chairman :** I am afraid, I have to rule that the point made by Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade is a point of information and not a point of order.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** I do not know whether these people who have planned to bomb this House should be allowed to speak in this place ?

**The Chairman :** I am afraid, this is not question time, and besides, we are not officially aware of anybody plotting to bomb this House.

**The Minister of Finance :** I have not finished. Bomb or no bomb, this House will continue to exist.

With the support of the Members of this House, I oppose the Amendment.

*Question put and negatived.*

*Clause 1 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Clause 2—(ENTITLEMENT TO PRACTISE).**

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) :** The next Amendment is consequential on the one that has been rejected as a result of the incorrigibility of the Minister of Finance, who thinks he can lord it over every Member of this House. In view of the answer, I do not move the Amendment.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** I think we ought to get one point straight before we proceed with this Bill, otherwise those who might be reading the *Hansard* might think that it was overlooked by everybody. The General Council of the Bar which is being set up under this Bill—Clause 1 that we have just adopted—is not an organ of the Nigerian Bar Association. It is a statutory body completely independent and which is being set up by the Government. The Bar Association is free to have its own Council of the Bar.

*Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Clause 3—(ENROLMENT).**

**Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** I have come to this House particularly determined to oppose this Bill because of this Clause 3. But having listened very attentively to the hon. Attorney-General, I think I have changed my mind. But I would like to make some very strong observations. These observations are

the discriminatory aspect of enrolment which makes it possible only for citizens of Nigeria and those who can produce a certificate, and so on and so forth, to be enrolled in Nigeria. Now, I find it difficult to accept the view that I personally should not be free to engage a lawyer of my choice, assuming I am accused of murder tomorrow. I want to feel that I have specialists enough. Assuming that there are no such specialists—

**The Chairman :** Order ! Under Standing Orders, I must object to that line of argument which is already *sub judice*.

**Dr Ezera :** I am speaking on Clause 3 (a) which says that "*Subject to the provisions of this section, a person shall be entitled to have his name enrolled if, and only if,—(a) he is a citizen of Nigeria*". I do not think that that is so. I am not willing to accept the view that nationality for this case should take precedence, and I would like to sound a note of warning—

**The Chairman :** If the hon. Gentleman will continue on those lines, I must certainly rule him out of order.

**Dr Ezera :** I would like just to make some general remarks there. Here I would like to ask the Government to extend this type of generality to other professions in the sense that we have Nigerians in charge of surveyors, architects, so that money will remain in Nigeria. We can also patronise Nigerians. Therefore, the National Parliament which is going to be built, and which I understand we have invited architects from outside and money to the tune of £6 million will be spent, could be done by Nigerians and the money will not go out of this country. There should be a similar law to make it impossible for expatriates to come unless they are already employed by either Nigerians or in partnership with Nigerians. I would very much support this Bill if it can give consideration also to other professions.

**Mr J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural) :** I would like to comment on section 3 subsection (5). I am glad that this morning the hon. Attorney-General himself pointed out that this is the only controversial clause in this Bill. So far there has been no comment about it. But I feel that the clause, as it stands at the moment, is not a credit to us in this country.

Our Attorney-General for very many years was in the United Kingdom. Well, I think I am open to correction, but he should let us know whether he was enrolled as a member of the Bar of the United Kingdom or not. And now that he is in this country what has happened to his enrolment? Further, our Minister of Foreign Affairs was a member of the Irish Bar. He practised for some years, according to his own life history, in Ireland. Now that he is in this country what has happened to his enrolment as a member of the Irish Bar! I feel that this particular clause ought not to be in this Bill and therefore should not form part of the law. Once enrolled as a member of the Nigerian Bar a legal practitioner should always be a member of the Nigerian Bar.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban): I have to make this particular reference to section 3 subsection (5), that is the section dealing with those non-Nigerians whose names appear to be on the rolls on the coming into force of this law. In my opinion, I feel it is wrong for us to delete names of non-Nigerian lawyers who have already been enrolled in Nigeria because we Nigerians are equally enrolled in England. And it will be wrong, and will be unhappy to learn that our names are now being removed from the rolls in England. (*Interruptions*). I am enrolled in England and I have nothing to quarrel in the provision that Nigerian lawyers should be—(*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman**: Order! Order! The volume of interruptions is certainly too much.

**Mr Araka**: I have nothing to quarrel against the provision that only Nigerian lawyers should hereafter be enrolled. But for those who have already been enrolled, I would respectfully submit that that clause be completely expunged. We have other safeguards in this Bill. For example, section 4 subsection (2) which says that Queen's Counsel should pay annually ten guineas, those above five years five guineas, and so on. If those lawyers in England, Queen's Counsel as they may be, who have been enrolled in Nigeria do not bother to pay this annual subscription their names should automatically go off the roll.

**The Minister of Finance**: Is the hon. Member for Onitsha Urban an English lawyer?

**Mr Araka**: I am not an English lawyer. But I want a sort of reciprocal arrangement. Under section 2 subsection (3) (a) and (b) the Chief Justice of the Federation has the right on application of any lawyer not a Nigerian and who comes from a country whose legal practice and procedure we consider as the same with ours, to enrol him and allow him to engage in a particular case. So that even if we expunge all those English lawyers who had already been enrolled in Nigeria, they still can come back through the backdoor, and under section 2 (3) (a) and (b) the Chief Justice can give them special legal licence to undertake a particular case. Therefore, I say that instead of putting this unpopular section in the Bill it should be expunged because the English Parliament will be quite free to take a reciprocal action.—

**The Chairman**: Order! Order! I think at this stage a member may express views on a clause, of course, subject to provisions of the Standing Orders, but cannot ask this House to expunge a clause if he has not tabled a Motion to that effect.

**Mr Araka**: Well, since no Motion has been filed to that effect, it is a humble request to the hon. Attorney-General to have this in mind, that this section really is unnecessary in view of other provisions in the Bill by which people who are non-Nigerians could easily come and practise in Nigeria.

**The Chairman**: As has already been ruled it takes a Motion to remove a Clause and at no request however humble.

*Clause 3—(ENROLMENT), ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 4—(RIGHT OF AUDIENCE, AND PRECEDENCE).*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana): Mr Chairman, I refer to section 4(2) (c) which says that three-quarters of the fees collected should be paid back to the Association. The Bar Association is a trade union like the Motor Drivers' Union and those other unions.

**The Chairman**: Order! In view of the previous explanation of the Attorney-General I am bound under Standing Orders to rule this out as a vain repetition.



**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi** (Ilesha Urban) : I refer to section (2). I made a humble request in the morning, and I think I would like to recommend it to the Attorney-General for consideration. As it is, if a lawyer fails to pay his money—

**An hon. Member** : Why should he pay ?

**The Chairman** : Order ! I am afraid Mr Ogunbiyi is not very audible. Would Members please co-operate with him, he is very far from the microphone.

**Mr Ogunbiyi** : In fact, as it stands, if a lawyer fails to pay his dues at the end of one particular year automatically he loses his licence, and he cannot practise ; but if the hon. the Attorney-General would kindly allow three months' notice to be written in this Bill—

**An hon. Member** : Is the hon. Member a lawyer ?

**Mr Ogunbiyi** : I am not. I think, that will serve the interest of all the members of the Bar. It is not going to be a difficult thing for the Registrar to write a lawyer informing him that it is almost time for his licence to be renewed or to pay up. I think it will be very good indeed, and I strongly recommend it to the hon. the Attorney-General.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** (Abuja) : This Clause 4 gives legal practitioners the right of audience in any court. I should like the hon. the Attorney-General to make it a point of warning that when legal practitioners are given the benefit of that audience in any native court they should not make use of this audience so as to make it a point of argument for reference in dealing with this provision in any form.

*Clauses 4, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 5-9, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 10—(SCALES OF CHARGES).*

**The Chairman** : There are some written Amendments on the Table, and I understand it is the intention of the Attorney-General to accept some of them, so we had better give them some consideration.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** : I beg to move, That in line 22 delete the word "two" and substitute "three" just to agree with what the hon. Attorney-General has said.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General** : I wish to commend it to the House because this will enable all the three Regions to have at least one representative, as has been discussed with the Bar Association.

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

*Question, that the word proposed to be added be there added, put and agreed to.*

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : I understand that in view of the explanation of the Attorney-General—(Interruption).

**The Chairman** : I gather that Chief Akinloye was asking leave to withdraw his Amendment.

**Chief Akinloye** : I was going to propose with the acceptance of this House the removal of the word "maximum" from line 31.

**The Minister of Finance** : This is not a law to defend lawyers' interest.

**The Chairman** : May I appeal to Members to kindly restrain their enthusiasm and channel them within the confines of the Standing Orders. It does not really conform with the dignity of the House for Members to jump on their feet without being called upon and start making utterances.

**Chief Akinloye** : I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name, Clause 10, section 3 (a) which is line 31, that the word 'maximum' should be removed. I would not expatiate on this one, because I think it is only fair, and as the Attorney-General, a very honest and highly respected man, has already given this undertaking, this Amendment will be acceptable to the House.

**The Minister of Finance** : In the interest of the ordinary man in the street this House must protect the litigants, and we are not here to protect one section of the community against the other. I think that the Attorney-General in drafting this Bill gave maximum consideration to the maximum fees that should be charged. Therefore, Sir, we do not want the word 'maximum' to be removed, especially as when it is removed it will give a loophole for any lawyer to translate that Clause in the way he likes, and start putting *jankara* money in his pocket. We oppose, Sir.

Federal Parliament Debates

2823

[Legal Practitioners Bill]

6 DECEMBER 1962

[Legal Practitioners Bill]

2824

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja) : I think this matter does not concern the Minister of Finance. I say that our hon. and Gallant Member for Warri, the Minister of Finance, has always—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order. The hon. Gentleman now speaking is completely wrong. He should remember collective responsibility, so whether a subject matter falls within the portfolio of the Minister of Finance or not he speaks for and on behalf of the Federal Government.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : Mr Chairman, as I was saying, the Minister of Finance knows very well the worth of lawyers. Whether or not he comes to this House and attacks us lawyers, he knows very well that we have always stood by him when the Action Group have worried him. (*Laughter*).

**An hon. Member** : On a point of Order, Mr Chairman.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I am not yielding. In supporting the hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) I have to say that if the Attorney-General agrees that the word 'maximum' should be removed, it will not leave any loophole for the *Yankara* money as stated by the Minister of Finance. The main idea is that the Clause will remain as the charges which will be levied in respect of any transaction listed or specified by the order. The word "charges" will represent both maximum and minimum charges. In any event, it is very necessary that the word "maximum" be removed and I am sure the hon. the Attorney-General will not oppose his fellow lawyers.

**Several hon. Members** : No sentiments.

**Mr Ogunsanya** : I am not referring to people who are resident at Sapele.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** : I think if my learned Friends and colleagues of the Bar will look carefully again at section 10 subsection 3 (a) they will find that the removal of the word "maximum" from that particular Clause will not in any way circumscribe the power of the Committee that will draw up the rules for fixing the maximum charges. I think they will appreciate that point. This is subject to rules to be made by this Committee on which my colleagues are fully represented and the

Committee can ensure the sort of fees that it wants to charge and those fees must be according to a scale. So, if we drop the word 'maximum' it still will not make any difference. All that it says is that the Committee that is drawing up this rule should set a ceiling on certain types of business and not all types of business. That is why Section 13 goes on to explain further that the Committee can give directions in respect of other matters.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

**The Minister of Finance** : When the hon. the Attorney-General was explaining this particular Clause about fixing the maximum fees to be charged by lawyers, something appealed to me, and I trust the Attorney-General will please give an explanation. The point I want to make is whether this Committee that is supposed to fix the maximum fees will be entirely made up of lawyers and that no one will be there to represent outside interests. Honestly, I think that no lawyer should be members of the Committee.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** : On a point of order ; the hon. Minister of Finance has filed no Amendment.

**The Chairman** : I think the Minister or Finance is not moving an Amendment as such. He is merely making an observation with a view to eliciting further explanation.

**The Minister of Justice** : May I say that the provision here is not undemocratic and it is in line with what obtains elsewhere. There is no organised body of the Bar that leaves this matter to laymen.

**Clause 10**—(as amended)—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Clause 11**—(RECOVERY OF CHARGES, ETC.)

**The Chairman** : Chief A. M. A. Akinloye will now move his Amendment.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** : Sir, I do not move.

**Clause 11**—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Clauses 12 to 16**—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

**Clause 17**—(OFFENCES)

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye :** I rise to move an Amendment to Clause 17 (d). My intention is to remove the following words: "for or in expectation of reward".

The reason is that the Clause provides that anybody other than legal practitioners should prepare any document relating to immovable property but it stipulates that nobody other than a legal practitioner should prepare "for or in expectation of reward any instrument relating to immovable property". This is going to throw quite a big onus on anybody who is going to prove that a person other than a legal practitioner has prepared a document, because it has to be proved whether the document has been prepared for or in expectation of a reward. A legal document is an important document. I do know that some laws in the Western Region provide that instruments relating to property, if prepared by anybody other than a legal practitioner, shall be invalid. I only hope that the Attorney-General will see my point.

**The Minister of Justice :** That is exactly what this provision provides. The hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) has to read it further.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye :** I know it does but if we say "any person who is not a legal practitioner should not prepare any instrument relating to property" then—

**The Minister of Justice :** The point of law there is that anyone who is not a legal practitioner must not prepare anything that is intended to be used for legal purposes. Unless this is provided for it will be easy for any of these people to say that he prepared it and so has not transgressed any law; that he does not know the purpose for which this thing is being done. We have to guard against that point.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya :** The point explained by the Attorney-General is not the point. The point really is leaving out "for or in expectation of reward". That is all that is required. In the Courts someone may be charged with having contravened this section and it may be a defence for him to say that he did *gratis* and without the expectation of a reward. In the end, however, we will dig him out but I think it is wise now to leave out the possibility of any loophole. The real

intention of what the hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) is emphasising is the deletion of "for or in expectation of reward". It is not so much the purpose for which a document is prepared but whether or not a non-legal practitioner prepared it and got money for it. Unless this is deleted, it will be impossible to prosecute. The preparing of legal documents transferring an interest in land, an immovable property, should in itself be an offence, without any question whether or not money or a sort of consideration other than for money, has been given over.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** I am sorry that the wrong end of the thing has been taken thus far. The important point here is, of course, not to turn everybody who chooses to be his own conveyancer into a criminal.

The law allows you to draw up a will by which you can transfer your real property to your children and to other people. The point we are dealing with is a practical issue that has arisen in the experience of all the Ministers of Justice throughout the Federation. Many of the land departments of these various Governments have employed individuals. You will find that what we have put here is in fact one of the few things in favour of lawyers—to make it impossible now for non-legal people in the various lands departments to be taking lawyers' job and preparing documents. This is the point. And we want to deal with those. We want to deal also with people who are letter-writers and who are preparing these things.

If you look at this clause carefully, it is a pity we are perhaps rushing this thing this afternoon, otherwise, I could have brought you at least about sixteen or seventeen other legislations of this type in which exact wording has been used, and I would have given you at least about twenty-five different court decisions on this matter in England.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central) :** It seems that we lawyers in this House are only at cross purposes with the Attorney-General. The point is this—let us take the instant case cited by the hon. Attorney-General: an ordinary clerk working in the Lands Department. He knows how to prepare a deed of conveyance and a deed of lease, and invariably he does

prepare these things. But if he has prepared them and he is caught for doing so, he will always have an excuse in saying "I did not prepare them for any reward". So that he is not caught within the provisions of this law.

**The Attorney-General:** But they do prepare these things, and there are thousands of cases about this.

**Mr Dosunmu:** We only feel that it will be tidier if it is left that section 71 (1) provides that it will be illegal for one who is not a lawyer to prepare documents relating to property. That is the exact point. The hon. Minister of Finance says, "What if you prepare your own"? If a man prepares it for reward, except he is a lawyer, he ought not prepare his own. If you are a lawyer, and you know all the legal technicalities, you will be able to prepare it. In respect of a will, that is a private matter, an individual can do what he likes. But a man who chooses to prepare a deed of conveyance may be sorry for the consequences if he is not a lawyer, and he takes upon himself to prepare it. It will be tidier, I think with all respects to the hon. Attorney-General, if he just leaves it at this that "Subject to the provision of this section, if any person other than a legal practitioner prepares any instrument relating to immovable property, he shall be guilty of an offence," because if he insists that the words "for or in expectation of reward" is necessary, it is providing a defence for somebody who will say, "Yes, I did it, but not for reward". It is going to be very difficult for the prosecution to prove that in fact he did it for reward. That is what we are fighting for.

**The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku):** I think that all legal practitioners should realise that their services can only be taken by people who want legal advice and it is not in the interest of the legal profession to sponsor legislation which will make it compulsory for people to retain their services. That is the important thing. Any person who wants property, if he wants to prepare the document to transfer it, it is his own responsibility. Whether in a court of law such a document will be legally admissible or not is his own risk. It is not for the lawyer to say that a man cannot do it. But since the lawyer spends money to acquire his education, he is entitled to practise his profession. Therefore this section seeks to

protect his interests, that somebody who has not spent that money to acquire the knowledge should not usurp his job in preparing such documents. This is the whole thing. But the hon. Member is trying to push it too far by compelling people who think they can transfer their own properties to go and engage lawyers to do it. That would not be fair. That is the position.

*Question put and negatived.*

*Clause 17 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 18-20 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

First Schedule—(TABLE OF PRECEDENCE).

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye (Ibadan North East):** I rise to move an Amendment to paragraph 4,

That paragraph 4 be deleted.

The Attorney-General had tried to anticipate this Amendment and to make an explanation on it. But the only thing which I think will be proper in this case is to remove this particular paragraph. Now, the hon. Attorney-General made mention of people who might fall in this category such as the Attorney-General, or the D.P.P., and so on. I think that the question of the Director of Public Prosecutions is a different one entirely and as far as I know, in this country to-day, all our D.P.P.'s are Queen's Counsel, so they stand in the fore front. But to expect that a junior lawyer who happens to be a Crown Counsel should have precedence over us who are old cocks in the Bar, should, I think, be most revolting. All we are saying is that in this table of precedence, paragraph 4 should be off, and whether a person is a Crown Counsel or not, he should fall in line with his time of enrolment. There is no Crown Counsel or Assistant Crown Counsel who has not been ordinarily enrolled like any other legal practitioner. But for the D.P.P.'s who are Queen's Counsel, they take their places.

I beg to move the Amendment

**Mr J. O. Ogunbiyi (Ilesha Urban):** I hope the hon. Attorney-General might be prepared to make this concession to members of the Bar. It is rather important. Although he has given his own idea of people who are covered by this section, but it is apparent

[MR OGUNBIYI]

that a pupil Crown Counsel who is only perhaps one year at the Bar will come in under this section, whereas he ought not to come in ordinarily.

I know that once a Crown Counsel goes to court he no doubt represents the Crown. But the fact remains that he is doing his job as counsel for the Crown. Having regard to all these Amendments which have been thrown out, and having regard also to the hostile attitude which we have had to face since the beginning of this debate, I am sure that it will not be too much for the hon. Attorney-General to make this concession, which I think is proper.

**The Attorney-General:** I do not know what the House will feel about this. But the intention behind it was to make it possible for the Attorneys-General under the general guidance of rules later to be laid down uniform throughout the Federation, and under the general guidance of the General Council of the Bar, to restrict those to be given these special privileges to Solicitors-General, and Directors of Public Prosecutions, who are not of Her Majesty's Council.

We feel that public business, State business, will be more speedily transacted if, when these people appear in court, they are given precedence in the particular case in which they are appearing. They will not, by virtue of this item, gain seniority over anybody who is already senior to them at the Bar. As soon as they cease to occupy this post, they will lose that precedence at once, because if hon. Members go back and refer to section 4, they will find that at the end of it we say, "For the purposes of that office, as long as he remains in that office".

Somebody has observed a few moments ago that if it is true then that all the D.P.P.'s are already Q.Cs., then they fall under section 3 and they will not come under section 4. But hon. Members will all agree with me that the ordinary decencies of public life require that when a person of the status of Solicitor-General appears in a Crown case, he should be allowed to have some sort of precedence below the Queen's Counsel over the matter in which he is appearing. That is the whole purpose of this Bill and I can give an undertaking to the House that no one below the two classes will ever be allowed to enjoy that precedence.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye:** In view of the undertaking of the hon. Attorney-General, I ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

*First Schedule agreed to.*

*Second and Third Schedules agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

## ADJOURNMENT

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Friday, 7th December, 1962

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

DEATH OF A MEMBER

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I regret to inform the House of the death last September of Alhaji Ibrahim Ladan Fari, Member for Jibiya Keita, and I desire on behalf of the House to express our sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Member.

REPORT FROM BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that Mallam Muhammadu Gwarzo reports from the Business Committee that in accordance with Standing Order 55 (1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday 11th December in the order as follows :—

- (1) Nigerian Airways (No. 156 in the Order Book);
- (2) Police Activities in Lagos (No. 144 in the Order Book);
- (3) Conversion of Postal Agencies into Sub-Post Offices (No. 153 in the Order Book);
- (4) Increase of Prices for Cash Crops (No. 109 in the Order Book);
- (5) First Nigerian International Trade Fair. (No. 153 in the Order Book);
- (6) (Reaffirmation of Confidence in the Commonwealth) No. 142 in the Order Book.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to make the following Business Statement for the week ending Saturday 15th December.

On Monday, the Customs and Excise Bill and the Provincial Commissioners (Northern Nigeria) Bill will be presented. We shall take the Committee and Third Reading of the Income Tax Bill and the Flags and Coat of

Arms Bill. The following Bills will be given their Second Reading :—

- (a) Official Secrets (Amendment);
- (b) University of Ibadan;
- (c) Lagos Sports Council;
- (d) Tafawa Balewa Square (Adjustment of Boundaries).

On Tuesday, which is Private Members' day, the Diplomatic Immunity Bill will be presented.

On Wednesday, we shall have the Second Reading of the Customs and Excise and Weights and Measures Bill and the Committee and Third Reading of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill; the Lagos Sports Council Bill; and the Tafawa Balewa Square (Adjustment of Boundaries) Bill.

On Thursday we shall have Second Reading of the Provincial Commissioners (Northern Nigeria) Bill and the Diplomatic Immunity Bill and the Committee and Third Reading of the Customs and Excise and Weights and Measures Bill. The House will also be asked to pass Resolutions on the Supplementary Capital Estimates, and to confirm Customs Tariff Orders.

On Friday, the Committee and Third Reading of the Provincial Commissioners (Northern Nigeria) and the Diplomatic Immunity Bills will be taken and the House will adjourn *sine die*. I might add, Sir, that tomorrow there will be no sitting of the House.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN BILL

An Act to establish the University of Ibadan; to transfer to the University the property of the University College, Ibadan, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Education; read the First time; to be read a Second time—  
Monday, 10th December, 1962.

MOTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): Mr Speaker Sir, I have the mandate of Members of this Parliament to demand from you—and we humbly demand this—that you allow us this

[MR ABII]

morning time to debate the statement made by the Minister of Economic Development on the 5th of December on the Floor of this House. (Applause). We are of the opinion that the statement he made on the Census of Nigeria, 1962, is not such that a Minister of his own status should make. He read to us portions of what the expatriate civil servant—(Applause as a new NPC Member is escorted to the Floor of the House).

**Mr Speaker:** Order, order. May I please have the text of the Motion Mr Abii is moving? I would like to have it. (Mr Abii submitted the text of a Motion to Mr Speaker).

**Mr Speaker:** Order. This is not the text of the Motion to be moved at this moment. Mr. Abii is apparently moving the suspension of the Standing Orders and the debating of the said Motion after the conclusion of to-day's business.

**Mr Abii:** I quite realise what you have said, but I feel bound to express the majority view of the Members of this House. (Applause). They are demanding that you should give them the time now.

**Mr Speaker:** Order. I am not objecting to your expression of the view of the Members of this House; all I am saying is that I would like, for the purpose of record and for my reference, to have the Motion you are moving now, that is, the Standing Orders to be suspended.

**The Minister of Finance:** I am sure that the point at issue raised by my hon. Friend our Whip, is very significant and important, and I would appeal to hon. Members that it is a delicate issue. (Prolonged Interruption).

**Mr Speaker:** I think the hon. Member for Owerri East (Mr Abii) has misunderstood what I meant. Yesterday, he saw me on this issue and wanted to raise this Motion on the Floor of the House to precede Government Business. Well, I told him that he could have made arrangements with the Government to include the Motion in to-day's Order Paper but as it was not possible for him to do that, I told him that I would give him an opportunity to raise a Motion suspending the Standing Orders. That Motion he is moving to suspend Standing Orders I have not got the text of. So, I wonder whether it will be proper for the House

to proceed without my having the text of the Motion and the Clerk having the same.

**Mr Abii:** May I then humbly submit this as the Motion, "That this day notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 4 (2), the House shall sit until 1 p.m., unless previously adjourned, to enable the Ministerial Statement made by the hon. Minister of Economic Development on the Floor of this House on Wednesday, the 5th of December, to be debated".

*Text of Motion submitted to Mr Speaker*

**Mr Speaker:** That is all I asked for.

**Mr Abii:** In moving this Motion I have to ask the House to be patient to listen because I am not of the opinion of attacking anybody—

**Mr Speaker:** May I again refer the hon. Member for Owerri East (Mr Abii) to Standing Order 68 which says—

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

So, in order to raise this question, it is necessary for me first of all to ask for the assent of the House. Is it the wish of the House? (Cries of Yes and No.)

**Mr Speaker:** The general assent of the House is accordingly not granted and so— (Prolonged interruptions).

**Mr Speaker:** Order, Mr Okafor. And so, the Motion cannot be admitted.

(Several hon. Members withdrew from the Chamber).

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to be known as the Income Tax Act, 1962, be read a Second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Income Tax Management Act, 1961, the Companies Income Tax Act, 1961, and the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Act, 1961, so as to make provision for some minor matters which were inadvertently omitted when the

above laws were enacted and to make improvements dictated by the subsequent administration thereof.

Clause 1 (a) extends tax relief in respect of sums withdrawn or received from approved pension or provident funds on Nigerianisation of an employment with a public body. In a case where, in order to enable Government to pursue one of its policies, the employment of a person who is not a citizen of Nigeria is brought to an end within five years of commencement and the employee is consequently forced to retire or leave that employment because of the Nigerianisation of his post, the benefits received from such pension/provident fund will be exempt from income tax.

Clause 1 (b) empowers the relevant tax authority to exempt from tax any portion of any sums received from an approved pension or provident fund by an employee who is not a citizen of Nigeria, in cases not falling within Clause 1 (a) but which in the opinion of the tax authority merit special treatment.

Clause 2 deals with the apportionment of rent paid in advance and included in Company profits. Before the Income Tax Legislation 1961 came into force, it was departmental practice, where rent was received in advance to allow the recipient the concession of spreading the rent over the period to which it related subject to a limit of seven years; but if the recipient objected to that treatment (such an objection would arise where the rent so paid in advance covered a period in excess of seven years) the concession was withdrawn and the strict legal position, which was to treat all the rent as income of the year in which it was actually received, adhered to. That concession has since received limited statutory recognition in that the Income Tax Management Act, 1961 (*vide* subsection (2) (c) of section 4) now provides that rent received in advance by individuals will be regarded as accruing from day to day over the period in respect of which it is stated to be paid, subject to a limit of five years where that period exceeds five years.

Although it was clearly intended to make this rule apply also to rents received in advance by companies, the provision was inadvertently omitted from section 17 of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1961. The proposed amend-

ment to section 17 of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1961 seeks to rectify this omission.

Clause 3, under section 35 (1) of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1961, provision is made for set-off and repayment of tax deducted from dividends. Such set-off and repayment is limited to a Nigerian Company, although this was not intended. A company other than a Nigerian company may also be in receipt of dividends and be entitled to similar set-off or repayment, hence the proposed amendment.

Clause 4 extends the tax relief allowable under paragraph (a) of section 19 of the Personal Income Tax (Lagos) Act, 1961, to cases of separated spouses.

Clause 5 now provides the machinery for collecting from the Executors/Administrators of deceased persons, tax which would have been properly due on any income which arose to the deceased prior to the date of his death. There is nothing new in this provision as it existed in the old laws but was inadvertently omitted from the new ones of 1961.

In recommending this Bill I must emphasise that no radical changes are being brought about and that the Bill does not impose any new tax, but merely makes provision for matters inadvertently omitted when the Income Tax Acts, 1961, were enacted, and makes improvements dictated by the subsequent administration of those Acts.

The Bill, therefore, is non-controversial and I trust that hon. Members will give it their unanimous support.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Education** (Mr Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): We on this side of the House who have constituted, as you have seen, the Opposition to this Government, very much welcome this Bill. But we have very little observation to make. There is a section in the Bill which attempts to tax a deceased person by imposing a tax on his estate. Now the Government should take the necessary action otherwise that section may be interpreted to mean that a deceased person is being taxed.



MR EKANEM]

This Bill when passed into law, shall only affect the Federal territory of Lagos, but it is likely that the Regional Governments may pass similar Bills into law. In the rural areas where people do not even see the law pertaining to taxation or any other law, the hon. the Minister of Finance should set aside money for publicising that section properly to eliminate any hardship on the deceased's dependants. That is all I have got to say about this Bill, and we, the Opposition as we are to-day, very much welcome the Bill.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

*Clause 5—(COLLECTION OF TAX FOR WHICH A DECEASED PERSON WAS ANSWERABLE).*

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** This is the place I was trying to quarrel with. I want to reiterate what I have said in the interest of the Government and of the Federal territory of Lagos and I would like it to be considered. The House will agree with me that in rural areas even to-day, because of lack of real good information to the people, it is being interpreted that women are taxed. I would like the Ministry of Information to give the section sufficient publicity so that it may not be interpreted that the Government is taxing dead people. That is all I want to say.

*Clause 5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 6—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Finance).*

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** This is indeed a welcome Bill which brings back to me memories of when this Parliament was inaugurated in 1960 and I made a speech in this House when the hon. the Minister of Finance introduced the Appropriation Bill. I reminded him that close examination must be made into the Department of Inland Revenue because I got the information, and very good

one too, that well over one million pounds, was written off. It did not please the Minister that very day but he came back the next day to say that I was not very far from truth. Since then, that department has been working well.

To-day, we have a Nigerian at the head of that Department. For this we congratulate the Minister of Finance. But the Minister of Finance can only be at the head of the Ministry. He does not see everything that is being done in the Department of Inland Revenue. I want to sound a note of warning to him on this Bill to be passed here to tax dead people who due to circumstances could not pay their tax. This Bill empowers the Government, after the death of these people, to recover, from whatever they have, the tax they had not paid. The Department must be up-to-date in collecting this money so that if my father is dead and I pay death rate on his property, other people must pay too. Nobody must be covered. I am not saying that the Minister is going to cover anybody, but I am referring to the staff of the Department of Inland Revenue. What is sauce for the goose must be sauce for the gander. This money is for the Federation of Nigeria and nobody must be covered.

This is all I want to say. I welcome this Bill and I wholeheartedly support it.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

FLAGS AND COATS OF ARMS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Flags and Coats of Arms Act, 1960, by making better provision for the National Flag and other Flags in Nigeria, be now read a Second time.

Members will recall that immediately after our independence in October 1960, I brought a Bill entitled the Flags and Coats of Arms 1960 to this House for enactment. It was with the desire of taking steps to ensure that the national emblems of Nigeria are accorded proper regard and the dignity they deserve. Bearing in mind the respect which we all expect these emblems should be given as those of a Sovereign State, all hon. Members

of this House and the Senators gave the Bill their wholehearted support and it was passed.

Furthermore, in 1961, the Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Act, 1961 was passed in order to ensure that where the National Flag and the Flag of a foreign State or of any of the Regions of the Federation or any other Flag was flown from the same staff or jack, the National Flag should be uppermost. It has been observed that this Amendment went much further than was intended since in effect it disallows the flying of a Regional Flag alone in any Region without flying the National Flag at the same time. The main purpose of this Amendment Bill is therefore to regularise this anomaly.

This Bill further provides for the circumstances in which the Flag of any Commonwealth or foreign country may be flown.

Opportunity has also been taken to provide for the flying by any ship, other than a Nigerian ship, of the National Flag and the Flag of the country where the ship is registered.

Hon. Members will agree that the Bill is non-controversial and should therefore have an easy passage.

I beg to move.

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

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): Anything—

**An hon. Member**: Are you now the Leader?

**Mr Ekanem**: I am the Deputy, and I am not only the Deputy but the Leader, by election, of the Calabar bloc.

**The Minister of Finance**: Since when?

**Mr Ekanem**: Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance is trying to confuse me and I hope you will protect me.

As I was saying, anything that will bring the Flag of this great country of ours into a sort of honour must be vehemently protected. I learnt sometime ago that our own Flag was not allowed to be flown in the High Commissioner's Office in London. The Prime Minister will have to explain that. Here in Nigeria, there is an office for the U.K. High

Commissioner; we want our own Flag to be flown uppermost and their own to come down. This is our country.

Now, our ships coming in and going out of the Victoria Island should fly our Flags. I always take care to watch ships coming in flying their own Flags.

**An hon. Member**: Does the hon. Member want to make a news headline?

**Mr Ekanem**: I do not come here to talk for newspapers. This Bill is very highly welcome, but the anomaly which I have just pointed out, namely, the flying of our National Flag in the United Kingdom, must be looked into. I am open to correction, I may be wrong. It should not only be flown in the United Kingdom, but in all other countries. The Bill itself is very highly welcome because it is a Bill that will add to the dignity of this great Country.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): This Bill is non-controversial, as already said by the hon. Minister of Finance, but I have a very little contribution to make to the debate.

I think there is something to be done about our National Flag. It is too dull now, and it is not attractive. Even in this House, we wear attractive dresses. Why should we not make our National Flag more attractive?—

**The Minister of Finance**: My hon. Friend, the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) is absolutely irrelevant. This Bill has nothing to do with the attraction.

**Mr Speaker**: Let us hear a little bit more from him.

**Mr Lar**: Thank you.

**The Minister of Finance**: Thank you for what?

**Mr Lar**: If I am a little bit irrelevant now, I hope I shall be more relevant some time. I still have in mind that one day the Flag would be made more attractive.

Now, about the flying of our National Flag in some of our Embassies abroad, I understand that the National Flag is not flown as much as it should be. For example, I was in Washington recently and I went to our Embassy there; there was no Nigerian National Flag there. There was a tiny thing flown through the window. Why should it not be flown at the top of our

[MR LAR]

Embassy instead of through the window? I think we should do something about it. We should not be ashamed of our National Flag anywhere. All Nigerian Embassies overseas must have the National Flags flown over the building and not to be flown through the window. I do not think that is right at all.

**Mr J. B. Eboigbodi** (Asaba West): I am speaking in support of this Bill, and while doing so, I have to say that everywhere in this country the tendency we have is to speak of One Nigeria. That is what we do. But in a Clause in this Bill, there is a tendency to show that we are somehow divided internally. There is an encouragement here to let different Regions have their own separate flags flown in their own Regions, whilst we come here to speak of one country, one Nigeria and that everything should be one. In my opinion, since this Constitution actually tends to show us that we are somehow divided, it will be for the goodness of this country if this Government, with closer consultation with other Regional Governments, will see that they drop some of those things that tend to show that we are divided in this country. I think that separate Regional Flags should be discouraged and let only the National Flag be flown in all the Regions of this country.

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

**Mr S. O. Kolade** (Oyo South): I rise in support of this Bill. I think the Bill is non-controversial, and it is welcome at this particular time. During the International Trade Fair, I came to Lagos to watch the events. I personally compared the Flags of other nations of the world with that of Nigeria and I have to say publicly on the Floor of this House that I was impressed with the Nigerian Flag because it is so simple and moderate and it was the best. I just looked at all the Flags and found that the Nigerian Flag was the best. Therefore, I have to congratulate the designer of the Flag and also the Government for the selection of that Flag which excelled all other Flags during the International trade Fair. We should not be ashamed of our National Flag at all and wherever the Flag is flown it should be very neat. It should also be kept in a very good position. Occasionally, too, by the side of this Parliament, I see that the Flags flown are not so neat. Therefore, I am

challenging the Federal Government for not seeing to it that the Flag to be flown at the side of the Parliament is an attractive one. It should be neat at all times. After all, it does not cost much, so that any time we see that Flag is dirty, another very good one should be put there.

I do not know what the Government is thinking about this idea: I think all Members of Parliament should each be given a token Nigerian Flag to be flown on their cars so that people can know that they are actually Nigerian Parliamentarians. If we do that, it will be a sort of advertisement wherever we go. Not only that, I think some of these Flags should be sent to the Regions because this Constitution is making us to be too conscious of our Regions. If you give all these flags to the children at the primary schools, the teachers will teach them the ideal of unity in Nigeria—Unity and Faith—so that these children in the primary schools will know the significance and importance of the Nigerian Flag over those of the Regions. I think we should advertise it through our primary schools in all the Regions of the Federation.

I think this is a welcome Bill and I wholeheartedly support it on behalf of the Opposition.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): I wholeheartedly support the Second Reading of this Bill. I support, indeed, what the last speaker has just said about the simplicity and beauty of our flag. The purpose of this Bill is primarily to put our flag above all other flags, especially Regional flags. In connection with this, I like to say that the National Flag should also be put above all party flags. There is, Mr Speaker, a competition between the N.P.C. flag and the National Flag. That competition should be removed. The N.P.C. should change their colours from green and white. Let the National Flag be green and white, and let all parties and the Regional Governments have different colours on their flags.

I was earlier going to raise a point of order. Only yesterday, we were told that the U.M.B.C. were teaming up with the Action Group. The Action Group have walked out and I think these people here should also walk out if they are teaming up with them.

**Mr Speaker**: Order! This is certainly irrelevant.

**Chief D. A. Ogunleye** (Ede-Ejigbo): I want to support this Bill just with a very brief remark. When we talk of our National Flag we do not mean the flags that are being imported into the country by some people for security reasons when the explosives would be on. We mean our National Flag. In a part of this Bill it is said that when the Regional Flag is flown and the National Flag is flown, the National Flag should be given priority.

I want to add that the National Flag should be flown in all the boundary lines of Nigeria so that when we are coming from, say, the French territory or some other territories outside Nigeria, the first flag we should come across should be the National Flag. That will help us to show that whatever happens, Nigeria is striving for unity.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): I like to dissociate myself completely with the views expressed by the U.P.P. Leader, Chief Ayo Rosiji, that the N.P.C. flag should be changed. It is my humble opinion that the N.P.C. should retain its flag. The National Flag should remain what it is now.

Again, I should like to oppose what the hon. Gentleman on the *other* side said, that the idea of Regional Flags should be abolished. It is my humble submission that these Regions are autonomous and are quite different Governments, and therefore should be entitled to have their Regional Flags flown in their Regions.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): I like to support the Second Reading of the Flags and Coats of Arms Bill. I have to associate myself with Chief Rosiji's views that the National Flag should have no comparison in this country, and I would like to appeal to the leaders of the N.P.C. to give consideration to changing the colours of their flag.

**An hon. Member**: The Vice-President has agreed.

**Chief Okunowo**: I am very happy that the Vice-President, Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai, has agreed to that suggestion. It is very important that our National Flag should have no comparison. It is the pride of the nation. On the other hand, I disagree with the suggestion that there should be no Regional

Flags, because if one goes to Liverpool in England, one will find that Liverpool has got its own ceremonial flag. They have all got their own ceremonial flags.

**The Minister of Information** (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): On point of information, Liverpool has no flag.

**Chief Okunowo**: I was in Hamburg only a few weeks ago. When General De Gaulle was coming to Hamburg there was the flag of Hamburg. In the same way our Regions should have their own flags, but in the case of the Northern Region, the comparison between the colour of their flag and that of the National Flag is so obvious that there must be changes.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Information**: The National Flag is for all Regional Governments to use but they can put their Coats of Arms on the National Flag so that there will be one flag all over the country.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): All that I have to say is to remind this House that the colour of the N.P.C. flag was there long before anybody thought of the National Flag. Therefore, if there should be any change, then the change should come from somewhere but not from the N.P.C.!

*Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Maitama Sule) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

*Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Original question put and agreed to.*

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

FLAGS AND COATS OF ARMS BILL:  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-3 Ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Finance).*

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): In passing this Bill, I will suggest that we do not pass it for the sake of ornament. Hon. Members cannot expect the American Embassy to fly the national flag without the American flag in it. But in our own offices it is only the

national flag that should be there to make it known to the school children, to the general public, that this is a Nigerian property and free from all encumbrances.

This is my suggestion, Mr Speaker.

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn till Monday next—  
(The Minister of Mines and Power).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn, till Monday next.*

*Adjourned accordingly at one minute past ten o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Monday, 10th December, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** The following Papers which have been published in the *Supplement to Official Gazette* No. 75 of 20th September, 1962, No. 83 of 18th October, 1962 and No. 87 of 1st November, 1962, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(1) The Customs Tariff, Duties and Exemptions (No. 6) Order 1962, Legal Notice No. 128 of 1962 ;

(2) The Customs Tariff, Duties and Exemptions (No. 7) Order 1962, Legal Notice No. 146 of 1962 ;

(3) The Customs Tariff, Duties and Exemptions (No. 8) Order 1962, Legal Notice No. 149 of 1962.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Franchise

\*O.792. **Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Prime Minister, if in view of the fact that we are now in the 20th century, he will enfranchise all adults in the whole Federation.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : The Answer is not yet ready, Sir.

*The Answer is as follows :*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs** (M. Aliyu Zungum) : I would remind the hon. Member that the power to extend the franchise is not vested in me but in Parliament. The present position regarding the franchise in the Federation of Nigeria was approved by this Parliament in the 20th century as recently as August of this year when the new Electoral Act which specifically restricts the franchise to males in the case of persons ordinarily resident in Northern Nigeria was passed.

Foreign Christian Missionaries

\*O.797. **Dr B. U. Nzeribe** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many foreign

Christian Missionaries are at present working in Nigeria and what denominations do they represent.

**M. Aliyu Zungum :** There are thirty-one foreign Christian Missionaries at present working in Nigeria. Mainly, they represent the major denominations, namely the Anglican the Methodist, the Roman Catholic, the Baptist, the Sudan Interior Mission, the Seventh Day Adventist, the Apostolic Faith and several other minor groups.

Condemned Persons

\*O.798. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether the Medical Officers report on persons hanged has in every case indicated that death was instantaneous as required by law and whether this report was in every case given at an inq

**M. Aliyu Zungum :** Yes, Sir.

\*O.799. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye :** I am leaving that to-day, Sir, for the purpose of Standing Orders.

Ahoada Warders' Quarters

\*O.801. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he has any plans to build permanent quarters for Warders at Ahoada before the end of this financial year.

**M. Aliyu Zungum :** No, Sir. It is, however, intended to provide permanent quarters at Ahoada and other places if more funds become available during the 1962-68 Economic Development period.

Prison Sentences

\*O.802. **Mr H. O. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many prisoners in the Federation are serving life sentence and how many were condemned to death during the year 1957 to 1961.

**M. Aliyu Zungum :** Up to 30th June, 1962, there were 140 prisoners serving life sentences, and the total number of persons condemned to death during the period 1st April, 1957 to 31st March, 1961 is 529.

Immigration

\*O.803. **Mr H. O. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many non-Nigerians have been refused entry into the country and what was the reason in each of the cases.

**M. Aliyu Zungum :** A total of sixty-two non-Nigerians have been refused entry into the country since 1st January 1962. Of this

number fifty-three have no valid travel documents, *i.e.*, either their passports or travel certificates had expired, four were refused entry because they did not fulfil the provisions of the Immigration Act and the remaining five because their presence was not considered to be in the national interest.

**Mr W. O. Briggs :** May I know the names of those who have been refused entry for one reason or the other ?

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

### Establishment of Industry

\*O.784. **Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if Government proposes to establish any factories in the next five years and, if so, where will they be located and what will they produce.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed) :** The Government gives all possible encouragement to the establishment of industries in Nigeria by mounting feasibility studies, participating in selected industries, granting economic and fiscal incentives such as pioneer status and import duty relief. Government also has plans to set up the proposed iron and steel industry as a matter of the first priority. At present, feasibility studies are being carried out on salt manufacture, agricultural chemicals, pulp and paper. Until the reports of the consultants are received the location of these industries cannot be determined.

### Nigerian Produce Marketing Co. Ltd.

\*O.804. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state why meetings of the Board of the Nigerian Marketing Company are held in London.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited holds about four meetings of the Board of Directors every year. Only one of these meetings is held in London while the rest are held in Lagos. The London meeting is designed to afford members of the Board of Directors the opportunity to acquaint themselves at first hand with the operation of the London Office and also of meeting customers.

### Trade Agreements

\*O.805. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether there are any plans to conclude trade agreements

with the following countries: U.S.S.R., Peoples' Republic of Germany, Peoples' Republic of China, and how soon will the plans be carried out.

**Minister of State (Hon. M. Amechi) :** On a point of order, there is no state in the world known as Peoples' Republic of Germany; there is no such state in the world.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** My hon. Minister recently declared in this House that apart from the trade agreements with Poland and Czechoslovakia which had been signed, the negotiation of further similar agreements were contemplated. Since then, an agreement has been signed with Bulgaria and the draft of an agreement with the Republic of Senegal has been initialled, and the basic points of an agreement with the Federal Republic of Cameroun had been agreed at the official level.

Regarding the three countries mentioned, the hon. Member will be pleased to hear that apart from useful talks held by the Nigerian Economic Mission in Moscow and Peking regarding the possibility of concluding trade agreements with these countries, preliminary discussions have been held in Lagos with U.S.S.R. Embassy officials and it is expected that before long delegations of both countries will meet to work out the terms of a trade agreement.

The possibilities of closer trade relations with the Peoples' Republic of Germany are continually being examined. At present, my officials are working on the *aide memoire* jointly prepared by the Nigerian Economic Mission and the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China in which it was declared that both parties would explore the possibility of concluding a trade agreement between the two countries as soon as possible.

The hon. Member will, therefore, see that plans to conclude trade agreements with the U.S.S.R. and the Peoples' Republic of China are being actively pursued, while trade relations with the Peoples' Republic of Germany are continually under review.

**Mr Ememe :** Can the hon. Minister state the main reason why there is a delay in signing the trade agreement between this country and the Soviet Union despite the fact that arrangements have been made long before this: *i me* ?

**Holiday Resorts**

\*O.806. Mr J. U. Odey asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how he proposes to assist the Regional Governments to develop suitable places into health and holiday resorts.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed:** The Regional Governments are members of the recently formed Nigerian Tourist Association to which the Federal Government is contributing £7,500 annually. One of the objects of this Association is to assist in the development of tourism and the improvement of holiday resorts.

**Foreign Trade**

\*O.807. Dr B. U. Nzeribe asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what volume of trade exists between Nigeria and countries of non-western bloc; what countries are involved in this trade and what are the commodities traded.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed:** It is assumed that by the description "non-western bloc" the hon. Member is referring to the Sino-Soviet bloc countries.

For the years 1957 to 1961, the figures of Nigeria's trade with the Sino-Soviet bloc, consisting of Czechoslovakia, Poland, China, Hungary, U.S.S.R., Eastern Germany, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria are as follows:—

	(£ million)				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Imports ..	4.8	5.0	5.4	6.1	7.4
Exports ..	0.4	0.6	1.2	3.5	2.8

The items of trade are:—

**Imports:** Enamelware, footwear, wire nails, iron rods, cotton grey cloth, etc.

**Exports:** Rubber, timber, cocoa, cotton, palm oil, groundnuts, etc.

The above figures show the upward trend of the volume of trade with the Sino-Soviet bloc, although the balance of the trade has been consistently adverse to Nigeria. It is expected that when the various trade agreements, already concluded and proposed, come into full effect, the list of goods exchanged between Nigeria and the Sino-Soviet bloc will lengthen considerably.

**Mr Speaker:** Order! May I appeal to the hon. Members to refrain from making noise. Some of the voices are big and magnified.

**Nigerian Trade Fair**

\*O.808. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many countries were invited to the Nigerian Trade Fair of October 27, 1962 and whether invitations were extended to Communist Countries.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed:** Invitations were sent to Governments of all countries which already trade with Nigeria, or where there is a possibility of trade developing.

Communist Governments which accepted the invitations and participated in the Fair were Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia. At present there are no diplomatic relations between the Federal Government and the French Government. Therefore no invitation was sent to the French Government.

**Industries**

\*O.809. Mr J. A. Akor asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry how many industries are there in the Federation; stating categorically, how many are owned by Nigerians and how many are owned by Foreigners and also how many have been set up in partnership with the Federal Government.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed:** In terms of industries employing more than ten persons, there are in the Federation 1,244 industries, 755 of which are owned by Nigerians, and 410 by foreigners. Only 4 have been set up in partnership with the Federal Government, viz:

1. Nigeria Cement Co. Ltd.,  
Nkalagu, Enugu,  
Eastern Nigeria.
2. Flour Mill of Nigeria Ltd.,  
Old Dock Road, Apapa,  
Lagos.
3. BP Shell Petroleum Refining  
Co. of Nigeria Ltd.,  
Alesa-Elеме,  
Port Harcourt,  
Eastern Nigeria.
4. Nigeria Sugar Company Ltd.  
Bacita, Ilorin,  
Northern Nigeria.

Not yet in operation

**Insurance**

\*O.810. **Alhaji K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he has any immediate plans for taking over the Insurance Business in Nigeria.



**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The Federal Government has no intention of nationalising the insurance business but proposes, as part of the six-year National Development Programme, to set up an Insurance Company which will undertake the insurance of Nigeria's export crops.

**Mr O. C. Ememe :** Is the policy of these insurance companies not going to be changed, in view of the fact that many citizens of this country are suffering in the hands of these insurance companies ?

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** That requires notice.

#### Foreign Trade

\*O.782. **Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he is aware that the people of this country may not benefit by the recent International Trade Fair unless Nigeria enters into technical co-operation and trade agreements with those countries that took part in the Fair, and if he will make a statement.

**Alhaji Usman Angulu Ahmed :** The purpose of the Trade Fair is to develop our trade by enabling countries participating to see what we have to offer and to help promote Overseas Investment. The hon. Gentleman will be pleased to know that during the Nigerian International Trade Fair substantial offers of investment in a number of industries in Nigeria were made. It is our hope that more investment and increased trade will continue to flow in as a result of the Trade Fair.

Technical co-operation and aid agreements can only be considered as an additional benefit accruing from the offers of investment.

#### JUSTICE

##### Wireless Telegraphy Act

\*O.765. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, why the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1935 was omitted in the new volumes of the Laws of the Federation, 1958.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) :** The Wireless Telegraphy Act, Cap. 233, in the 1948 Edition of the Laws was omitted from the 1958 edition of the Laws because a new Act was then in preparation. Hon. Members will recall that this new Act was recently passed by this House and it is entitled the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1961, No. 31.

This Act will come into effect on a date to be appointed by the Governor-General by notice in the *Gazette*. Until it comes into operation, however, the Wireless Telegraphy Act, Cap. 233, in the 1948 Edition of the Laws continues in force. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Edition (Authorised Omissions) Order, 1958 Legal Notice 158 of 1958.

\*O.852. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he will state the law under which people who fail to obtain radio and television licences can be prosecuted.

**Mr Okafor :** Section 10 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, Cap. 233 in the 1948 Edition of the Laws provides that any person, who shall offend against any provision of the Act or of any notice, order or regulation given or made hereunder, shall be liable to a fine of fifty pounds and the court may order that any apparatus for wireless telegraphy in connection with which any offence was committed shall be seized and forfeited to the State.

Section 4 of the same Act provides that no person shall instal or work any apparatus for wireless telegraphy in any place or on board any ship registered in Nigeria otherwise than in connection with and for the purposes of any authorised station, except under and in accordance with a licence granted under regulations made under the Act and in accordance with the provisions of such regulations.

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye :** Will the Minister please explain why the statement on the Licence itself quotes the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance and not the regulations that he is now reading ?

#### WORKS AND SURVEYS

##### Trunk 'A' Roads

\*O.812. **Alhaji K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, to state the total mileage of Trunk 'A' road which will be tarred in the current year 1962-63 and in what parts of the country such roads are situated.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys (Mr D. M. Mapeo) :** Subject to release of funds it is expected that 133 miles of Trunk 'A' road will

be tarred in the current financial year. The break-down by regions is as follows:—

	Miles
North	93
East	32
West	2
Federal Territory of Lagos	6

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai :** Is the Minister aware that the contracting company Borini Prono who undertake the work on the Tegina-Daura Road are deliberately neglecting the most important section of the road, that is, Dambatta to Kongonlan and if so, what is he doing about it?

**Mr Mapeo :** I am not aware.

**Roads and Buildings**

**\*O.813. Alhaji K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will enumerate the various building and road projects which he is proposing to begin or complete during the current financial year, and the total cost of each project.

**Mr Mapeo :** As the information required is extensive, I shall, with the permission of Mr Speaker, circulate it in the Official Report.

The Answer is as follows :

**ROADS**

**A.—PROJECTS STARTED BETWEEN 1-4-62 TO DATE**

1. Funtua-Gusau .. .. . £750,000

**B.—PROJECTS TO BE STARTED 1-4-62-31-3-63**

1. Malu Road Bridge  
 2. Koko-Nana Town Road  
 3. Otta-Idiroko  
 Total .. .. . £1,543,000

**C.—PROJECTS COMPLETED 1-4-62 TO DATE**

1. Owerinta Bridge  
 2. Bridge 106/659. Aliade-nine miles Corner.  
 Total .. .. . £147,000

**D.—PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED 1-4-62-31-3-63**

1. Port Harcourt wharf Approach 183,000  
 2. Enugu Aerodrome 116,000  
 Total .. .. . £299,000

**E.—SURVEYS**

1. Bauchi-Gombe-Yola—Completed
  2. Makurdi-Jos—In Progress
  3. Gusau-Sokoto-Jaredi-Yelwa-Kontagora—In progress
- Estimated Total Cost £1,012,800

**BUILDINGS**

**A.—BUILDING WORKS BEGUN DURING CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR 1962-63**

- Military Barracks, Kaduna.
  - Military Barracks, Enugu.
  - 2 Blocks Flats, Surulere.
  - 1 Block Flats, Q.C., Yaba.
  - Special Post Office, Akure.
  - Sewage Disposal Plant, N.P.C., Kaduna.
  - Police Barracks, Makurdi.
  - Security Prison, Kiri-Kiri, Apapa.
  - Mobile Police Force, Kaduna.
  - Tech. Inst., Yaba. (Extensions)
  - Trade Fair—Lagos. (Sundry Works)
  - Re-roofing Pavillions, Lagos. } Trade Fair.
  - Clading to Pavillions, Lagos. }
  - Medium Security Prison, Kiri-Kiri, Apapa.
  - Re-roofing Base Workshop—Yaba T.I.
  - Renovating Pavillions, Lagos. } Trade Fair.
  - Interior Work to Pavillions, Lagos }
  - Hostel Block, Oshodi (P. and T.).
  - Kitchen Block, etc., Kiri-Kiri, Apapa (Prisons).
  - Girl's Approved School, Surulere.
  - Block Flats, Yaba.
  - 17R. and F. Quarters, Ugwashi-Uku.
  - Beacon Hut, Maiduguri.
  - P. and T. Store, Gusau.
  - P. and T. Eng. Store, Uyo.
  - Conversion Work, Yaba Pharmacy School.
  - Alteration to Ward Block Medical College, Surulere, L.U.T.H.
  - Partitioning to Offices, 5 Oil Mill Street, Lagos.
  - Partitioning, 5 Oil Mill Street, Lagos. (Additional)
  - Chapel, Kiri-Kiri Prison.
  - Port Labour Office, Marina.
- Total Cost = £1.58 Millions.

B.—BUILDING WORKS PROPOSED TO  
BEGIN DURING CURRENT FINANCIAL  
YEAR 1962-63

- Infantry Battalion, Kano.  
Infantry Battalion, Ikeja.  
Nigerian Air Force Buildings, Kaduna.  
Extension of Transmitting Station (P. and T.)  
Kano.  
Upper Air Building, Kano (Met.)  
Temporary Airport Terminal Building, Ikeja.  
New Terminal Building, Sokoto Airport.  
8 Nos. Health Centres, Lagos.  
Improvements to Existing Mental Hospital,  
Yaba.  
Vaccine Production Unit, Yaba (Extensions).  
Fire Sub-Station, S.W., Ikoyi.  
Extensions to Nurses Home, L.U.T.H.  
Extensions to Mosaic House, Lagos.  
37 Police Projects in the Federal Territory of  
Lagos and the Regions.  
2 Custom posts for Ministry of Finance in  
N. Region.  
1 Forestry Research project in Western  
Region.  
1 Educational Project in Lagos.  
Total Cost—£5.0 Millions.

C.—PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS FINANCIAL  
YEAR (1962-63)

- 24 Building Projects at a total cost of £1.0  
million.

D.—BUILDING WORKS PROPOSED TO  
COMPLETE DURING CURRENT FINANCIAL  
YEAR 1962-63

- National Archives, Enugu.  
Federal Training Centre, Kaduna.  
Yaba Technical Extensions (phase 1).  
Block of Flats, Queen's College, Yaba.  
4 Barracks Blocks for Police, Apapa.  
One Barrack Block for Police, Ikoyi.  
Police Mess, Obalende.  
Pair of S.S. Quarters for Meteorological Service,  
Oshodi.  
Government Coastal Agency, Apapa.  
2 Blocks Police Barracks, Abeokuta.  
Police Airway, Jos.  
Recreation Room, Southern Police College,  
Ikeja.  
Garages and Offices, Southern Police College,  
Ikeja.

- Dormitory Block, Southern Police College,  
Ikeja.  
Mobile Force Headquarters, Kaduna.  
Customs Posts at Jibiya, Daura and Chikanda.  
Pilgrims Camp, Maiduguri (phase 1).  
Magistrate's Court, Lagos.  
S.S. Housing, Ikoyi.  
P. & T. Exchange Store, Gusau.  
Beacon Hut, Maiduguri.  
NR. 203 Bungalow at Mubi.  
J.S. Quarters, Numan.  
Special P.O. Zaria.  
Branch P.O. Jos Town.  
Branch P.O. Jos, North.  
Relief Telephone Exchange Port Harcourt.  
P. & T. Store and Office, Uyo.  
Extension to Sapele P.O.  
Extension to Warri P.O.  
Extension to Ijebu-Ode P.O.  
Special P.O., Akure.  
Special P.O., Apapa.  
Boys Remand Home, Yaba.  
Independence House (excluding Cafeteria)  
Naval Barracks, Apapa.  
Small Pox Vaccine Production Unit, Yaba.  
Malaria Eradication Centre.  
Total Cost—£3.7 Million

**Uya-Oron Bridge**

\*O.814. Mr O. J. Eminue asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, whether the new design for Uya-Oron Bridge on the Aba-Oron Road has now been completed and when work will commence on the reconstruction of the Bridge.

Mr Mapeo : The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to my answer on the 23rd April, 1962, to Question O.317 in which I said that the design has been completed. Work will commence on the reconstruction of the bridge as soon as funds are made available.

**Aba-Owerri Road**

\*O.815. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans has he for the two narrow and dangerous bridges on the Aba-Owerri Road, after the main Owerri bridge in view of the heavy traffic on this road.

Mr Mapeo : A lot of preparatory work is being done in connection with these two bridges. The plans and contract documents in respect of the bridges are ready, but will not go out to tender until approval has been obtained for their reconstruction and funds have been released.

**Aba-Ikot-Ekpene Road**

\*0816. **Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will take immediate steps to construct a bridge at Mile 11-12 on the Aba-Ikot Ekpene Road.

**Mr Mapeo** : The bridge is in the list of bridges which are due to be constructed or replaced in the current Development Programme. Work on it will commence as soon as funds are released.

**An hon. Member** : When will funds be available ?

**United Hill District**

\*0.818. **Mallam C. Tangul Gaza** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what factors were taken into account when the hills in the United Hill District of Wukari Division were surveyed.

**Mr Mapeo** : The area of the United Hills District of Wukari Division is part of that being surveyed by Surveyors belonging to the Directorate of Overseas Surveys as part of United Kingdom Technical Assistance in mapping Nigeria. The Survey aimed at producing 1-50,000 scale contoured topographic maps, supplied free of charge to Nigeria. On these maps will also depend proper and accelerated development for the United Hills District.

**Mr Speaker** : No further Questions can be entertained after 10.30 a.m. under standing order 13 (3).

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT****CENSUS**

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, following upon the statement which the Minister of Economic Development made on the Floor of this House last Wednesday, I had intended, in the course of Friday's proceedings, to make a comment on that statement before certain hon. Members chose to stage a walk-out on that day.

I desire to state at the outset that the whole drama of both the Minister's statement and walk-out by some Members were embarrassing and unfortunate.

While one may grant that the Minister had been provoked by recent criticisms that were often unfair, it must be said that his particular reaction to them on the occasion in question should have been more restrained.

What passes between a Minister and one of his officials in the normal intercourse of ministerial duties must surely be deemed to be confidential. One wonders how many of us would really be happy were some of the minutes and reports written or made by us to our senior officials, and *vice versa*, to be exposed to public debate.

I have made it a cardinal principle of my policy and practice never to allow anything derogatory to be said or done about any other Government and people in the Federation. It is my firm resolve to maintain this.

In view of the current public controversy that has raged around the delay in the publication of the census figures and the need to remove such doubt as there may be, I hope to be in a position very shortly to make an important announcement on the subject as soon as my consultations with all the Governments in the Federation are concluded.

**PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS****PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS (NORTHERN NIGERIA) BILL**

Bill to provide for references to the Resident in any Federal Law to have effect, in relation to Northern Nigeria, as references to the Provincial Commissioner, presented by the Prime Minister; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Thursday, 13th December, 1962.*

**CUSTOMS AND EXCISE BILL**

Bill to amend the Law relating to Customs and Excise, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Wednesday, 12th December, 1962.*

**ORDERS OF THE DAY****OFFICIAL SECRETS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, that a Bill for an Act to limit in relation to the Regions, the repeal by the Official Secrets Act, 1962, of other enactments relating to public safety, be read a second time.

The necessity for introducing this Amendment Bill to the Act which we passed last August arose out of the desire of the Regional Governments to maintain their rights to safeguard their own regional official secrets

[MINISTER OF JUSTICE]  
for which understandably we did not make any provision in the Bill which we passed.

**Mr Speaker:** Order. Order. There is far much noise in the House. Will Members please maintain silence. If they have to confer they should do so in an undertone, according to Standing Orders.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice:** This Bill is to make it quite clear that it was not our intention to cover their own official secrets which are peculiar to them, but merely to cover all official secrets relating to the Federation, as a whole.

This Bill will enable them in the future to pass legislation similar to the one we have passed, but related to the needs of their respective Regions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

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

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South):** We have heard the hon. the Mover of the Motion, and we welcome the Bill. But I must sound a note of warning. I cannot see clearly the peculiarity that exists, or may exist in future between the Regional Governments and the Federal Government as far as official secrets are concerned. I do not know what will be secret separately in the Eastern Region, or Western Region, or in the Northern Region, that will not be secret here in the Federal Territory.

I am sure, and I am inclined to think, that the Bill is only to give more power to Regional Governments than they are entitled to by the Constitution. I have no doubt that those Governments which in future will pass a similar Bill to benefit them any way they think fit, will take care that such Bills will not be used as an instrument only to victimise those they think are opposed to their ideologies.

I have no apologies to offer for this statement. If any official matter is secret,—a secret is a secret, no matter where it is—anything secret should be treated by this Government. This Government should not delegate powers to any Region because what is treated as secret here, may be treated as not secret there. There should be one law for this country, with particular reference to official secrets. If I were in a position to say

more about official secrets, I would have done so. There are certain things Regions are empowered to do by the Constitution.

Although I have consistently criticised this Bill, Sir, I am in support of it, and with these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central):** In welcoming this Bill it must be emphasised that in the Regions where they are likely to play regional politics, the contents of this Bill should be used with care and vigilance. The Government of the Federation, must make it a point of duty to see that any time a Region passes a Bill which is repugnant to the intentions of the Federal Government, the Federal Government should take steps to declare it repugnant and null and void.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice:** I have already made that point clear. Any Regional enactment that is inconsistent with the Federal law, is automatically invalidated.

**Mr Muojeke:** I thank the learned Attorney-General for the education, but I must say, that the Bill should not be used as a means of harassing and harrying political opponents in the Regions by the powers that be. It should not be used as a means of witch-hunting, going into the privacies of the people because the rights which individuals have acquired, freedom of speech and property, are so inalienable that every care must be taken so that they may not be trampled upon. Before one's house is searched or people held up, it must be on evidence—clear evidence—and that after the conclusion of the evidence, the person is guilty of the offence he is alleged to have committed.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Committee—Wednesday, 12th December, 1962.*

#### UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That the University of Ibadan Bill, be now read a Second time.

It gives me much pleasure to introduce this Bill for an Act to establish the University of Ibadan. This is a non-controversial Bill which I am sure will be welcomed by all sides of the House, as it confers independent status on our oldest university.

Hon. Members may remember that the University College opened in 1948 with 55 students, and since that time and until the 1st of October this year, the College was in special relationship with the University of London. On the 1st October the College departed administratively from the London Degree Programme and the first students of the University of Ibadan, numbering over 600, were admitted in the current session and matriculated on the 3rd of November. The matriculation of these students, therefore, marks the end of an epoch in the history of the College.

As I have said, the University College opened in 1948 with 55 students. Hon. Members will be interested to learn that this session the total enrolment has risen to about 1,700, and if all those offered admission had been able to find their fees, the student population would be 1,800. Up to date, the University Register indicates that the number of students admitted to read for the various degrees, diplomas and certificates offered at the College is about 10,700. There were in 1948 only four Faculties—Arts, Science, Agriculture and Medicine. To-day, there are many new Faculties and Departments and these include Economics and Social Studies, Education, Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, Forestry, Arabic Studies, Government, Modern Languages, Biology, Bio-Chemistry, and three new Departments in Agriculture and three in Medicine. Departments which will be launched in the current year include Veterinary Science, Psychiatry, and a School of Drama. In addition, there are four post-graduate Institutes in Education, Librarianship, Child Health and African Studies.

Truly, Mr Speaker, our University at Ibadan has come of age. Its reputation is world-wide. Its principal, as hon. Members are aware, is a Nigerian and is a man of integrity and of high repute in academic circles; its staff "would adorn the faculty of any British or American University", and, as the Ashby Report records,

U.C.I. "has set standards in Nigeria at a level which would be a credit to any country in the world."

I am grateful to London University for our close association with it since 1948, but I am happy that the University of Ibadan now stands firmly on its own two feet.

All hon. Members know of Ibadan's international reputation for high academic standards and throughout the Federation old students have distinguished themselves in every walk of life. Some have become Permanent Secretaries in the Governments of the Federation; and others again hold high positions in the teaching field, in business and in the statutory corporations.

I am sure all Members here present will wish to join me in congratulating the University College, Ibadan, on its magnificent past performances and in wishing its successor, the University of Ibadan, further triumphs in the international field of higher education.

Mr Speaker, I do not wish to take up the time of the House with this non-controversial Bill. I am sure that it needs no commendation from me. Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): I would like to congratulate the Government for bringing this Bill, although this Bill is long overdue because the University College, Ibadan, should have been autonomous long before now, long before we attained our independence in 1960. But since it has come at last, we have to congratulate the Minister of Education and the Government for bringing the Bill.

On this occasion too we have to congratulate the Principal and the staff of the University College for the magnificent work which they had been doing in that place. It is well-known in this country and the world over that the University College, Ibadan, has attained a high reputation with regard to its academic work, and we believe that with the change in the name, as it is becoming the University of Ibadan now, it will retain and maintain that high standard of work which it has attained.

But, in congratulating the present Principal, we have to remember that the work going on there now in that place is a culmination of the

[DR EZERA]

earlier, we are definitely very proud of the record that the University College, Ibadan has left and credit should also go to the Principal of that University, the staff and the students. We are definitely proud of them, but we think that with the emergence of other Universities, the Federal Government has assumed the role of father of all and not father only of the Universities of Lagos and Ibadan. Here, I have in mind the setting up of the National Universities Commission which we read in the papers has been established but which so far has not been debated on the Floor of this House. We are very anxious about the role of that Commission in so far as Universities are concerned, and in accordance with the Ashby Report, the Federal Government should assume a role which, of course, is beneficial to all the Universities.

Having said that I shall just make a passing reference to the question of trying to repeal this Act. I shall refer to this again during the Committee stage.

In closing, I would just like to say that we are grateful to the University authorities; we are grateful to the Government that this Bill has come out: it is better late than never. The Ibadan University has set a record. Even though we at Nsukka feel proud that we have been autonomous before Ibadan, nevertheless, we are very happy that Ibadan University has come of age.

I support the Bill.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West-Central): I rise to support the Bill. This is the second time that a Bill for the establishment of a University has come to the Floor of this House. The first was for the establishment of the Lagos University and this time, this Bill seeks to convert our University College at Ibadan into a full-fledged and independent University. To us, both are happy occasions, witnessing the successful implementation of such important projects from the Ashby Commission recommendations.

The need for high level manpower in this country cannot be over-emphasised and we are glad to know that the Minister of Education is keeping up with the time-table for the educational development of the country. The University College, Ibadan, which is now being converted into a full-fledged University

is the oldest higher institution of learning in the country and as such we are bound to give suggestions in addition to the ones which we have already given when we were debating the Lagos University Bill.

The first suggestion is that the policy-making body of the proposed University should be completely Nigerianised. The second suggestion is that Government must not encourage competition of output from the existing Universities in the country. It is a dangerous manoeuvre because if competition of output is encouraged in universities, we are bound to have incompetent doctors, lawyers and other professional officers. So, what we should do instead is to encourage a high academic standard between the existing universities in the country.

In the Bill, mention is made of discipline. I support the view expressed by the hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr Eзера*) that discipline in this University should, if possible, be entirely in the hands of the Vice Chancellor, because if we attempt to interfere in any way with the day-to-day administration of the University, of which discipline forms part, we are bound to demoralise the standard which is required in the University. In this respect, I would like to warn the Government that unnecessary interference should be avoided because if we want to keep the standard required of our universities Government must not in any way interfere unnecessarily in their affairs.

I beg to support.

**Chief A. Rosiji** (Egba-East): In supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, I would like to say just a few words. First of all, I would like to join in congratulating not only the Minister but also the Principal of the University and the Government as a whole on this coming of age of the University College, Ibadan, which is now to be known as the University of Ibadan. This University is the only one to which all the Governments of Nigeria contribute and I think that the Government—

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu): On a point of Order, the hon. Gentleman is wrong: we have the University of Lagos as well.

**Chief Rosiji**: I was saying that the Government should do all that lies in its power to make the Ibadan University not only the premier University in name but in actual fact.

This University should have all the faculties that are available; the faculties which the University of Ife, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, or the University of the North cannot afford to have should be in the University of Ibadan so that whatever deficiencies there are in the faculties of the other Universities should be provided by the University of Ibadan.

I was very pleased to note that the Principal of the University of Ibadan, Professor Dike has indicated that he is a real patriot of this country. (*Hear hear*). By his recent pronouncement about thrift which will be practiced in Ibadan and about which all of us in this House have been complaining in the past he has demonstrated that he actually has the good of Nigeria at heart. There is a lot of waste of money going on in the University of Ibadan. Lecturers going on leave every nine months is wrong. The amount of money which is spent on these Lecturers should be spent in providing more faculties in the University and in providing other improvements.

One of the great advantages of a true University is that it should contribute to the knowledge of the whole world. The Ibadan University is only young set but I think that the earlier it started to make that contribution the better. The earlier also those who are in charge of the University appreciate what their duties are the better. We have in that University professors and lecturers who are doing good work in lecturing the students there but I think that these professors and lecturers are not doing enough yet by way of research and original work. We are able to distinguish good professors from the work which they produce, from the books which they write and from the original work which they do.

It seems to me that few lecturers in this University want to give out to us in Nigeria that professors and lecturers should be distinguished not by the academic work which they do but by the amount of political effusions which they write in the press. I think this is a completely wrong view that is being disseminated in Nigeria and these very few people, these very loud and big-mouthed lecturers and professors, very few of them, are dragging the name of the real lecturers and professors in the mud. I think it is high time that the genuine lecturers, and professors should get together and teach these people some lesson and disown them.

A University is not a place to show off, it is a place to increase the knowledge of the world. We find that these young professors, who we must say, are lucky to be professors at the age at which they are professors, are not carrying on the tradition of academicians. If I may take the privilege, Sir, in our student days in Cambridge, I remember that the biggest professors, the really intelligent and big academicians were very modest people, and one could hardly tell who they were if one saw them in the street. But here it is advertisement in the press that these few lecturers use as the badge of their importance. The earlier they appreciate that we are not all fools in Nigeria and that we cannot be fooled by that type of thing which they do in the University the better, and the earlier those who are in charge of the University take proper action to get these people to bury their nose in their books and do some good work for which they are being paid the better.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural)**: The hon. Member speaking is just an ordinary graduate and—

**Chief Rosiji**: I am pleased that the hon. Pastor without a church knows that I am a graduate.

The last point which I want to make is this, and I am directing this point not only to the Federal Government but to all the Governments of the country. We have to-day five universities in Nigeria. It means that before long we shall be producing five times the number of graduates we used to produce. I must give the grave warning that something must be done to provide more employment and to give these people jobs to do when they come out otherwise there will be big trouble.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja)**: On a point of order, I hope the hon. Member is not warning us of a plot in the bombing!

**Chief Rosiji**: I am not close enough to the Action Group to warn the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr A. O. Ogunsanya*) of a plot in the bombing.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. May I remind hon. Members that if you are on your legs and one calls for a point of order you are obliged to yield. Point of order, Chief Akin-Olugbade.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South)**: I will quote the Order before I speak. Mr Speaker, Order 25 (b) says "No Member shall



[CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]  
impute improper motives to any other Member". This House will remember that Mr Ayo Rosiji had just been expelled from the Action Group, and it is most unbecoming of the descendants of Ikorodu. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. May I appeal to hon. Members to try to be decorous in their expressions and interruptions. Point of order, Mr Briggs.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** I can assure my hon. Friend, Chief Rosiji, that the Useless People's Party is very far away from the Action Group.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Now that everybody has given a statement let there be peace.

**Chief Rosiji :** I did not intentionally want to touch anybody's conscience. As I was saying, I think that the matter on which the last speaker was talking earlier is so serious that it does not admit of this interruption.

All the Governments of this Federation should get together and do something about the question of unemployment. Unemployment in the case of the less educated people creates a big problem, but unemployment in the case of highly educated people creates a much bigger problem and I think that the earlier the Government thinks of this the better, instead of everybody saying we are just going to start universities without thinking of what these people are going to do when they come out.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** One of the prides of a University is the right to teach and the right to examine, the right to award degrees, diplomas and certificates. During the past years the University College, Ibadan has through no fault of its own, been denied these fundamental and inalienable rights of a University. That is why, Sir, all of us who understand the full significance of the autonomy of an academic institution whole-heartedly support this Bill as most welcome and most opportune.

Sir, one of the fundamental tenets of development and growth of a nation is that responsibility should be merged with the ability to carry out the responsibility and that is why we are very very happy, and in fact very proud,

that a person of the calibre of Professor Dike lives to see the coming to full maturity of this University of Ibadan now.

While we pay our compliments to the Federal Government, the Minister of Education and the University of London for nurturing this baby College for all these years, we must not forget to pay our compliments to the public opinion of Nigeria, because I recall the time when the cold hands of imperialism did every thing within their power to relegate this University to the low level of an ordinary College but for the public opinion of Nigeria which vehemently kicked against it until gradually the name was changed from College to University College. Eventually destiny has now declared that the time has come that the University must attain its full manhood.

I remember, about six or seven years ago, a certain columnist in Nigerian newspapers used to ridicule names of towns in Nigeria being attached to degrees and certificates, and all of us here remember the notorious article in the *Daily Times* about M.A. (Awo Omamma) and Ph.D. (Nsukka). At that time it was ridiculous to attach the name of a Nigerian town to a degree. The time has now come when we proudly say B.A. (Ibadan); B.A. (Nsukka); B.A. (Ife); and there will be no more shame or disgrace in attaching Nigerian names to a degree. I think, Sir, that this is a significant victory for Nigerian public opinion.

I want to make one or two more suggestions which I think will enhance the prestige and the name of the University of Ibadan. One of these is this. One of the virtues of the University of London is its comprehensive system of teaching and awarding external degrees. Many Nigerian leaders to-day and for that matter, people from various parts of the Commonwealth, could not have risen to their positions but for the benevolence and the generosity of the examining Council, the Senate of the University of London. I wish to recommend that when the time comes, the University of Ibadan, that of Nsukka, Ife, Kaduna and the rest of them should come together to work out a policy for enabling the brilliant but otherwise financially handicapped Nigerian boys and girls to continue their system of education which will enable them to pursue their University degrees as external candidates.

Federal Parliament Debates

2875

[University of

10 DECEMBER 1962

Ibadan Bill]

2876

The second point, Sir, is this. I would like to say, in support of the point very ably made by my Friend, Chief Rosiji, even though he is being charged with not having enjoyed such facilities himself, that research is the life blood of a university. Unless and until the universities in Nigeria grow to the stage where they can organise to carry out research and make contribution to knowledge, they are simply ordinary clanging cymbals.

I remember we used to kid ourselves in our own days that there are three groups of people in the university—the producers, those who do research and disseminate knowledge; the distributors, the ordinary lecturers; and the consumers, those who consume the knowledge. We cannot afford to have colleges and universities in Nigeria which produce ordinary distributors and consumers. We must graduate to the level where our own Nigerian universities become producers so that people in the outside world will get their own knowledge from Nigerian sources.

Finally, I want to emphasise that the universities must be universal. Once a university fails to open its doors to people; professors and lecturers all over the world including students, that university degenerates into a village school. That is why I cannot support those who grumble about foreign lecturers coming into Nigeria. I would even say that certain special funds should be established for Nigerian universities to attract first-class students from India, America, China, England and from everywhere into Nigeria because knowledge is contagious and academic ambition and academic curiosity is also contagious. It is only by getting out students in close juxta-position with these other students and professors that knowledge can be widened and enlarged.

With these points I want to support the Bill whole-heartedly.

*Whereupon the Minister of State (Hon. J. C. Obande) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Original question put.*

**Mr Speaker :** The House will now proceed to a division in order to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution.

*The House divided.*

*Ayes 221,*

*Noes Nil.*

AYES

Seat  
No.

Name of Member

2	Muhammadu Nalado
6	Onwuchekwa, I. S.
8	Chukwu, J. C.
14	Eko, U. U.
15	Nwalieji, V. A.
16	Akor, J. A.
18	Okoronkwo, F. I.
19	Muhammed Ningi
20	Muhammadu Kumo
21	M. Barko, Maaji Kachalla
23	Alhaji Zakari Isa
24	Yusufu Ilesha
27	Abbas Raha
29	Ladan Isa
30	Garba Jabo Abubakar
31	Yakubu Allanana
32	Saidu Zango
33	Abasi, S. A.
34	Ejukwa, P. I.
37	Oronsaye, D. N.
38	Oyewole, S. A.
39	Muhammadu Alangade
40	Araka, E. O.
41	Chikelu, I. O.
42	Udenyi, J. N.
43	Nwangbo, N.
44	Elenwa, N. E.
45	Ogbalu, F. C.
46	Ifezue, E. O.
47	Oloyede, T. O.
48	Eboigbodi, J. B.
49	Enwo, N.
50	Okay, D. D. U.
51	Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki
52	Abba Terab
53	Zubairu Bamu Omar
54	Saiyadi Ringim
56	Sule Abba Biu
58	Alhaji Abubakar Bayero
60	Abubakar A. Ibrahim
61	M. Iro Mani
62	Usman Turaki
63	Ibrahim Na Maitama
64	Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman
65	Ahamefula, D. O.
67	De Omomadia, T. K.
68	Falaiye, W. J.
69	Nwofokoda, J. N.
73	Ukah, N. D.
74	Muojeke, R. N.
75	Mordi, E. A.
77	Onugu, N. N.
78	Odigbo, C. A.
79	Amadi, F. A. M.
80	Ayeni, U. O.
82	Ikeh, B. O.
83	Alhaji Mai Kano
85	Maina Waziri
86	Rilwanu Abdullahi
87	Umaru Gumel
90	Saidu Daura

Seat No.	Name of Member	Seat No.	Name of Member
94	Chiedozie, C.	188	Zanna Isa Monguno
95	Orok, Chief R. A.	189	Musa Hindi
96	Odey, J. U.	191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma
97	Afolabi, R. A.	193	Isa Iko
98	Chukwu, D. N.	194	Hamidu A. Bayero
101	Odunrinde, A. A.	195	Muhammadu Bayero
102	Igwe, J. O.	196	Abdusalami Olomoda
103	Ogunbiyi, J. O.	197	Babatunde, S. A.
104	Eleke, P. O.	198	Ahmadu Angara Doma
105	Nweke, O. O.	199	Enefolo, D. O.
106	Ememe, O. C.	200	Yacim, J. A.
109	Mbah, A. U. D.	201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
111	Abii, D. N.	203	Umaru Dan Waziri
112	Mariere, Chief S. J.	204	Ajibola, A. A.
113	Chuku, H. O.	205	Akinbowale, E. D.
114	Nzeribe, Dr B. U.	206	Udo-Iyang, D. S.
117	Albatam Yerima Balla	215	Idiong, S. U.
119	Akwiwu, E. C.	216	Dame-Obob, M. A.
120	Opia, A.	218	Abdullahi Mahuta
121	Chief Ubani, M. W.	220	Usman Barkono
122	Ezera, Dr K.	223	Balang, U. Barami
123	Ogunsanya, A. O. O.	224	Muhammadu, Zaiyana Sarduana
126	Maaji Waisul	226	Abba Sadiq
127	Galadima Maikiyari	227	Ahmadu Babandi
128	Abdu Kirim	230	Wada Nas
129	Alhaji Aminu Tafida	231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi	232	Ibrahim Nadabo
131	Usman Gwarzo	233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina	234	Abdulkadir Maidugu Dan Iyan Hadija
134	Lar, S. D.	235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
136	Ibrahim Gusau	236	Akinyemi, J. A.
137	Are, Alhaji K. O. S.	237	Oladapo, S. A.
138	M. Mukhari Sarkin Bai	239	Odebunmi, J. D.
139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto	242	Shisha, V.
140	Dosunmu, L. J.	243	Bulus Biliyong
141	Briggs, W.	244	Lajide, V. L.
146	Iyorka, M. D.	245	Ogundipe, S. O.
148	Rosiji, Chief A.	246	Ogunkanmi, E. J.
149	Akinloye, Chief A. M. A.	247	Ukpong, B. U.
150	Ogedengbe, S. A.	248	Etukudo, J. I.
151	Ekanem, P. E.	249	Eminue, O. J.
152	Umoh, P. U.	250	Bello Farar Jula Bichi
153	Okunowo, Chief E. O.	253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
154	Effiong-Spatts, E. A.	254	Abdulkadir Dukku
155	Isa Haruna	255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar
156	Odo, E. A.	257	Ali Nakura Kaura
157	Ede, J. O.	258	Abubakar Tsefo Mafara
158	Shekarau, Omar	259	Alhaji Muhammadu Nadange
161	Muhammadu Gwarzo	260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai
162	Alhaji Ahmadu A. Baba	261	M. Abba Yola
163	Inusa Tudun Wada	262	Atto Bungudu
167	Alhaji Haruna	264	Alhaji Mohammed Gwate
168	Sarki Dalhatu	267	Umaru Galkogo
169	M. Aminu Suleman Dutse	277	Haikali Maigari
170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa	281	Ogunleye, Chief D. A.
172	Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B.	283	Peter Ipu
175	Ajasin, M. A.	287	M. Dati Kudu
178	Daka, S. T.	288	Shehu Na Ita Sokoto
180	Fajimi, S. O.	289	Muhammadu Janjuna
181	Odulana, A. F.	290	Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau
184	Brown, I. A.	292	Zubairu Liman Katagum
185	Tobun, L. O.		Umaru Atiku
186	Aminu Yelwa		Alhaji Muhammadu Sarkin Gobir
			Damla, J. M.
			Alhaji Bello Dandago

Federal Parliament Debates

2879

[University of

10 DECEMBER 1962

Ibadan Bill]

2880

Seat  
No.

Name of Member

Minister of Finance  
Minister of Commerce and Industry  
Minister of Defence  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Minister of Economic Development  
Minister of Education  
Minister of Establishments  
Minister of Information  
Minister of Lagos Affairs  
Minister of Mines and Power  
Minister of Works and Surveys  
Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande  
Minister of State, Hon. M. A. Olarewaju  
Minister of State, Chief the Hon. Omo-Osagie  
Minister of State, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe  
Minister of State, Hon. Usumanu Maitambari  
Minister of State, Hon. H. Adaji  
Minister of State, Hon. M. Amechi  
Abubakar Isandu  
Alhaji Ahmed, U. A.  
Yerokun, S. A.  
Hamza Gombe  
Ahmadu Fatika  
Sanni Gezawa  
Lamuye, T. A.  
Lana, S.  
Dominic M. Mapeo  
Mbakogu, F. U.  
Nwika, S. F.  
Offor, F. E.  
Okafor, R. B. K.  
Okilo, M. O.  
Orodi, E. T.  
Ezonbodor, N. A.  
Ibrahim Tako  
Ugwu, D. C.  
Aliyu Zungum  
Umaru Gela

NOES : Nil

Tellers for Ayes :

Alhaji Bello Dandago  
D. N. Abii

Tellers for Noes :

Mr D. M. Iyorkar  
Mr Ogedengbe

Bill accordingly read a Second time : immediately considered in Committee : reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Education).

Mr Speaker : Order, order. In order to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution the House will now proceed to a division.

The House divided.

Ayes 222, Noes Nil.

AYES

Seat  
No.

Name of Member

2 Muhammadu Nalado  
6 Onwuchekwa, I. S.  
8 Chukwu, J. C.  
14 Eko, U. U.  
15 Nwalieji, V. A.  
16 Akor, J. A.  
18 Okoronkwo, F. I.  
19 Muhammed Ningi  
20 Muhammadu Kumo  
21 M. Barko, Maaaji Kachalla  
23 Alhaji Zakari Isa  
24 Yusufu Ilesha  
27 Abbas Raha  
29 Ladan Isa  
30 Garba Jaba Abubakar  
31 Yakubu Allanana  
32 Saidu Zango  
33 Abasi, S. A.  
34 Ejukwa, P. I.  
37 Oronsaye, D. N.  
38 Oyewole, S. A.  
39 Muhammadu Alangade  
40 Araka, E. O.  
41 Chikelu, I. O.  
42 Udenyi, J. N.  
43 Nwangbo, N.  
44 Elenwa, N. E.  
45 Ogbalu, F. C.  
46 Ifezue, E. O.  
47 Oloyede, T. O.  
48 Eboigbodi, J. B.  
49 Enwe, N.  
50 Okay, D. D. U.  
51 Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki  
52 Abba Terab  
53 Zubairu Bamu Omar  
54 Saiyadi Ringim  
56 Sule Abba Biu  
58 Alhaji Abubakar Bayero  
60 Abubakar A. Ibrahim  
61 M. Iro Mani  
62 Usman Turaki  
63 Ibrahim Na Maitama  
64 Alhaji Mohammed Bello Abdurraman  
65 Ahamefula, D. O.  
67 De. Omomadia, T. K.  
68 Falaiye, W. J.  
69 Nwofokoda, J. N.  
73 Ukah, N. D.  
74 Muojeke, R. N.  
75 Mordi, E. A.  
77 Onugu, N. N.  
78 Odigbo, C. A.  
79 Amadi, F. A. M.  
80 Ayeni, U. O.  
82 Ikeh, B. O.  
83 Alhaji Mai Kano  
85 Maina Waziri  
86 Rilwanu Abdullahi  
87 Umaru Gumel  
90 Saidu Daura

Seat No.	Name of Member
94	Chiedozie, C.
95	Orok, Chief R. A.
96	Odey, J. U.
97	Afolabi, R. A.
98	Chukwu, D. N.
101	Oduinrinde, A. A.
102	Igwe, J. O.
103	Ogunbiyi, J. O.
104	Eleke, P. O.
105	Nweke, O. O.
106	Ememe, O. C.
109	Mbah, A. U. D.
111	Abii, D. N.
112	Mariere, Chief S. J.
113	Chuku, H. O.
114	Nzeribe, Dr B. U.
117	Albatam Yerima Balla
119	Akwiwu, E. C.
120	Opia, A.
121	Chief Ubani, M. W.
122	Ezera, Dr K.
123	Ogunsanya, A. O. O.
126	Maaji Waisul
127	Galadima Maikiyari
128	Abdu Kirim
129	Alhaji Aminu Tafida
130	Sarkin Abbas Sanusi
131	Usman Gwarzo
132	Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina
134	Lar, S. D.
136	Ibrahim Gusau
137	Are, Alhaji K. O. S.
138	M. Mukhari Sarkin Bai
139	Muhammadu Bida, Iyan Sokoto
140	Dosunmu. L. J.
141	Briggs, W.
146	Iyorka, M. D.
148	Rosiji, Chief A.
149	Akinloye, Chief A. M. A.
150	Ogedengbe, S. A.
151	Ekanem, P. E.
152	Umoh, P. U.
153	Okunowo, Chief E. O.
154	Effiong-Spatts, E. A.
155	Isa Haruna
156	Odo, E. A.
157	Ede, J. O.
158	Shekarau, Omar
161	Muhammadu Gwarzo
162	Alhaji Ahmadu A. Baba
163	Inusa Tudun Wada
167	Alhaji Haruna
168	Sarki Dalhatu
169	M. Aminu Suleman Dutse
170	Alhaji Baba Dan Bappa
172	Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B.
175	Ajasin, M. A.
178	Daka, S. T.
180	Fajimi, S. O.
181	Odulana, A. F.
184	Brown, I. A.
185	Tobun, L. O.
186	Aminu Yelwa
188	Zanna Isa Monguno
189	Musa Hindi
191	Bala Muhammadu Dutsinma

Seat No.	Name of Member
193	Isa Iko
194	Hamidu A. Bayero
195	Muhammadu Bayero
196	Abdusalami Olomoda
197	Babatunde, S. A.
198	Ahmadu Angara Doma
199	Enefolo, D. O.
200	Yacim, J. A.
201	Alhaji Aliyu Bisalla
202	Alhaji M. S. Burmi Moriki
203	Umaru Dan Waziri
204	Ajibola, A. A.
206	Udo-Iyang, D. S.
215	Idion, S. U.
216	Dame-Obob, M. A.
218	Abdullahi Mahuta
220	Usman Barkono
223	Balang, U. Barami
224	Muhammadu, Zaiyana Sardauna
226	Abba Sadiq
227	Ahmadu Babandi
230	Wada Nas
231	Alhaji Muhammadu Kura
232	Ibrahim Nadabo
233	M. L. Alhaji Daura
235	Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyamma
236	Akinyemi, J. A.
239	Odebunmi, J. D.
242	Shisha, V.
244	Lajide, V. L.
245	Ogundipe, S. O.
246	Ogunkanmi, E. J.
247	Ukpong, B. U.
248	Etukudo, J. I.
249	Eminue, O. J.
250	Bello Farar Hula Bichi
253	Abdulkadir Abubakar
254	Abdulkadir Dukku
255	Mohammed Sani Abubakar
257	Ali Nakura Kaura
258	Abubakar Tsofo Mafara
260	Muhtari Abdullahi Wanbai
262	Atto Bungudu
264	Alhaji Mohammed Gwate
267	Umaru Galkogo
281	Ogunleye, Chief D. A.
283	Peter Ipu
286	Jiah, A. G.
287	M. Dati Kudu
288	Shehu Na Ita Sokoto
289	Mahammadu Janjuna
290	Alhaji Ahmadu Gorzau
292	Zubairu Liman Katagum
293	Umaru Maltubi
	Umaru Atiku
	Alhaji Mohammadu Sarkin Gobir
	Ka'allaya Shekarau
	Alhaji Bello Dandago
	Maigari, H.
	Anza, A.

Seat  
No.

Name of Member

Minister of Finance  
 Minister of Commerce and Industry  
 Minister of Communications  
 Minister of Defence  
 Minister of Foreign Affairs  
 Minister of Economic Development  
 Minister of Education  
 Minister of Establishments  
 Minister of Information  
 Minister of Lagos Affairs  
 Minister of Mines and Power  
 Minister of Works and Surveys  
 Minister of State, Hon. J. C. Obande  
 Minister of State, Hon. M. A. Olarewaju  
 Minister of State, Chief the hon. Omo-  
 Osagie  
 Minister of State, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe  
 Minister of State, Hon. Usumanu  
 Maitambari  
 Minister of State, Hon. H. Adaji  
 Minister of State, Hon. M. Amechi  
 Abubakar Isandu  
 Alhaji Ahmed, U. A.  
 Yerokun, S. A.  
 Hamza Gombe  
 Ahmadu Fatika  
 Sanni Gezawa  
 Lamuye, T. A.  
 Lana, S.  
 Dominic, M. Mapeo  
 Mbakogu, F. U.  
 Nwika, S. F.  
 Offor, F. E.  
 Okafor, R. B. K.  
 Okilo, M. O.  
 Orodi, E. T.  
 Ezonbodor, N. A.  
 Ibrahim Tako  
 Ugwu, D.  
 Aliyu Zungum  
 Umaru Gela

NOES : Nil

Tellers for Ayes .

Alhaji Bello Dandago  
 Mr Ogedengbe

Tellers for Noes :

D. N. Abii  
 Mr D. M. Iyorkar

Bill read the Third time and passed.

LAGOS SPORTS COUNCIL BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to constitute a Sports Council for the Federal Territory and, among other things, to confer on the Sports Council sundry powers and duties be read a Second time.

The object of this Bill is to establish a Lagos Sports Council that will be concerned with the development of and participation in amateur sports for the physical well-being of the people in the Federal Territory. It confers on the Sports Council certain powers that would allow it to function effectively.

This is a non-controversial Bill that should receive the support of all sides of this honourable House. The Bill marks the first step in the efforts of the Federal Government to encourage the participation and to improve the standard of performance in sports in the Federal Territory.

While sports are in a general sense a form of exercise which is good for the healthy development of people, they have, in modern society, become an organised form of entertainment and a factor in relations between states. The Bill before the House is intended to provide the machinery through which sports can be developed for the general good and as a beneficial means of creating friendship and understanding between our people and those of other countries.

The various aspects of sports have now become expensive and, unless properly organised and financed, they would become unattractive to a large number of people. The Government realises that the fitness of people is a great asset to a nation ; it is in the discharge of this responsibility that Government proposes to establish a council to promote and encourage sport and interest therein for the benefit of the people in the Federal Territory.

In the wider context, sports have become both a popular means of organised entertainment and a factor in international relations. It is in this field that Nigeria has failed in recent years to pull its weight creditably. In many aspects of sports, our standard has fallen, in certain cases, to a point of national disgrace. In general, the performances of our sportsmen have left much to be desired, and there have been public criticisms of the organisations and administration of sports clubs. Some of these clubs have conducted their affairs in a most irresponsible manner which has affected the standard of and performance by sportsmen. In recent months, it was necessary for the Ministry of Labour to intervene in the internal disputes of the Football and

[DR MBADIWE]  
Athletic Clubs because the personal quarrels of their officials were doing a great deal of damage to these two important games.

Under this Bill, the Sports Council would be able to exercise effective control over sports clubs, sporting events and their participants to the extent necessary for the public good. The Council would also be able to establish and maintain centres for the training of instructors and organisers of any form of sports.

These provisions are to ensure that sports in the Federal Territory are organised and managed properly in a way to improve the physical well-being of the people, particularly of the younger generation and also to make it possible for Nigeria to take its proper place in the world of sports.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In supporting the Bill I should like only to make one remark. In the course of the Minister's speech, he mentioned that the Bill seeks not only to promote physical exercise, but also to promote international relationship. Therefore, I should like to mention that there is need for this Council to have a national outlook, because the Council does not only cater for the Federal Territory of Lagos; it is a channel through which sporting activities both national and international would take place. I appeal, therefore, to the Minister to see that the proposed Council is given a national outlook.

**Mr. J. D. Odeunmi** (Egba North): I support this Bill. Apart from the conditions laid down by the Minister that are of tremendous advantage in connection with this Bill, we are all aware of the fact that sports promote international reputation. In the track and field events the performances of our boys and girls have certainly boosted our international reputation.

Through sports quite a lot of international connections would be made. Our boys and girls by their achievements in the tracks would certainly win us laurels and it would be a pride to this country. We are quite aware of the joy and felicity with which this country received the news of the success of Hogan Basse in winning the World Featherweight

title; and quite recently Dick Tiger won the World Middleweight Boxing title. I am sure every Nigerian both at home and abroad was very proud of these performances.

We are aware that apart from the international reputation that sports will bring to us, the social contact is there, and in that case, Nigeria's name is brought into the map and we get in touch with more and more people. Apart from that, I would like to suggest that it is necessary to have internal competition in all aspects of sports. Sometime in the past, we had Inter-Regional competition. I remember in 1934, we had—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, the hon. Member is not aware that there are inter-Regional competitions already going on.

**Mr Speaker**: I do not think he is out of order. I think his speech is rather to the contents of the Bill.

**Mr Odeunmi**: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am quite aware of the inter-Regional competitions that have taken place in the past, and with respect, I would like to say that I was one of the competitors in the North *versus* South sports organisation in 1934 at Kano. Apart from the social advantages that sports bring to us, it brings quite a lot of moral advantages to us, because there, a spirit of tolerance is developed. There, we are able to respect orders. So the importance of sports in this country cannot be over-emphasised.

I would like to suggest too, that scholarships be given both on Federal and Regional levels to students who have outstanding performances in sports. A committee should be set up in each Region to co-ordinate their work and meet regularly to plan for the future expansion of sporting activities in this country. With these few words, I beg to support the Bill.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I welcome this Bill and I think it is really commendable.

The Regional Governments have taken the initiative in setting up sports commissions and the Federal Territory is to have its own Sports Council, now. I must say that the Regional Sports Councils have vindicated the fact that sports, if well organised, will result in better health, greater efficiency and better results.

There is however, one very important point I want to make. Sometime ago, when I moved a motion for the establishment of national sports commission, the Government amended my motion to read National Sports Council instead of Commission, on the ground that there will be a confusion between the Regional Sports Commission and the Federal one. I am surprised that, the Government is now captioning the Lagos sports body the Sports Council, as there will be confusion between the National Sports Council of Nigeria and the Lagos Sports Council. When one speaks of sports council, is it that of Lagos that comes to mind or the Regional one? I hope the Minister will accept this very important point and caption this the Lagos Sports Commission. If it is impossible to amend it now, I shall appeal to the Minister to bring in an Amendment Bill later on, so that there will be no confusion between the National Sports Council and the Sports body of Lagos.

I have to say that mere establishment of a sports commission is not enough. What is very important is the membership of the Sports Council. Determined and reliable people, people with patriotic consideration should be appointed as Members, instead of personal and selfish people. Then, we shall be certain that the results which the Federal Government wants to achieve for the Federal Territory of Lagos would be achieved. This is very important, because very often we find that some of the members who think they are really patronising sports or interested in sporting activities like football are tribalistic, parochial, and personally interested in the results of football matches. Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister when appointing the Chairman or the Members of the Council, to make sure that he appoints able and more seasoned Nigerians with broad national outlook, because after all, Lagos is the Federal Territory, the capital of Independent Nigeria, and is the embodiment of many people from various parts of the Federation.

Another point I want to make is that more equipment has to be provided. It is not enough to have Members of the Council without adequate equipment, without adequate play ground, without adequate provisions. I must say that Nigeria has vindicated herself as a sporting nation. What comes to my mind is the achievement of our former World Featherweight Champion, Hogan Bassey,

our present World Middleweight Champion, Dick Tiger; and we may be told soon that another Empire title has been won for this country.

With these few remarks I urge the Minister to reconsider the name of the body and possibly agree that it should read Lagos Sports Council. I beg to support.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): I rise to welcome this Bill. In supporting this Bill I have few observations to make. The fault is that we always think of projecting the Nigeria personality. I feel that our Ambassadors and those who are sent to represent our great country overseas are fair enough, but I think that the best channel through which Nigeria could be projected is sports. This brings to my mind what a Nigerian in the person of Hogan Kid Bassey did for us. On the Radio this morning, we were told about a Nigerian who is fighting to bring home a further title.

I would like to say that great attention to improve sports should not be concentrated only in Lagos. Everybody here, will agree with me, I think, I am correct, that in the past Calabar was noted for football, Lagos was noted for Tennis—then there was no cricket. I am of the opinion that encouragement should be given to our youths, to sportsmen in the Regions by way of employment. (*Interruptions*). You know I come from the Eastern Region and not from Western Region. I do not see why any person from Eastern Region should disturb me.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, This is an unnecessary digression.

**Mr Ekanem** : I am sorry. Christianity had its offspring in Calabar, so also sports had its offspring from Calabar and nobody would refute that. To prove what I said, I should mention that Calabar was the first place to bring honour to this country in sport.

All I want to say is that it is no use bringing somebody to be a member of the Council, who has not one iota of love for sports. We must try as far as possible in the whole course, to include men who in their youthful days contributed a lot to sports activities in this country; not men like the hon. Member for Uyo Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) who never did anything in the 100 yards race once.



[MR EKANEM]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I was wondering if—and it is for the Minister of Labour to answer this question—this Council is meant only for Lagos and not to have a national outlook. If it is meant for Lagos and Lagos only, then it is devised to attract to Lagos youths who ought to have remained in the Regions to practise the sports activities of their choice. If that is the aim, then it is no use. But if the aim is to encourage and—

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos Central): On a point of Order, it will not be necessary for us to come in the afternoon, if only Mr Ekanem shortens his speech.

**Mr Speaker**: I quite agree with you, that there is quite a lot of unnecessary part of his speech that should not have been included. I would also like to remind Mr Ekanem that during the Second Reading, details are omitted and left for the Committee Stage.

**Mr Ekanem**: Thank you Mr Speaker. I must abide by your ruling, and whatever my observation, I must not make it by force. However, Sir, I will, with your permission, say to the hon. Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogun-sanya*) that he was never my school mate, and he never taught me, but I have taught the teachers that taught him.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): Mr Speaker, Sir, without any element of doubt, I must say that this Bill is an interesting one. The Mover of the Motion told us in advance that it is non-controversial, and it is in fact non-controversial.

I want to associate myself with the points made by the hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) about members of the Board because when the management fails, the organisation fails. When the Minister appoints members of the Board, he should take into consideration, certain things. For example, they must be people with good minds, and people who are not selfish. It is often said that if you are weak and you have physical exercise, you may be cured. So it is of primary importance that those who will look after our sports should be able men.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few words, I beg to support.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): I rise to support the passing of this Bill into law. But I want to mention one or two things.

I want the Minister to make the Bill a real thing indeed. This Bill is called "Lagos Sports Council Bill". One thing is sure, that is, if the purpose of this Bill is to establish the Council in the Federal territory of Lagos alone, I have no doubt that in the near future it will be passed for all the Regions in Nigeria.

I would ask that when the Minister appoints members of the Council to represent the interests of, and promote sports activities in the Federal Territory, he should take into consideration that only those who are fit should be nominated. There is one thing going on in the country to-day. One of the noblest games is known as cricket. In all parts of the world cricket is known as the king of games. How many schools in Nigeria play this game? It has been in existence in this country, and it is the foremost game that brought inter-colonial relationship into this country. We have been playing cricket matches against Ghana, formerly known as Gold Coast. And yet to-day in this country, we have only one or two cricket grounds. People play football, they take part in boxing and swimming, and in all sorts of things.

Cricket must be revived to its full strength, and when this Council is formed, somebody who knows something about cricket must be there to represent the interests of cricket. The same applies to boxing, horse racing, swimming and even billiards.

I am not going to waste the time of this House, but I specially appeal to the Minister because I am speaking from experience. Sports activities in this country have not in the past promoted interest in cricket and billiards. I am requesting that cricket must of necessity, be represented: billiards must be represented. We are not in for football or boxing alone. It is not boxing alone that will get what Nigeria needs. It is not football alone: cricket and billiards are equally important. If you have nobody to represent the interests of these two sports, I will represent it because I know the answer will be "oh, we have nobody". There is a Board of Control in existence in this country. We have representatives from the East, North, West and Lagos which is the capital and seat of it all. So, when we form the Council, I would like these two sports cricket and billiards to be included.

I beg to support.

Federal Parliament Debates

2891 [Lagos Sports Council Bill] 10 DECEMBER 1962 [Tafawa Balewa Square Management (Amendment) Bill] 2892

**Mr D. C. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South West) : I have the greatest pleasure in supporting this Bill. But I would like to add that the members of this sports Council should be broad minded in a sense that they should not concentrate only in football matches. There are other sports like wrestling and so on, as are found in the provinces. These members of the Sports Council should go all out to see that most of these things found in Nigeria are displayed in Lagos, which is our Federal capital.

With this remark, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr E. O. Araka** (Onitsha Urban) : I beg to support this Bill which has rightly been described as non-controversial. This Bill really aims at creating a Council which should co-ordinate all various sporting activities in the Federal territory. In the Regions we have sports Commissions which co-ordinate all various aspects of sporting activities, so it is necessary that in the Federal territory there should be this National Sports Council, which should co-ordinate all aspects of sports in the Federal territory.

There is really one aspect of this Bill which has been touched very well by other speakers, and that is the membership. And it is my view that provision should be put in this Bill, so that members of the Council should be surcharged if there is deliberate waste of money belonging to the Sports Council. It has been a cause of national disgrace to all of us that in the past various bodies that have been elected or nominated to run the affairs of sporting activities in the country, have left their finances in a very poor state. This is due to the fact that in the past, people who had no interest, who had never had any love for sports, had always been aspiring to be appointed to these Councils.

In order to avoid getting people who will not run these Councils properly, I would strongly recommend to the Minister to see that when appointing people to serve in the Council, he must put into consideration, those who have participated actively in sports in their school days. It is very necessary that he should appoint only those who have actively engaged in sports and have love for sports. This should be the basis and members of the Council should be asked to make up any unnecessary waste of money so that we may see

to it that money is not diverted into the private pockets of the members of the Council.

Once this Bill is passed into law, and they know that they would be surcharged if they did not account properly for the monies that have been collected by the Council, they would be more careful in handling the affairs of the Council. This is my submission, Sir.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Committee—Wednesday, 12th December, 1962.*

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE MANAGEMENT  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Tafawa Balewa Square Management Act, 1961, by substituting for the description of parcel 1 which appears in the Schedule to the principal Act, the amended description which appears as a Schedule to this Act, be read a second time.

Construction of Independence House was well advanced before the architects had finished their design of the forecourt in front of it. They endeavoured to get this design which would not require the realignment of the King's College Road, but they were unable to achieve it.

In the course of the realignment of the King's College Road, it was found necessary to cut off a small piece of land from the western end of the Tafawa Balewa Square and, in order not to reduce the present areas of the Square, a parcel of similar size and a contiguous area had been substituted.

Members would not wish me to deal at length on a matter which concerns nothing more than the alteration in the position of a number of property beacons.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North): This Bill is a welcome one. It must be welcome, but I just want to make one remark. We all know the importance of the Tafawa Balewa Square itself. As a matter of fact, everybody in the Federation should know the importance of Tafawa Balewa Square, the importance of Campos Square, the importance of Tinubu Square and all these places.

When the Governor-General and other nationalists of this country were fighting the battle for freedom, they used these places and, in fact, these places are land-marks in Nigeria. So, I do hope that this Bill will not have the effect of defacing the Tafawa Balewa Square. That is the only remark I want to make.

**Mr J. O. Odebunmi** (Egba North): This Bill is not controversial but there is one point on which I would like to lay emphasis.

This is one of the Crown lands and we would like the Minister in charge to give us details of the Crown lands in Lagos Territory sometime and also let us know the allocation of these Crown lands because there are rumours that the Crown lands—

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs**: On a point of information, what the hon. Gentleman is saying has nothing to do with the Bill.

**Mr Speaker**: Will the hon. Member speak on the Tafawa Balewa Bill.

**Mr Odebunmi**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I said, this is a welcome Bill, but we would like to know more about Crown lands, particularly about their allocations and how these Crown lands are divided.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): As the first speaker has said, I welcome the Bill, but there is only one point I want to make. It is true that we don't live on rumours, and so on,

but I would like the Minister to make a statement about the piece of rumour circulating that the Tafawa Balewa Square will be used in building a mosque. That is the only point I would like to make.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

Schedule—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Preamble—*ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Minister of Lagos Affairs).*

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): The hon. Member for Awka North (*Mr Ogbalu*) told the House about a rumour, a very unsubstantiated rumour. As he did not substantiate it, that should not appear in the *Hansard*.

We do not intend to build a mosque at the Tafawa Balewa Square. If we wanted to build a mosque, there are many other places to do that. I hope, therefore, that this will not appear in the *Hansard*.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-seven minutes to four o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 11th December, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** Order. The following Papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(1) Draft Second Supplementary Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria 1962-63.

(2) Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Annual Report and Statement of Account for the year ending 31st March, 1962.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FINANCE

Tyre Import

\*O.827. **Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Finance, how many bicycle tyres were imported into the country between 1st October, 1960 and 31st March, 1962; what was their value, and what was the amount realised as import duties on them.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Mr T. A. Lamuye) : In the eighteen months between 1st October, 1960 and 31st March, 1962, a total of 5,874,979 bicycle tyres, valued at £904,287 was imported. Separate records of the amount of duty collected on individual commodities are not maintained, but from the known value it can be calculated that the duty payable would have been about £180,857-8s-0d.

Exchange Control

\*O.828. **Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Finance, in view of the fact that Southern Cameroons has seceded from Nigeria, whether he will consider a proposal to build an exchange Control Bank at Calabar to enable traders with the Southern Cameroons to exchange Nigerian Coins for Cameroons Francs.

**Mr Lamuye :** No such proposal has been submitted, and it is not intended to build one.

Exchange facilities in the area are provided by the commercial banks operating there.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe :** Is the Minister aware that on account of lack of preventive facilities, a lot of smuggling of currency notes occurs regularly along the border?

**Mr Lamuye :** I am not aware.

\*O.829. **Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that some Nigerian students in Germany suffer hardship as a result of the operation of the Exchange Control Act and what steps he intends to take in order to ensure that Nigerian students overseas are not adversely affected by the Act.

**Mr Lamuye :** I am not aware of any hardship suffered by students as a result of the Exchange Control Act, 1962. There is no difference between the new law and the old one as far as it affects Nigerian students studying abroad. The same procedure still applies. The administration of our exchange control law is simple and liberal. Exchange Control facilities are invariably given to Nigerian students overseas.

**Dr K. Ezera :** Is the Minister aware of anything at all that occurs on the Floor of this House?

**Mr Speaker :** That requires notice.

Customs Post

\*O.830. **D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Finance whether there is a customs officer now at the Port Harcourt aerodrome and if not why?

**Mr Lamuye :** Officers of Customs and Excise are posted only at Customs Airports, i.e., airports where aircraft land from foreign countries. Port Harcourt is not such an airport.

**Mr Oronsaye :** Is the Minister aware that some aeroplanes coming from London first land in Port Harcourt before coming to Lagos?

**Mr Lamuye :** Since Port Harcourt is not an international airport it is not possible for an aeroplane of that nature to land at that airport.

## Public Debt

**\*O.956. Mr D. N. Oronsaye :** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total public debt of Nigeria as at 30th June, 1962.

**Mr Lamuye :** The public debt of Nigeria as at 30th June, 1962 is £97,609,897. These figures are made up of £44,183,482 external debt and £53,426,415 internal debt.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem :** When are we going to pay these debts ?

**Mr I. A. Brown :** Under what condition were these debts secured ?

## Smuggling

**\*O.831. Mr H. O. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Finance how many cases of smuggling occurred during the year 1960 to 31st March, 1962 ; how much was realised in each case from the articles seized and sold ?

**Mr Lamuye :** There were 2,867 cases of smuggling in the years concerned. The total proceeds of sale amounted to £24,109.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe :** Does the Minister know that it is obnoxious that goods confiscated from smugglers' agents are still being destroyed at the expense of Nigeria where money is so needed at this stage for development ?

**Mr Lamuye :** If we seize contraband goods and we still put them in the market for sale it means that the purpose for which they were seized is not served. For instance, if we seize cigarettes from smugglers and put these cigarettes on the market they will affect the cigarettes produced in Nigeria.

## Federal Investment

**\*O.832. Mr H. O. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the valuation of the Federal Government investment in each of the following years : 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961, and what is the present revaluation after 31st March, 1962.

**Mr Lamuye :** I presume that the hon. Member is concerned with Investment generally, if this is so, the figures are as follows :—

As at 31st March,	£
1958 .. .. .	24,851,084
1959 .. .. .	27,464,104
1960 .. .. .	25,588,454

	£
1961 .. .. .	16,440,070
1962 .. .. .	12,258,756

The above are the figures, after revaluation at 31st March.

**Mr U. O. Ayeni :** I need to ask why the value is going down.

**Mr Lamuye :** I require notice for that Question.

## Old Currency Notes

**\*O.833. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Finance whether in view of the large quantities of the West African Board money in circulation or hoarded in the country, he will offer some monetary inducements to persons possessing them in order to encourage such people to present the moneys at the Banks for exchange without delay.

**Mr Lamuye :** On the basis of information available there is no evidence to suggest that there are any significant quantities of West African Currency Board currency in circulation or hoarded in the country. In fact, reports from various parts of the country indicate that the redemption operations being carried out by the Central Bank have been very successful. Widespread and prolonged publicity has been and is being undertaken this year on the commercial radio network and the Press by both the Federal and Regional Governments. I am glad to say that the response of the public has been very great indeed. Between January and November this year a total of £8.5 million of West African Currency Board money has been withdrawn from circulation in Nigeria. This amount is made up of £2.4 million in notes and £6.1 million in coins.

The free exchange facility for the old currency notes ended on the 30th September and so far members of the public have not been presenting any significant quantity of these notes to the banks who are prepared to exchange the old notes on the payment of an exchange commission.

Free exchange facility for the old coins will end on the 31st December, 1962, but banks will still be free to exchange such coins after that date on the payment of an exchange commission.

The hon. Member will agree with me that the arrangements which have been made for

the redemption of the old money have afforded ample opportunities for everybody to exchange his or her old notes and coin.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa :** Is the Minister aware that in some remote areas certain people go to exchange these monies on commission ?

**Mr Lamuye :** If this is the case Sir, that is their own lookout because Government has given enough publicity as to how this money will be changed.

**Mr Ahamefula :** What is the necessity for payment of this commission ?

**The Minister of Finance :** Mr Speaker Sir, this is a strange question from an hon. Member who thinks that all Banking Houses must operate gratis and therefore if they transact business they should draw no commission and all people working there should not be paid.

**\*O.834. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** asked the Minister of Finance how much the Government spent on transport, daily allowances and other expenses for the two Economic Missions he led to the Eastern and Western countries in 1961-62.

**Mr Lamuye :** I have answered this Question before. The hon. Member should refer to Question O.146 which came up at the last Budget meeting of Parliament.

#### Trade Agreements

**\*O.835. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** asked the Minister of Finance, how many agreements has the Federal Government entered into so far with countries he visited during the two Economic Missions of 1961 to 1962; and of these how many are with the Eastern Countries.

**Mr Lamuye :** The Federal Government has entered into three Trade Agreements with countries visited by the Minister of Finance as leader of the three Economic Missions in 1961 and 1962. These are with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria all of which are Eastern Countries. Negotiations on similar and other Agreements with other countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom and West Germany, are at an advanced stage.

**Mr Ememe :** I wonder why the Soviet Union is not included in the list.

#### External Loans

**\*O.836. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Finance, what steps he is taking to see that in accepting the Loans for the Nigerian Ports Authority project, no unreasonable conditions are attached.

**Mr Lamuye :** The Federal Government has successfully negotiated one loan of £4.82 million from the World Bank to the Nigerian Ports Authority for financing the Apapa Wharf Extension. No unreasonable conditions whatsoever are attached by the World Bank to this loan. The terms and conditions of the loan are most favourable to Nigeria.

The loan is to be repaid over 20 years with a four-year grace period at an interest rate of 5½ per cent per annum. The most important condition attached to the loan is that the award of the contract for the project must be done on the basis of effective international competition and the contract should be awarded to the lowest tenderer unless the contractor is not technically competent. This is in Nigeria's best interest.

#### Coker Commission of Inquiry

**\*O.882. Mr A. A. Ajibola** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total amount paid as professional fees to Counsel to the Coker Commission of Enquiry.

**Mr Lamuye :** The Coker Commission of Inquiry has not yet completed its deliberations, and the final total of the professional fees payable to the Counsel to the Commission is therefore at present unknown. Expenditure to date amounts to £1,528-8s-0d.

#### LABOUR

##### Professional Football

**\*O.883. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Labour, what steps he is taking to see that the Federal Government will undertake to create and maintain national professional footballers in the country.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr N. A. Ezonbodor) :** It is not Government's intention to introduce professionalism into any field of sport. That is a matter for private enterprise. The interest of Government is limited to amateur sport for the encouragement of the physical well-being of the community.

**MINES AND POWER****Oil Agreement**

\*O.837. Mr O. C. Ememe asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he is aware that 30 per cent share capital offered to Government by an Italian Firm for oil Exploration is not adequate as it is not the controlling share of the company.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Power (M. Ahmadu Fatika):** The answer to this Question is rather long and with your permission it will be circulated in the Official Report.

The Answer is as follows :

On the 3rd of April, 1962 the Honourable Minister of Mines and Power made a statement in Parliament regarding the proposal by an Italian Oil Company, A.G.I.P. Mineraria (a subsidiary of the E.N.I. Group) for Government participation in the oil industry. It was explained then that the offer of joint action and participation with A.G.I.P. and its Group had made and are making to producing countries is unique in the history of the oil industry.

One of the Heads of Agreement between the Federal Government and the A.G.I.P. Mineraria states that the Federal Government shall have the option of acquiring from A.G.I.P. Mineraria and its Group 30 per cent of the Operating Companies paid up shares. This option shall be exercised after the Operating Company shall have found petroleum in commercial quantities and shall have informed the Federal Government of such discovery. The Federal Government has signed the Heads of Agreement but is not committed by the Heads of Agreement to any particular form of participation. The final agreement as to the form of participation is yet to be reached with A.G.I.P. Mineraria after the Company might have discovered oil in commercial quantities. A consideration of the question whether or not the share capital offered to Government by the Italian Company is adequate is therefore premature at this stage. In any event this offer by the Italian Oil Company is over and above the 50/50 Agreement between the Government and the Oil Company which agreement applies to all the other oil companies. In effect it means that this particular offer when exercised will

bring to the coffers of the Government, about 60 per cent of the profits accruing to the Company.

I feel it is a good start, and until we know more about the intricacies and complications of the oil industry, I do not think it wise to go too far.

**Oil Prospecting**

\*O.839. Mr O. J. Eminue asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether any other Company apart from the Shell BP, has applied to the Ministry to continue the search for mineral oil in Old Calabar Province and if mining leases have been signed with such Company.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** No company other than Shell BP, has applied for oil grants in the Old Calabar Province.

**Mr I. A. Brown :** Is the Minister aware that during the last Budget Session I asked a similar question and a statement was made on the Floor of this House by the Minister of Mines and Power that a company was negotiating to sign a contract to carry out oil exploration in the Old Calabar Province ?

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji Maitama Sule) :** It is true that there is a company that has taken concession in that particular area, but that does not mean that they have carried out any investigation as yet. They are yet to start.

**Electricity Supply to Awgu**

\*O.840. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will include in the six year development Programme supply of electricity to Awgu District Headquarters, which is less than 20 miles from the Oji River.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** The township of Awgu has been included in the list of towns nominated by the Eastern Regional Government for survey to determine suitability for inclusion in the 2nd phase of the New Towns Development Programme.

If found suitable, Awgu would be developed from funds which are being provided by the Eastern Regional Government.

**Electricity Supply to Achi and Inyi**

\*O.841. Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will include in the six-year Development Programme supply of electricity to Achi and Inyi in Awgu Division which are the nearest towns to Oji River Electric Power Station.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** The townships of Achi and Inyi are not included in the second phase of the Corporations' New Towns Development Programme for development by the Corporation, and they have not been nominated for development from funds provided by the Regional Government.

The Eastern Regional Government is providing some funds for the development of townships in the Region under the next phase of this programme, and it is suggested that the hon. Member might wish to take this matter up with the Regional Government.

#### Survey of Awgu Division

\*O.842. **Mr D. N. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he will make a detailed Geological Survey of the hills in Awgu Division.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** It is not intended to resurvey Awgu Division at the moment because it has already been geologically mapped two times and the area has been examined on various occasions for economic minerals.

Awgu Division was first mapped in connection with work done on the Nigerian Coalfield. It has also been surveyed by geologists of an oil company and the results have been published. Further work carried out by the Geological Survey in Awgu Division includes the investigation by drilling and chemical analyses of the Inyi Awlaw coal; the investigation, by drilling of the Eziator intrusion and by trenching of limestones in the Awgu area.

In addition groundwater conditions in various parts of the Division have been investigated. Part of the division was prospected for lead and zinc by a mining company.

**Dr Kalu Ezera :** Will the Minister agree that there is an urgent need for an overall geological survey of all parts of the country to meet up with the Federal Government's economic plan?

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** Ever before the hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr Ezera*) made this suggestion, I made a statement on the Floor of this House that Government is considering carrying out a country-wide geological and mapping survey in order to find out more minerals so that we may be able to give valuable information about our mineral deposits in this country to help with the economic plan.

**Dr Ezera :** How soon?

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** It is now under consideration and will start as soon as practicable.

#### Ijora Power Station

\*O.844. **Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, what and who are the causes of the breakdown of the Boilers at Ijora Power House and how soon will the fault be rectified.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** I have not much to add to my statement on the "E.C.N. Load shedding" as published in the Parliamentary Debates of 1962-63 Session page 385 of 28th March, 1962 except to say that all repairs have now been effected, and the situation was restored to normal by end of July.

Again, the final report of the Consultants will be available in the near future and until this is received no information can be given with regard to blame and/or causes of the breakdown.

#### Electricity Supply to Ngwo, etc.

\*O.921. **Mr I. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will compute figures of consumers with a view to providing electricity to Ngwo, Abo, Eke, Oghe, Owa and Nsude from the Power Station at Mile 9 on the Ngwo-Oghe-Awka Road.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** The power station at Mile 9 on the Ngwo-Oghe-Awka road to which the hon. Member refers is a 66kv Sub-station. The high capital cost of extending supplies to these rather scattered locations would not be justified by the very limited revenue which could be anticipated.

It is, however, proposed to undertake a survey to determine the economics of the proposal.

#### Employment of Retrenched Miners

\*O.922. **Mr I. Chikelu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if in the event of new employment opportunities arising in the Coal mines, retrenched miners have preference over new aspirants.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika :** The hon. Member will be pleased to know that it is the policy of the Nigerian Coal Corporation to re-employ retrenched miners whenever vacancies occur.



In fact in the month of October, 1962 the Nigerian Coal Corporation employed one hundred retrenched miners.

**Mr Chikelu :** Will the Minister make sure that these men are taken straight on without a fresh application ?

## INFORMATION

### Nigerian News

\*O.845. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Information, if he will state in what ways are news items of Nigeria fed to countries abroad and what plans he has for establishing Nigerian News Agencies in all important countries overseas.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Yerokun) :** The Information Division of my Ministry sends daily press cables to London, New York, Washington, Monrovia and Bonn. These daily cables contain pure hard news as well as editorial comments from the Nigerian newspapers. The service is at present limited to only a few places because of lack of funds.

In addition to the daily press cables, there is a twice-weekly "News from Nigeria" which summaries the news from all over the Federation. There is also the monthly news magazine : "Federal Nigeria". All these publications in addition to photographs, films and suitable pamphlets and booklets on Nigeria, are supplied to all Nigerian Missions overseas.

Apart from the work of my Ministry which I have briefly described above, some of the world's leading News Agencies and newspapers have representatives in Lagos and, therefore, cover all local news for consumption abroad.

With regard to the question of establishing a Nigerian News Agency, I wish to say that preliminary steps have already been taken. Last February, at a meeting of all the Ministers of Information in the Federation, the question was fully discussed. Hon. Members will also wish to know that at the meeting of African and Malagasy States, held in Dakar in December of last year, a committee was set up to examine ways and means of establishing an Inter-African Press Agency.

**Mr I. A. Brown :** The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information is

making a Ministerial statement. We want him to answer a simple question. This is not the time for a Ministerial statement.

**Mr Speaker :** I will not say that it is a simple question. Actually, the question anticipates a long answer.

**Mr Yerokun :** While Nigeria supports the proposal in principle, it has been agreed that it would be necessary for her, first of all, to set up a National Press Agency of her own. My Ministry is now addressing itself to the exercise of establishing a Nigerian National Press Agency in full consultation and co-operation with all interested.

\*O.846. **Alhaji K. O. S. Are** asked the Minister of Information, what steps he has taken to ensure that Nigeria is given adequate publicity overseas.

**Mr Yerokun :** At present, overseas publicity for Nigeria is a subject which concerns my Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations and there is close consultation and co-operation between the two Ministries. My Ministry provides the trained staff which are attached to Nigeria's Embassies and High Commissions overseas and my Ministry is also charged with the responsibility of preparing materials required for overseas publicity.

With regard to publicity materials, my Ministry maintains a regular supply of all available materials for all the Nigerian Missions overseas. These materials include publications, press releases, photographs and cables. Supplies of these materials are also made available to foreign missions in Nigeria, to representatives of foreign newspapers and newsagents, as well as distinguished overseas visitors to this country.

Special mention must be made of the monthly publication entitled "FEDERAL NIGERIA" and the twice-weekly news bulletin "NEWS FROM NIGERIA" which are reports and records of the day-to-day events and news from Nigeria. These two publications are directed to all news agencies, institutions, business houses and to governments and their agents where it is important that what we are doing should be known. In addition, the staff of my Information Division handles a considerable volume of direct mail requests for information from

many parts of the world. Some of these requests come from school children and university professors and requests also come from institutions of learning and organisations overseas.

With regard to Broadcasting, the "Voice of Nigeria", our new External Broadcasting Service, will start its full services in February 1963, and we hope then to broadcast news and comments from Nigeria to the outside world in an increasing scale in the years ahead.

Dr Kalu Ezera rose—

**Mr Speaker :** Is Dr Ezera raising a point of order?

**Dr Kalu Ezera :** I just want to ask a Supplementary Question. In view of the issue of disagreement between the Minister of Information and the Minister of Foreign Affairs—

**The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) :** There is no disagreement.

**Mr Speaker :** I regret there is no more time for Questions. It is past half past ten and no further Questions can be entertained.

## PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILL

### DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES

Bill to consolidate and amend certain enactments relating to diplomatic immunities and privileges; presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations; read the First time; to be read a Second time—  
*Thursday, 13th December, 1962.*

## MOTIONS

### NIGERIA AIRWAYS

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, "That in view of the facts that the Nigeria Airways has no modern Aircraft of its own; operates in complete dependence on Foreign and Commonwealth Aircraft companies; has little or no training and provision programme for personnel and equipment, this House calls on the Government to take immediate steps to remedy the unsatisfactory situation".

I would say that I am going to show that the Nigeria Airways has no modern aircraft. I shall show that it operates entirely in complete

dependence on Foreign and Commonwealth Aircraft Companies, and that it has little training and provision programme for the country. Those are the three operative words.

The Nigeria Airways is called 'B.O.A.C. made easy'—

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, before any hon. Member can put a Question and argue it well, he must be conversant with state of things. Has the hon. Mover ever flown in any aircraft before?

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

**Mr Oronsaye :** In answer to the hon. Gentleman's question, I have flown in aeroplanes.

Now, Sir, as I was saying, Nigerian Airways is called 'B.O.A.C. made easy'. It means that it is simply an agent of B.O.A.C. and nothing else. That is what it means. I have pointed out that every word in the Motion has been carefully selected so as to give the full meaning and significance of the whole position.

**Hon. Members :** Who processed it?

**Mr Oronsaye :** I processed it.

A brief history of the Nigeria Airways would not be out of place. Some years back there started a Corporation known and called the West African Airways Corporation. Some reports are available and these reports show the activities of the Corporation as far as Nigeria is concerned. I would crave your indulgence to read part of the reports. I quote—

*"Financial results have shown very clearly that under West African conditions it is only possible to break even by a very considerable increase in carrying capacity to give a greater spread for overhead and crew charges which do not increase in direct proportion to the available capacity. An increase from 8 to 16 seats seems likely to be too small, and it may be necessary to consider 30-32 seater aircraft."*

*The development of second class air travel at reduced fares had always been borne in mind as a possibility at some future date, but now seems to warrant immediate consideration."*

Now, Sir, I have chosen to read part of these reports which were compiled by the West African Airways Corporation—

**An hon. Member :** For what year ?

**Mr Oronsaye :** This is for the year 1948-49. We are talking about the development of the Nigeria Airways. I have already made that clear. Right from the beginning, it was shown that it is necessary to develop second class transport and also to spread overhead charges. This is one of the points that led to this Motion, because the Corporation, at the moment is operating at a heavy loss—

**An hon. Member :** How did the hon. Gentleman know ?

**Mr Oronsaye :** I can tell hon. Members that in the first quarter of this year, they lost £165,000. I am very sure of my facts and figures.

**Hon. Members :** It is too small.

**Mr Oronsaye :** That is tax-payers' money. Now, Sir, with your permission, I will read also part of the 1949-50 report.

*"In view of the certain loss of operating a small aircraft, it seems that, when a load factor of anything over 65 per cent is reached with a frequency of three times a week, not five or six times a week, a start should be made with providing a larger aircraft. But the larger aircraft should be introduced gradually, first once a week, using the smaller aircraft on the other days, and then, when the overall load factor again reaches 65 per cent, substitute a larger aircraft on another day and so."*

All these reports have been ignored by the Corporation.

**Hon. Members :** Why ?

**Mr Oronsaye :** That is the reason for our Motion.

**Hon. Members :** Why not 1952-53 ?

**Mr Oronsaye :** I am happy that a Member has said why not 1952-53. The Corporation has not been issuing any report since the break away of West African Airways Corporation.

**Hon. Members :** Why ?

**Mr Oronsaye :** Because of inefficiency. I have ransacked every report, I have ransacked every place, there is no report. Therefore, the final report I would like to read is the report of 1957-58—

*"The Corporation was notified after a meeting of West African Air Transport Authority in February 1958 that owing to the*

*development in West Africa, the constitution of the Corporation under West African Territories Air Transport Order-in-Council, 1946 would require radical modification, and that the necessary steps to this need were being initiated"*.

At a subsequent meeting of the authorities, the decision was reached that separate air transport organisations would be established within the territories of Ghana and Nigeria, and the Corporation was so advised in October 1958 when the new organisation would begin to operate. Meantime, the authority directed that a valuation of the network of the assets of the Corporation should be carried out by Messrs Cassleton Elliott & Co. (Nigeria), who should also be appointed liquidators. That was how the Nigeria Airways came into existence.

In that brief history of the Nigeria Airways, you have seen how technical advice was given to this Corporation in order to reduce operational costs, and to work in such a way that diminishing returns would be eliminated. But this advice was ignored. Instead, what do we have ? We have a Nigeria Airways that operates entirely as an agent of the BOAC, and I will show to you, with documentary evidence here this morning, that the BOAC is out to discredit the Nigeria Airways.

All that has been said above shows that there is an Air Corporation in which Nigeria is a partner. Certain fundamental principles were laid down and the Nigeria Airways, therefore, came into existence in 1958. One would have expected that from the reports already known and the fact that Nigeria is an independent country, that efforts should have been made straightaway to establish a suitable airline. At present, what do we have ? We have nine planes altogether. And what are these planes ? We have seven DC, that is Dakota aircraft. Each of these carries twenty-eight passengers, all first class. And then we have two Pipe Aztec, each of which carries four passengers. If you remember the advice and the technical report as issued in the previous years, the Corporation has been advised that such small aircraft as these will not do for this country at all—and these ones, the Dakota aircraft, are 1926 models. So you can see that in the present age, 1962, when we should have such aircraft as I will name to you later, we have

only aircraft that came into existence in 1926—that is a little after the First World War. None of these aircrafts carries second-class passengers, contrary to the report that has been issued. And what is more, the planes referred to above are all for internal services in Nigeria. Even here, the services, although they are internal, are also shared with BOAC—even the internal services!

It is true—I want everybody to listen to this carefully—that there is one aircraft, Boeing 707, which has “Nigeria Airways” written on it. It is merely written on it. The aircraft belongs to the BOAC.

**An hon. Member :** Even when it bears the name of Nigeria?

**Mr Oronsaye :** Yes, Mr Speaker, and the name “Nigeria Airways” is written only when it is doing journeys from Nigeria to London, and if that particular plane is travelling from London to America or any other place, the name “Nigeria Airways” is wiped out.

Even our respected Prime Minister, when he went to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers’ Conference last time, travelled by a plane that is not Nigerian, whereas it is usual that when Prime Ministers are going for conferences they travel in their own country’s air plane. This is the only plane that travels from Lagos to London, and it carries 117 passengers.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has walked out on the hon. Member in protest. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker :** He did not say so.

**Mr Oronsaye :** I am not aware that the Prime Minister walked out for that reason. However, as I was saying, since the aircraft does not belong to Nigeria Airways, Nigeria’s goodwill engendered by the plane is a waste. Yesterday somebody was telling me that he travelled in a *Boeing 707* when he was going to London. It therefore means that Nigeria’s goodwill that is being engendered is a waste and the people travelling in the plane do not know that.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central) :** On a point of order, I am sorry the hon. Gentleman referred to the conversation I had with him yesterday. It is true that there is a *Boeing 707* jet Nigeria Airways which

flies from Nigeria to London, and from London to Nigeria, on which I travelled. But I did not see the name of Nigeria wiped off when I was travelling from London to Nigeria.

**Mr Oronsaye :** I have not mentioned anybody’s name and if the last speaker travelled from Lagos to London and from London to Lagos, he has not gone to other international routes. I have said here, and I know what I am speaking about, that the Airways use the plane when it is on a journey to London and back to Nigeria, but if that plane is travelling from London to America, or any other place, the name is wiped off.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. This House is getting rather noisy. Is Mr Babatunde rising on a point of order?

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin East) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, is it because the Standing Order allows any Member thirty minutes to speak that the hon. Member is allowed to go on with this kind of speech for so long?

**Mr Oronsaye :** I must inform the last speaker that the Standing Order allows me forty-five minutes as the Mover of the Motion, and not thirty-minutes. That is the Standing Order, and therefore, I am craving that all these interruptions should stop so that I can marshal my points.

I have made a point, and it is a very important one, that Nigeria’s goodwill engendered in that plane is a waste. The air services and lines in Nigeria include :

- (1) The KLM Dutch Airlines
- (2) Swiss Air
- (3) U.A.R. Airlines
- (4) Air France
- (5) Alitalia (that is Italy)
- (6) Lufthansa
- (7) Air Liban (Lebanon)
- (8) Pan American
- (9) Ethiopian Airways
- (10) Air Congo (Leopoldville)
- (11) Ghana Airways
- (12) Portuguese Airways.

These are the airlines that operate in Nigeria, in competition with the Nigeria Airways, and although some people did not know the facts and the economists involved laugh over these

[MR ORONSAYE]

things, but Nigeria has lost face in the international field. If Nigeria is to hold her place as the giant of Africa, she has got to develop and equip an airline that is worth her name, not operating in complete dependence on other lines, which I have mentioned here. All these lines are completely foreign and, as you will see, some of them do not in any way consult Nigeria at all. Now, I will mention some examples: the Alitalia, Lufthansa, Pan American, and KLM Dutch Airlines, then Air France. They do not consult Nigeria in anything. They just use the aerodrome, pay their fares and pass on with their passengers.

**An hon. Member:** What does the hon. Member for Benin East expect them to do?

**Mr Oronsaye:** The point I want to make here is that these airlines are competing with Nigeria in a most unfair way. This is because Nigeria has no planes, no modern planes, and therefore she competes with these people in a most awkward and ridiculous manner.

There are some other things that you may like to know. The Nigeria Airways is just a general agent for some of these, mostly those from Africa, although the U.A.R. Line—there are some questions that will be asked, but I do not want to embarrass anybody here. The sum total of what I have said above is that although Nigeria is independent, she is entirely dependent on others for outside travels. Her internal services are shared with the BOAC, who land both at Kano and in Lagos. What is expected in any such agreement is that the BOAC should have landed only in Lagos. They should not land also in Kano, because their agreement should have terminated the moment they come to Nigeria. Nigeria should be used as a place for checking, refueling and passing and they should not stop in more than one place. That is air language.

Nigeria has services over which she has no operational control whatever. The KLM, etc., as I have shown you, have been responsible for most of the stow aways that take place in this country. Nigeria has no control over these services and these people have stowed away. What is worse, the advertising system of the Nigeria Airways is nil—absolutely nil. Her offices are in the most secluded places in every town. Take Lagos, for instance. Where is the Nigeria Airways Office—where do you do your bookings?

**An hon. Member:** Where is it? Tell us.

**Mr Oronsaye:** It is in 161 Broad Street, hidden under the canopy of the U.T.C. shops, and nobody knows that the Nigeria Airways is there, but go along—

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** The hon. Member has been misleading this House. The debates going on in this House will be read in all parts of the world, and for him to say that the Nigeria Airways Offices are hidden in Lagos proves that he is a bush man in Lagos.

**Mr Speaker:** Order. That is improper language, and in any case, it is not a point of order.

**Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East):** I think it is most unparliamentary for an hon. Member to refer to another hon. Member of this House as a 'bush man'. We demand a complete withdrawal of this statement.

**Mr Oronsaye:** I strongly protest against the hon. Member's language when he refers to me as a 'bush man in Lagos', and I am asking that he should withdraw it.

**Mr Speaker:** If Members are serious and make improper remarks about other Members, then the withdrawal should be demanded. But in this case, where it is a mere joke, which is common, I do not think it should be taken seriously and there is no need for Members to begin to find faults in jokes between two friends.

**Mr Oronsaye:** While accepting the Speaker's ruling, I must point out that this particular Member is very fond of raising unnecessary and offensive points of order in this House.

Now, Sir, I have said that the office is hidden away in No. 161 Broad Street. That part of Broad Street is not the part that you pass to any place. It is hidden away. Take the Airline Lufthansa. Anybody travelling to Apapa or to Yaba, to any place, will see their offices on the way and it is quite easy for anybody to go to these places.

**Mr Ekanem:** On a point of order—

**Mr Speaker:** What is the point of order?

**Mr Ekanem :** My point of order is that a Member has an allotted time within which to speak when he is moving a Motion. I know it is your prerogative but it seems to me that the hon. Member has covered his time.

**Mr Speaker :** It is amazing how some hon. Members lack the simple knowledge of our Standing Orders. The Mover of the Motion is entitled to 45 minutes and has not used up his time.

**Mr Oronsaye :** Thank you Mr Speaker. The offices and Reception Rooms are filled with so many B.O.A.C. advertisements and very little of Nigeria Airways is seen. I should now invite every Member's attention to any aerodrome in Nigeria. Hon. Members will find that all the posters and advertisements in the airports are for B.O.A.C.

Our air hostesses consists in the main of uneducated, saucy, ugly, rude girls. They are brought in through the back door. Education should be the main criterion for recruiting air hostesses in the Airways.

**An hon. Member :** What about beauty ?

**Mr Oronsaye :** Beauty should be a consideration too. That is what I am saying. I am saying now that those employed by the Nigeria Airways are neither educated, pretty, nor courteous.

**An hon. Member :** On a point of order—

**Mr Speaker :** What is the point of order ?

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North-East) :** I strongly protest, Sir, having travelled in aeroplanes myself—

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. That is no point of order.

**Mr Oronsaye :** There are only two Nigerian pilots so far in the whole of the Airways; the rest are Indian, Polish, English, Dutch and so on. As I stand now I cannot see any prospect of Nigerians becoming pilots in the Nigeria Airways as long as the present policy continues.

Now, Sir, arising from all this the staff of the Airways are very very disgruntled because there are no training programmes not only for the pilots but also other members of the staff. Engineers are mainly trained locally in a place, I think, they call *Kirikiri*.

Uniforms are labelled 'B.O.A.C.'. The only thing showing Nigeria Airways is the symbol of an elephant, and that is most annoying because the symbol of an elephant does not show something that flies. An elephant does not fly.

We all know the necessity for all Airline workers to speak modern languages and yet this is entirely ignored by the Nigeria Airways. If Nigerian aeroplanes are to undertake journeys to foreign countries then we must have hostesses that speak French, German, Italian and so on. The Corporation is now operating at a loss. I have mentioned already that in the first quarter of this year the Corporation lost £165,000. That loss is at our expense, but the loss continues because the operational advice given, as I have said all along, has been ignored. With the type of aircraft that cannot undertake journeys to England or anywhere abroad we cannot compete with these American Clippers, with all these things that you see in the aerodromes, including the Jets. Therefore the losses will continue.

The Corporation is working below capacity; that is the second reason why it is impossible for Nigeria Airways to compete with foreign airlines. Therefore, I would suggest most strongly that Government should give a loan of £10 million to the Corporation now. If government is not prepared to give that loan, the government can, at least, stand as surety. I heard in the news this morning of the Ports Authority getting a certain loan from the World Bank. Nothing should prevent the government also from standing surety in the way they have done for the Ports Authority, for the Nigeria Airways to borrow £10 million.

The next thing is that the Agreement with B.O.A.C. should be revoked straightaway. Now, here is the description the B.O.A.C. gave of Lagos and Accra. If I read it you will shed tears, because I have the B.O.A.C. Papers here.

**An hon. Member :** Read on.

**Mr Oronsaye :** With your permission, Mr Speaker, I shall only read the concluding portions. "*There is little of interest in Lagos which is over-crowded and unpicturesque.*"

But what did they say about Accra? Places of interest are plentiful, but it is desirable to

[MR ORONSAYE]

describe the fare before making a journey—that is the fare that you have to pay, because the difference between Accra and Lagos is that you pay at the Accra Airport to go to Accra. But here, you do not pay, Nigeria Airways drive people down to Lagos in a ramshackle bus.

These are the concluding portions: *The Aburi Botanical Garden, situated twenty miles north of Accra at an altitude of two-thousand feet will be of interest to visitors. The Christianburg Castle formerly the Danish Trade Port and now the House of the Prime Minister is not open to the public but is worth a visit to view the exterior. The Ghana Museum is also well worth inclusion in any itinerary.*

In other words, the B.O.A.C. is encouraging people to go to Ghana and not encouraging people to come to Nigeria. So, our Agreement with the B.O.A.C. must be revoked. The Corporation should buy some of the following aircraft: some *Britannia*, *Comets*, *Boeing 707* and then some *Viscount D.C. 10*.

**An hon. Member:** What about jets?

**Mr Oronsaye:** These are all jet aircraft; these are all jets. And if the £10 million is given, all these jet airliners that I have mentioned here can be bought and Nigeria will compete very favourably in the world market.

Another suggestion is that Nigerians should be trained as pilots, engineers, air hostesses of good culture and smashing beauty. This is because our air hostesses go out as specimens of Nigerians to all parts of the world and, therefore, they should be of smashing beauty. Offices should be located in well-known and central places. The Nigeria Airways should have its own offices and employees in London. At the moment, the Nigeria Airways has no office in London at all. There is one old man kept in one B.O.A.C. office in London. One old man; only one, and that one old man is the Nigeria Airways officer in London: that one old man.

**An hon. Member:** Mention his name.

**Mr Oronsaye:** I will not mention his name. There should be offices for the Nigeria Airways in New York, in London, in Tokyo, in Moscow and all these places. Government bookings must be done with the Nigeria Airways, even on routes where it has no planes.

What happens at the moment is that Government chartered aircraft which carry students, and so on, are handled by agents. It is not handled by the Nigeria Airways and in most cases these agents go to hire aircraft of foreign airlines. If these things are given to the Nigeria Airways, as Agents, it will bring commission to the Nigeria Airways. They should not be handled by foreign agents when Government money is used to pay for all these things. Foreign agencies use other airlines and get their commission, instead of the commission going to the Nigeria Airways.

Ports Authority office, for instance, is just opposite the Nigeria Airways office at Broad Street. Ports Authority makes a lot of bookings for the Government and all these bookings are made with other agents, not with the Nigeria Airways. These are some of the reasons why the Nigeria Airways is operating at a loss.

I now come to the final suggestion. The uniforms should be of better stuff and should have an eagle as the symbol, not an elephant. They should have the eagle as the symbol because the eagle can fly and it is a very powerful bird, whereas the elephant cannot fly and is a bad symbol. The uniforms should bear the words "Nigeria Airways" and not "B.O.A.C."

I have given in a few words the position of the Nigeria Airways and it is my contention that unless these suggestions are carried out, the Nigeria Airways will continue to operate at a loss and the country will not enjoy her independence. We know that we have some hostile neighbours and in case of an emergency, if anything should happen now to us, we will suddenly find that we have no merchant air line to depend upon. The nucleus of a merchant air line should be built up right now by carrying out the suggestions I have made here.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North):** I rise to second the Motion so ably moved by the hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr Oronsaye*).

It is rather difficult for one to make any improvement on what he has said. It is quite true that in an enthusiasm to convince the House about the necessity of taking measures

to improve the Nigeria Airways, it seems some parts of the speech have been exaggerated.

The Government has to be congratulated for the little bit of achievement which has been made since October 1st, 1960. I have to draw attention to the cardinal points which have been made in the long, scintillating and inspiring speech by the mover of this Motion.

The points are, that no modern aircraft belongs to Nigeria and that there should be a modernisation of the Nigeria Airways. This means that we should beware as far as possible of old, antiquated and outmoded aircraft and purchase modern aircraft in order to make Nigeria take her place in the scheme of things in the world. It would be quite retrogressive for us to continue placing orders for outmoded aircraft instead of making use of modern inventions. It is better to have an efficient and modern airline than one which is crowded with old and obsolete aircraft.

The second point is that our Airways depends too much upon foreign or commonwealth aircraft, and the third point is that little or no training programme is found in the Nigeria Airways. These are the three points upon which I want to concentrate my observations.

In the first place, the world is a world of competition. Aviation is a competitive industry. The Nigeria Airways should be regarded as an infant industry and as such a lot of protection if it is to flourish, and that is the point which the hon. Mover was making when he mentioned the fact that instead of our own Ports Authority and some Government Departments making their air bookings with the Nigeria Airways, they book with other companies. That means there is no protection for this infant industry.

Another point is our allowing foreign and Commonwealth Airways to operate internally in Nigeria. We are not protecting our infant industry in the Nigeria Airways. We are exposing it to the blast of world competition and as economists know, without adequate protection for an infant industry, there is little chance of that infant industry surviving. The Federal Government in all its economic measures, I must say, has taken note of this very vital point, but in the Nigeria Airways, I must say that very little attention has been paid in this direction. So, we are craving protection for the Nigeria Airways by our

Government. Nigerian businessmen should find business for our Airways and Nigerian tourists should patronise the Nigeria Airways in order to make it possible for the losses to which we have referred to, to be minimised.

Well, another very important point is that there must be sufficient training for the Nigerian officers in the Nigeria Airways. At present, there is a lot of stagnation in the department. There is little promotion and little training programme. It is true that it took Britain or Germany or the United States quite a long time to produce a pilot, but we cannot go step by step through all the stages which Britain and other European countries have passed before taking our place in the world.

It is very important, therefore, that Nigerians should be trained to be pilots and to be engineers in the Nigeria Airways.

We have got the boys with enthusiasm; boys who are leaving school, boys who are air minded and who would give devoted service to the nation if only they are given the opportunity. It must be realised that flying experts from London to Nigeria in order to train Nigerians here at tremendous expense will not do us any good. It would be a better thing for a well planned programme for the Nigeria Airways to be launched by the Federal Government. A planned nationalised industry should be taken into consideration, and that should be an industry owned by the nation. If it is a private business it is more likely that the person managing it or the people working there will be more concerned with the progress of that organisation. Therefore, it is important that Nigerians with devotion, Nigerians with sincerity of purpose, should be the people to manage the Nigeria Airways. And there should be minimised elements of quarrel in the administration of that organisation. The point which I am trying to make is that an industry belonging to a nation must be manned by people who the nation foremost in their minds.

I have to say that continued loss by the Nigeria Airways might lead to retrenchment of workers in that Department, and that would be really a very unwelcome result. If the industry continues at this rate, sustaining about £45,000 every quarter of the year, it might as well fold up within a short time. It is necessary for the Government therefore to take a more positive view of the affairs of the Nigeria Airways in



[MR OGBALU]

order to safeguard the increase in unemployment which would be incidental to continued loss.

Another point is the one which has been mentioned by the hon. Mover, the question of advertisement and publicity. It is quite true that people tend to adapt themselves to things which attract attention. If you do not bring articles or commodities before a person it is very likely that he will know that such articles or commodities really exist or that they can satisfy his cravings or desires. But by persuading and convincing him that such articles or commodities can serve his wants or cravings he may try to patronise by purchasing or using them. So, we must have to emphasise the question of publicity for the Nigeria Airways in order to make even Nigerians know that they can fly safely in the Nigeria Airways services. Our internal services must be reorganised so as to afford more efficient services to traders, businessmen, tourists, and people who desire to travel by air.

It is quite true that we are getting more business these days from overseas tourists, conference delegates, and businessmen going abroad or coming to Nigeria in order to do business, and it is for us to persuade these people to travel by Nigeria Airways. We can do this by establishing a more efficient advertising system overseas both in London and in other Nigerian Embassies abroad.

I must have to associate myself with the points raised by the Mover about the symbol of the Nigeria Airways. Obviously, we have got a lot of things, a lot of organisation in which the elephant is the symbol. We know that the elephant is a tropical animal, an animal with great strength, and I am proud that a particular section of Nigeria has a tradition in the elephant as its symbol, but we cannot perpetually make everything "elephant" because "elephant" is a popular symbol; we must have to use a symbol that really fits the occasion. I think, this honourable House will agree with the suggestion already made that the "elephant" is not a symbol of flight, the "eagle" should be the symbol to serve a much more useful purpose. A person who sees Nigeria Airways with the "eagle" will be more moved to fly rather than move on solid ground like the "elephant".

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said, the points which the hon. Mover had made should be taken very seriously by the Government, and it is not my intention to repeat those points, and with these few remarks I beg to second.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Aviation (Mr F. E. Offor):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion on behalf of my Minister who is away.

The hon. Mover of this Motion purports to state what he describes as facts. However, those so-called facts are far removed from reality. Nigeria Airways at present has a fleet of 7 D.C. aircraft in use in its services in Nigeria between Lagos, Accra and Dakar. In addition, there are four smaller aircraft which are employed for commercial charters and trading purposes. A fleet of 5 Fokker Double Prop. Aircraft is on order, and it is expected that the first aircraft will arrive within the next two months, and the whole fleet will be in service during the first half of 1963. (Applause).

This competitive and up to-date fleet will be employed not only on services in Nigeria but on a developing network of short services in West Africa. Some of the D.C. aircraft will be retained for use on busy routes in Nigeria and for development of fresh services.

My Minister also has planned that these aircraft will play a useful part in the development of the Niger Dams Project. Since its inception in 1958 Nigeria Airways has had its own completely independent engineering and supplies organisation. To maintain the new Fokker fleet a new engineering base is being constructed at Lagos Airport where its advanced stage of construction may be seen apparently by any hon. Member who takes the advantage of a visit to the airport to see for himself. Not only is the Nigeria Airways completely independent for its own engineering facilities, but the company has also provided a maintenance service for several international airlines as well as to smaller Nigerian operators. This, the House will agree, is not a picture of a company relying upon external assistance to maintain its own aircraft.

The hon. Member says that the company has little or no training, but the facts also belie this statement. I will necessarily be brief, but this debate gives an opportunity to bring to the

attention of the House the extent to which the Nigeria Airways has prepared for the future. There is a basic engineering school at Ikeja where 32 members of the staff are in training. A number of Nigerians have been trained as instructors on the new forker aircrafts, and shortly it will be necessary to send staff abroad only for specialised training. The school for training flight stewards has 21 pupils; 30 stewardesses have been trained and 11 are in training. Other departments in which Nigerian members of the staff have been trained are the Accounts, Flight Operation, Traffic and Reservations, and further training continues. In the most important field of pilot training, there are already two Nigerian Captains and five new Second Officers will shortly be joining the company.

The Federal Flying School at Kirikiri provides initial training facilities and the first few courses are earmarked for the Nigeria Airways. During 1963-64, no fewer than 83 scholarships are being made available by the Minister of Education for appointment in the Nigeria Airways for such widely differing posts as Chief Engineer, Development Engineer, Traffic Manager and Pilots, to mention but a few.

Mr Speaker, from the facts which I have just given to the House, it will be seen that the Motion grossly misrepresents the situation and that the Nigeria Airways is taking all the necessary steps which will equip it to meet the future with confidence.

The hon. Mover of the Motion says that the several aircrafts from other countries just come to this country on their own. That is not true. The hon. Mover also stated that Nigeria Airways was hidden in a corner at the Broad Street. Hon. Members will know that Broad Street is one of the most popular streets in Lagos and therefore it would not be true to say that the Nigeria Airways situated at the Broad Street was hidden.

The Mover also mentioned that the hostesses so far employed are ugly. That is also not true. They are smashing and the most beautiful girls in the country, and if the hon. Mover will like to see more for himself, I will advise him to go there and see them. (*Laughter*).

It will be very good if anybody trying to bring Motions in this House on a similar thing

would first go to the Ministry and find out the true position of things. After finding out some of the things to be said on the Floor of this House, then that Member will be able to know those which are facts and those which are not facts. It is awful to come to this House and begin to mislead both the public and the Members of this House about facts which Members cannot explain.

I beg to oppose.

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

**Mr J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural): The Airways is a very important branch of the country's economy and it is in that light that I view this Motion. This Motion, as it goes, gives the impression that we depend very much on other countries for our air services. I have listened very carefully to the explanation given by the Parliamentary Secretary and I am not convinced that he has disproved the facts adduced by the Mover of this Motion. He has not told us that on the international plane we have aircrafts, that Nigeria owns aircrafts which she operates on her own. He has only mentioned a few small aircrafts which run domestic errands and which do domestic work, but not on the international plane. The core of this argument is that on the international plane we should have our own aircrafts which other nations will see and know that Nigeria has come to her own. We are a sovereign state and we cannot go on depending on the charity of other nations; that is belittling and detracting from our own sovereignty. If we continue like this depending on the charity of other nations, a time will come when we shall hold ourselves to ransom either in the field of commerce or in the military field. Suppose there is a very keen competition: we produce certain commodities which will be transported by air and some of these other nations produce the same commodities and there comes the question of transportation. In such a competition the country owning the aircraft will say, "No, we are going to have precedence over Nigeria". What will happen in the commercial world? Nigeria will stand to lose. This is a very important point.

I sympathise with the Ministry that we are a young sovereign nation and that we cannot grow to full stature in all fields in one day, but all the same there should be plans showing

[MR AKINYEMI

that arrangements are being made to speed up our own development, particularly in the field of air transport.

Also, the plan for training personnel as revealed to this House by the Parliamentary Secretary, I do not think is sufficiently in keeping with the stature of this country at the moment. Most of what he has told us dealt with training for ground personnel and not for people who operate the crafts in the air. He has told us that we have two captains, but I ask in all seriousness, shall we be satisfied with only two captains in a large country like Nigeria? He says that only five are in training. Five only in training, plus two, making only seven in a country as large as Nigeria! I would advise the Parliamentary Secretary to look at Great Britain, France, Germany and some of these other foreign countries. I know these countries have been on the way for a long time, but all the same we should not say that because it took those people a long time to develop to where they are to-day, therefore we should tread their own path and then go through the same number of years before we can reach where they are to-day. I want the Ministry to know that we sympathise with it, but it must have to gear up its own development to the aspirations and the wishes of the people of this country.

May I revert to the question of administration of the Airways itself. It has been brought forward by the two speakers on this question that the Airways is losing a lot of money every month. I have it on information from very authentic sources that the Airways at the moment is losing £100,000 every month. If this is so, shall we continue to lose money like that? The suggestion has been made that a loan of £10 million should be given to the Airways to develop. We do not oppose that suggestion, but the fact is that there must be assurance that that money will be spent in the right way. If we lose £100,000 every month because of bad management, shall we be able to profit from the loan of £10 million which we are asking the Federal Government to guarantee?

I think the internal squabbles in the Airways Corporation call for the immediate attention of the Minister in charge. I have it on information that all is not well within the Airways Corporation administration and it is

one that calls for immediate attention and immediate improvement. It will not be too much in the interest of this country and in the interest of the economy of this country and also in the interest of the development of the Airways Corporation itself that we should, on the Floor of this House, ask the Minister to conduct an inquiry into the affairs of the Airways Corporation.

As I have said, all is not well within that Corporation. Appointments are made with little or no regard to efficiency, to training, to experience, and in this way we do waste a lot of our money. It has been pointed out by the hon. Mover of this Motion that there is an old man placed at the London Office of the Nigeria Airways. There are some others—people who are not qualified in the least; people who ought not to be messengers, but who have been catapulted into high positions. They are getting fabulous and fantastic salaries and allowances, all because—

**An hon. Member :** Then you are jealous !

**Mr Akinyemi :** It is not a question of being jealous; it is a question of having the merit. That is what we are saying. I think this is a very important question and we should not play light about it at all. If we want the Airways to be thoroughly established and run on profit basis and run in a way to be a credit to this country, I think the Minister in charge should conduct an inquiry and place a report of that inquiry on the Table of this House for the information of Members as well as for a Debate by this House.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East) :** As a matter of fact, I had thought that the Minister who spoke on this Motion should have congratulated the Mover of the Motion because I do not think that the Motion is ill-motivated.

From the text of the Motion, one would have seen that what the Mover intended was to show the faults of the Nigeria Airways and then to call on the Federal Government for an immediate remedy. The Mover of this Motion has spoken so well and has made very many important points. The Minister, however, said that he thought the Mover did not make full enquiry or investigation as to make his points very correct. But I would put it the other way, that the Minister may not have

actually looked into some of the details or investigated some of the details which his officials carried out in relation to the Nigeria Airways in order to detect these deficiencies. That seems to me to be the position because the facts that many Members try to reveal here are not just things which they cooked up over-night by themselves, but they are facts and figures which they obtained from departments which they come up here to criticize.

I listened very attentively to the Minister when he was trying to say something about arrangements made for personnel training and so on. I also listened to his arguments as to the question of the number of pilots that we have and also the type of aircraft that we have. One sees really that it does appear that the Minister does not understand or realise the significance of a good and efficient Airways, as far as an independent Nigeria is concerned. I personally feel that when we are talking about Airways or some other related departments, it does not necessarily mean how much money we are going to get from that department or from the Airways. I feel that it is a matter of prestige to an independent country like ours.

There is just one point where I fairly disagree with the Mover of the Motion and it is on the question of thinking that the Airways is going to be a profit-making venture or establishment for the country. I do not agree because it is known all the world over that many Airways run at a loss. As matter of fact even the B.O.A.C. which is now in affiliation with the Nigeria Airways, in the last financial year, ran at a loss of £36 million. I personally feel that as far as we are concerned, it is not so much a question of the profit that we are going to make from it as the prestige that it gives to us an independent country. I do not think that there is anything of which a country could be proud than to have its own aeroplanes landing in some international airports flying its flag. If you are a pilot on it, you come down with some pride and dignity, feeling that your country is one known in the world.

Those people who have had the opportunity of going to our Airport will have seen that when the international planes land, their pilots come down and walk majestically with pride and dignity. But here we are, there is not a single aircraft in the Nigeria Airways which flies internationally. It is only

the B.O.A.C. which flies between London and Nigeria. That is the only international flight that Nigeria Airways has. The others are just a matter of flight to Dakar, to Ghana and to Tiko; and Tiko of course, as we all know, used to be a part of Nigeria before. Many of us will be very happy to see Nigerian aeroplanes landing in Australia, in Tokyo, in some of the ports in America and even in Moscow for that matter, and flown by Nigerians.

The worst thing is that in this present affiliation which we have with the B.O.A.C. we do not have any Nigerian pilot. According to what the Minister said, if we have to depend on that, there are only two qualified Nigerian pilots. This seems to me to be a very big shame for a country like ours. Even for the flights that are made between London and Lagos, there is no Nigerian on the crew. All the crew are non-Nigerians. The only thing that we have is perhaps a hostess, and people who are very conversant with things pertaining to the Airways will know that the hostesses are in fact not regarded as real crew; they are what we call catering staff; they are not aeroplane crew. When the Minister thinks of that, he says we have a Nigerian hostess flying in the B.O.A.C. flight between London and Lagos. I want to say that in 1961, at the Pack Flight School where in our Training Programme we had only six Nigerian trainees, there were 45 from Ghana and—

**An hon. Member:** We do not want to hear Ghana here. Did the hon. Member train in Ghana?

**Mr Mordi:** I know the hon. Gentleman does not want to hear Ghana, but he must hear the fact. The argument will be, why Ghana, especially when we remember that Ghana is comparatively smaller than Nigeria both in population, in size and in resources for that matter? It becomes disgraceful that a country as big as Nigeria should continue to queue behind Ghana, especially now that we are trying to claim importance and eminence amongst the countries of the world.

I want to say also that the type of planes we use in the Nigeria Airways at the moment is not very good. The Minister has informed us that we have seven DC.3 type of plane. Now, Members may like to know what this DC.3 plane is like. The hon. Member for Benin East (*Mr D. N. Oronsaye*), the Mover of

[MR MORDI]

the Motion, has rightly explained to us what this DC.3 planes are like. They are really 1926 model planes which can only find places to-day in the museum. They are neither in use in Great Britain nor in America. We want Jet type of engines and we should get Jet Aeroplanes.

I do not intend to belabour many of the points already made by hon. Members, but I should think that it would be reasonable if the Minister would consider the necessity of modernising the type of aircraft that we have in the country at the moment and also to provide necessary training for Nigerians so that it will not be long before we have Nigerian crew on all our planes and, if possible, I think it will be necessary also for the Nigeria Airways to think of introducing international flights, not only planes going to London; they should provide flights for our people who want to travel outside Britain to other countries in Western Europe, to Australia, to Japan or to America.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Whereupon the Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original question put and negatived.

#### POLICE ACTIVITIES IN LAGOS

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : I rise—

Mr J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural) : On a point of order, may I refer the attention of the House to Standing Order 25 (3). I wonder whether this Motion will not interfere with the judicial matter now in court.

Mr Speaker : The Motion states, "That the House notes with pleasure and admiration the excellent work done in the Federal Territory of Lagos in the past six months by the Nigeria Police in general and the Security Branch of the Nigeria Police in particular and calls on the Government to extend similar services to all parts of the Federation."

Now, the Standing Order to which the hon. Member for Ilesha Rural (Mr Akinyemi) refers states :—

"Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in

such a way as might in Mr Speaker's opinion prejudice the interests of parties thereto."

The point is really this. The Motion deals with the services rendered by the police within the last six months in Lagos, and as far as one knows, the Chair is not aware that the service of the police is a matter of litigation. But certainly, in the course of the Debate the Chair would watch very diligently any deviation that might call into question any of the subjects now *sub judice*.

Mr D. N. Abii : Mr Speaker, Sir, from your ruling, I know that my Motion would be accepted. I wish humbly to move :

"That this House notes with pleasure and admiration the excellent work done in the Federal Territory of Lagos in the past six months by the Nigeria Police in general and the Security Branch of the Nigeria Police in particular and calls on the Government to extend similar services to all parts of the Federation.

It is common knowledge that the police in every Sovereign State hold a unique position. Here in Nigeria only of late have our police come so publicly to show the people of this country that this arm of our Government is protecting the interest of the public. I say so because very often this department is not one that can easily earn the praise of the public, and the reason I think, is well-known to everybody. But in the past six months the department has come out to show that they have particular interest in their work. Even when I say so, I still maintain that one of the most important duties of the police in every country is to guard the security of that country. The police follow us as we leave our room in the morning to our place of work and follow us also from our place of work to our home in the evening.—

An hon. Member : Police State !

Mr Abii : This particular job of the police over the citizen makes him a good citizen, so that if a man knows that he is being watched, he is being looked after—

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I think the Chair owes it as a duty to protect the Nation from misrepresentation. Is the hon. Member for Owerri East (Mr Abii), the Mover of the Motion, trying to suggest that policemen are detailed after individual citizens of the country.

Federal Parliament Debates

2931

[Police Activities

11 DECEMBER 1962

in Lagos]

2932

**Mr Abii :** I do understand what you say, Mr Speaker, but I believe that you are not saying what I am saying.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. All that the Chair is trying to say is that the hon. Member for Owerri East should expatriate a little more on the statement he has made which might be misunderstood outside as suggesting that a policeman follows every citizen of this country wherever he goes.

**Mr Abii :** I thank you very much, Mr Speaker. To explain further, I want hon. Members of this House to know that a policeman everywhere should be the best friend of the public, so that when a policeman watches your life he does not fight you unless you are a born criminal. I therefore want to say that the Police should be accepted as a friend of every citizen. It is only the rogue that fears that the Police may contact him to ask him questions. As I said, for the past six months in this Federal Territory of Lagos the Police have shown us that they love us. I will give you an example.

Take the traffic congestion in Lagos. You will agree with me, all Members from the rural areas will agree with me, that the Police in Lagos have shown seriousness in their duties. They are trying their best to control the traffic without necessarily resorting to bribery.

Only two weeks ago or so a few cattle traders came to Apapa with about £4,000. Do you know what happened? A gang of robbers came upon them, took away their money, and even shot some of them. If the Police had not been there many of them could have been killed in spite of the fact that their £4,000 had gone. The Police are still investigating this matter. I can add that to their praise.

I do not want to go very much into the details of what the Police have been doing for the past six months. But I remember having read in the papers that the security section of the Police have been able to discover a plot to blast this House.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Order. I am afraid I have to call the hon. Gentleman to Order under Standing Order 25 (3). The existence

of the discovery of a plot to blow up the House is being inquired into and it has not been established in law.

**Mr Abii :** I was not trying to show that the thing was true or false, I was only trying to say that they have discovered the rumours. I thought that it was the duty of the country to find out those who were connected with the thing. But we have got the information and, in fact if you will allow me Mr Speaker, to mention the question of getting imported arms into this country—is that in court also? If it is I will not go deep into this as I intended. Let me go to more practical things which the Police have done.

It was through the efforts of the Police in Lagos that an important Senior Crown Counsel in Lagos was able a few weeks ago to prosecute some of the important commercial houses in Lagos for evading import duty. One cannot imagine what temptations this man went through. If it were in the olden days when the Police did not know that the work was for themselves these people would never have been prosecuted. They would never have been found in the court. We would never have got any money from them for trying to cheat this country. This was a good work done by our Police.

A lot of big men in Lagos to-day come out honestly to pay their taxes; to pay for their licences, to carry out all their duties as a whole. I think this is due to the Police approach. It is due to their vigilance.

The Police also have tried to bring peace. About a month ago, we had an election in Lagos. If the Police had not been vigilant to see that people did not fight and perhaps kill one another—if you, Mr Speaker, do not want me to mention the big ones may I mention the small ones. (Laughter).

**Mr Speaker :** Order. The Chair is not certainly against the hon. Member pursuing his arguments with any facts he considers reasonable excepting that we are bound under Standing Orders to respect those aspects of the arguments that are already being inquired into in the law courts.

**Dr Kalu Ezera :** On a point of Order, I wonder if the hon. Member for Owerri East (Mr Abii) is suggesting that Nigeria is fast becoming a Police state in view of this emphasis on Police?

**Mr Abii :** If the hon. Member who has just spoken means that a Police state is where the people are at peace and are happy with the work of their Police there is nothing to prevent Nigeria from being such. If the Police will help us to be prosperous, gives us peace and by them we live in our country peacefully, by all means let us call the Police to give us what we want.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe :** I want to bring to the notice of the mover of this Motion that a Police state is a state that is witch-hunted, where people live in fears and doubts, and where private property is not secured and the Police have the right to harrass people as they wish.

**Mr Speaker :** I think the House would be very grateful to the hon. Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*) for the learned exposition but I think this is a point of information and not a point of Order.

**Mr Abii :** I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker. But that explanation of course should go to the hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr Ezera*) who was referring to Nigeria as a Police State.

Mr Speaker, I was trying to give you an example and I hope that you will agree that during the past six months the Immigration Department of the Police in this country has shown that the officers are very serious in their duties. Less trouble when one goes to that office to contact the Passport Control Officer. The people are very hard-working. Those people who want passports get them very easily. They do not suffer as they were suffering in the past. And I believe that there is no more suffering and paying money here and there. For that reason, therefore, I will say that for the past six months the Police have done good work and we should at least say, "Thank you" to them.

While still on this expression of appreciation for good services rendered by the Police, we must thank the Minister in charge and also the Minister of Foreign Affairs. I am of the opinion that these two Ministers combined to make the Police happy and give them chance to do their work well. I think that one of the reasons the Police are now trying to do their work with all seriousness is that that department, I understand, has been Nigerianised. The people working in the Police Department to-day and those who may come tomorrow happen to be Nigerians.

**An hon. Member :** It is not completely Nigerianised yet !

**Mr Abii :** We cannot do that all at a time. I am of the opinion that what has been done there to-day is quite good and if the Ministers will go further and achieve complete Nigerianisation I have no objection because the people are now serious. They no longer take the work as "government work" as was the case in the colonial days. They know that they are now working for themselves and for their own people.

Again, I say that the Police should be congratulated because the Minister has established what is called Riot Squads. This section of the Police deals mainly with riot.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is another trouble in the country which perhaps is worse than rioting and that is the menace of armed robbers. These people go about day and night and in some cases they notify in advance the owners of houses that they are going to rob.

**An hon. Member :** That is at Owerri !

**Mr Abii :** I understand that they come from the West and form a band in the East and North to disturb the people there. The Flying Squad section of the Police, if introduced into the Regions, will certainly take control of these thieves and the country as a whole will enjoy more peace.

**Mr J. O. Odebunmi (Egba North) :** On a point of order, the Mover of the Motion has been completely disabled by the Standing Order and he is just staggering around for further points from the West to the East, whereas the Motion states categorically the Federal Territory of Lagos, I think it is advisable that he moves his Motion and then sits down.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Member for Egba North (*Mr Odebunmi*) who moved a point of order may not be aware of the concluding sentence of the Motion.

**Mr Abii :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The hon. Member does not know that I want the Government to extend the good services of the Police to all parts of the Federation.

I wish to recommend to the Government to carry out and extend these good services of the

Federal Parliament Debates

2935

[Police Activities

11 DECEMBER 1962

in Lagos]

2936

Police to all parts of the Federation. To do so I would like the Minister to be good.

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I am good already.

**Mr Abii** : The Minister should take note of the following. Nobody can serve well if he is not happy. The Police in Lagos are trying to do well because they are better off than the Police in the rural areas. In some of the Police Stations in the rural areas, the houses are dilapidated and some are as old as houses built in pre-war times. I humbly ask the Minister to give the Police in the rural areas better houses and better conditions of service so that they will be able to give good and honest service. I also have to inform the Minister that some of the Policemen are grumbling over the question of age limit. One of the ways of achieving greater efficiency is the retention of fairly old officers in the Police who will be able to direct the youths. Now that Nigeria has come to stand on its own, I humbly ask the Minister to see to it that the age limit is increased. Let it not be fixed at fifty or fifty-five. It should be sixty or sixty-five years.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural) : On a point of order, Mr Speaker. Under Standing Order No. 12 (2), I want to ask the hon. Mover of the Motion whether his house was searched by the Police recently.

**Mr Abii** : My house was not searched and I was not suspected. I am not a criminal. I think the hon. Gentleman's house has been searched because he looks like a criminal !

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of Order, Standing Order No. 26 (2) says "*When the question of order has been stated, the Member who raises it shall resume his seat, and no other member, except with the leave of Mr Speaker or the Chairman, shall rise until Mr Speaker or the Chairman has decided the question . . .*" I think, this morning and at other times, when points of order have been raised, some Members have got up to make explanations, thereby not allowing Mr Speaker to rule on the Point of Order. Now, Sir, the hon. Gentleman who is moving a Motion is also guilty of this fault.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. It is certainly gratifying to note that hon. Members are studying their Standing Orders very diligently.

But I think hon. Members should also make allowance for the fact that when points of order are not worth talking about, the Chair should be entitled to exercise its discretion in not perhaps letting itself be heard when not necessary. So when the Chair does consider that no ruling is really necessary, the ruling should be left to the intelligence of every reasonable member and the point might as well be ignored. I do hope that hon. Members should not allow their enthusiasm to push them to the extent of ignoring the normal practice of the House.

**Mr Abii** : As I was saying, Sir, I am praying the Government through our hon. Ministers to find out the secret of what has helped the Police in Lagos to give us such useful and efficient service in the past six months, and I hope that when the secret is found it will be shared with the Police in the rural areas in order to allow them to carry out more useful service for the development of the country. I am asking the Government to examine the conditions of service of the Police.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. The Motion deals with extension of the efficient services to the rural areas, it does not mention the grant of further amenities to Policemen.

**Mr Abii** : The police in Lagos have given us good services and we should in return praise them and ask the Minister to help those of them in the rural area so that they may continue to give us more useful service.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr C. O. Chiedozie** (Enugu) : Sir, I rise to second this delicate Motion. There is no doubt that in the past six months, the police in Lagos, in the Security Branch in particular, have rendered wonderful and meritorious service in preserving the security of the State and maintaining law and order. They have shown absolute loyalty to our great country and have demonstrated marked efficiency in the discharge of their responsibility. The Security Branch, in particular, has demonstrated wonderful vigilance.

The traffic police have recently been doing a wonderful piece of job. Many hon. Members will have witnessed the very heavy traffic in Lagos and I commend our traffic policemen for the way they have tried to control the



[MR. CHIEDOZIE]  
 traffic. I think their standard of efficiency at the moment is very high and there is no doubt that the performances of these policemen are characteristic of the police all over the country.

While congratulating the Police for the great work they have done in Lagos we must not forget that the same thing applies to the police in the Regions.

The only reason why we are particularising the Police in Lagos is their activities for the past six months in their attempt to see that order, tranquility and security are maintained, and for these we commend our Police.

We wish also to ask that this type of service should be extended to the provinces. There should be similar net-work of security services in the Regions based on the Lagos pattern. At the same time, a modern and well-equipped training yard like the Scotland Yard should be established to contain all detective library, to be a centre of research and be a World Police Detective Yard.

There is no doubt, Mr Speaker, that Nigerians have demonstrated their capacity and capability to manage our affairs and this demonstration has been completely vindicated by our Police in Lagos and all over the country.

I wish to add this that in commending our Police, we will not forget to ask that the Government should at least have a thorough overhaul of their conditions of service because efficiency without very good conditions of service cannot be expected to continue for long. If we are praising the Police for being efficient, we must also call on the Government—we do not say the Government is not doing well, they are doing their best—but we are appealing to the Government to see that their conditions are ameliorated, particularly the Policemen in the rank and file—those below the rank of Inspector. They require overhaul in their conditions of service, and in Lagos the same thing applies. There are many of them who are working very efficiently in the midst of difficulties. One of them is—

**An hon. Member :** Mention names.

**Mr Chiedozie :** I do not want to mention any name now. I want to go on now. Therefore, Mr Speaker, we on this side of the House want to show an enormous appreciation for the standard of efficiency of the Police in Lagos and in the country as a whole. We

want also to congratulate the Government on their own vigilance and especially the Minister in charge of Police Affairs whom I have very great respect for in efficiency for the amount of work being done, and we are feeling again that there should be a further interest and increase in their conditions. We are very happy, all of us love freedom. In fact Nigeria is a pride to all countries in Africa. The freedom and existence of law and order in this country have been made possible by the vigilance of our Police. There is no doubt that all of us move about freely and everybody pursues his private business without any molestation. Woe unto that country that can only be ruled by the system of ammunition, sabotage and treachery!

This Motion is a very interesting one. It is an occasion for us to say things and—

**Dr Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** On a point of order, I just wonder whether in fact the Seconder of this Motion means that the Police and the Security Services of Nigeria have not been functioning well before the past six months.

**Mr Chiedozie :** The hon. Gentleman has misquoted me entirely. Our Police is a pride both in efficiency and in their zeal and vigilance in the performance of their duties. I have repeated the thing and there is no cause for anyone here to cast any aspersion on the dignity of the Police.

I am saying that all of us love freedom and Nigeria for that matter is a paradise in Africa, and that that is so because of the work and the activities of our Police. Therefore, I am appealing to the Government to continue their work and also to thoroughly overhaul the conditions of their service.

I beg to second this Motion.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) :** I rise to thank the Mover and the Seconder of this fine Motion. I would not want us to rest on just telling the Government to improve the conditions of service of the Police, but to add that their salaries should be revised, because apart from the recent uproar in the country, if a policeman is handling a case, even though his normal time of closing is two o'clock, he may be on duty till eleven o'clock in the night. They have no proper time of closing.

I want the Minister to note very well that in praising the Police in Lagos, their work is co-ordinated with the Police in the provinces. They should note what the general public of Lagos have done recently. I witnessed the Police trying to disperse people and in turn the people were throwing stones at the Police. They may be that cause them the loss of their eyes or serious injury. If an offence like this is handled, I wish the Judiciary will take it very seriously. If there is war or anything threatening this country, before we call the soldiers, the Police will be the first people to combat it.

**Chief M. A. Dame-Oboh** (Ishan West) : That is their work.

**Mr Babatunde** : For this reason, if their work is to drive people back, no person should try to throw stones at them.

Another point that want to make about the Police is that their work is just like the Missionary work, and a man who works for indefinite hours on many occasions should be well encouraged. In addition to their housing and uniform, their salaries should be revised.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural) : This Motion, as it stands, has two operative words—"pleasure" and "admiration". These operative words are subjective in their interpretations and, consequently, they are things which have got to be handled with very great care, particularly at the state in which the country is at the moment and having due regard to the provisions of the Standing Order.

It is true that the Police is an institution for the preservation of peace, law and order, and as such any responsible citizen must have due respect and regard for it. In that context, any such person would have admiration for the Police as an institution. There is no human institution which is perfect and, consequently, one will always find some black sheep in any institution. The Nigeria Police Force, as a human institution, must have its black sheep. This being so, we cannot but deprecate, wherever we find such black sheep, their misdoings.

The Police—not only in Lagos but all over the country—have the duty of guiding the safety and security of the people. In this

connection, people all over the Federation have always had great admiration for the way the Police have guarded their welfare, the way the Police have made secure their well-being, their freedom to go about their daily duties without molestation, without let and without hindrance. It is in this connection that I share some of the sentiments of the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion in-praising the Police. But I wish to emphasise this that in addition to whatever coercive measures the Police might use in the exercise of their duties, it is always, expected as we have found in other countries, that the Police should be an embodiment of mercy in the execution of their duties. But one finds that in this country that mercy among the black sheep is completely new and these black sheep receive no iota of mercy from the public in the execution of their daily duties, particularly when they have to deal with those members of the public who cannot easily stand on their legs and assert their right.

My submission is that such members of the Police Force who show no mercy in the execution of their work ought not to be advanced in rank. Also, it is a common practice now that when some members of the Police Force have perpetrated some odious and very nefarious practices they sneak out of the country without any notice in order to avoid whatever serious consequences the law might have against them. I think the powers that be ought to see to it that if Police Officers have completely shown disregard for public comfort and have done so as an act of wickedness, such people ought not to be allowed to leave the country without reaping whatever seed they have sown.

All over the country to-day we have policemen, but the number is not sufficient. If we want people to render very good services, then we must be able to provide the number that will be adequate for the magnitude of the work to be done and the size of the country itself. In this country to-day, the number of policemen is very small indeed. To enable them do their work efficiently in the interest of the public, I would urge that the number of policemen be increased. The number of Police Training Colleges in the country should be increased and their output increased so that they may be able to render their yeoman

[MR AKINYEMI]

services adequately to the community. It is then and only then that every side of this House will be able to sing their praises as well as their admiration.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. O. Chikelu** (Udi Central): I associate myself with the views expressed by the able Mover of the Motion. An hon. Member has tried to create the impression that the text of the Motion signifies that prior to the period covered by the Motion, that is six months ago, the Police were not doing well. I want to say that this is not so. The particular significance of the term "six months" is the fact that within the past six months about three or four outstanding events have taken place which had never before been witnessed in the country, and because the Police handled the situation so well, they deserve our congratulations.

As the Minister of State for Police Affairs said, one of the outstanding events was the Emergency in the Western Region and another was the rounding up of smugglers which was aimed at improving our economy. We are not sure of what might have happened if the Police were not vigilant.

During the last Session of the House, I spoke in praise of the Government because of the way our internal security was being handled. Hon. Members may not be aware of the fact that one of the reasons why we are very happy with the good performances of the Government is that some people outside Nigeria had expected that when power was given to our people our Government would collapse or our governmental machinery would be weak. But the contrary has been the case. Some countries around us have been in chaos since power was transferred to them by the people who were governing them. It is not so in Nigeria. That is why we praise the people who are governing and who have maintained their cool-headedness in handling the affairs of the State.

When a man performs an act which he has had a training for, he may not be praised as much as somebody who takes up something unawares and performs well in it. By this I mean that the Police have had no training in dealing with a situation in which an assembled House like this breaks down, with hon. Members throwing chairs and coming to grips. Who knows if the Speaker of the House or the

Premier would not have been murdered on the Floor of the House! The name of Nigeria would have been so much in the mud that it would take ten years to clear. The Police arrested the situation very promptly, acted on the spur of the moment and saved us from a disgrace that could have been unrivalled in the annals of our history.

In a case where a man is killed, the Police can always be conversant with it and can carry out their investigations successfully. But when there is a terribly blind case—especially as the present case which has never happened before, it was very wonderful how the Police got to know how these things were done, especially when the powers organising it were outside Nigeria. It is for this part that the Police are to be praised for carrying out difficult tasks for which they had no training or for which they had no previous experience at all.

Some of us in the Eastern Region also praise the Police for two or three incidents in which they played a very good role. In one area where rioting was becoming rampant, the situation was skillfully arrested and the case has now been handed over to some sort of Enquiry, so that a permanent return of peace may be established there.

Without the Police, many people would have waded ankle-deep in the blood of other human beings.

There was another serious case where law and order broke down in a high institution of learning. Without the assistance of the Police, things would have gone bad. The students thought that once a man was in an academic gown, he could come out to challenge the laws of the country with impunity. Well, the leaders of the Institution brought the students together, and in the process of speaking to them, the Police were invited. When the students came out from the hall, they saw the Police in their compound and, Mr Speaker, I assure you that an air of seriousness and calmness came down on the campus of that University. Between that time and now, the people have been able to come to their senses.

These two points made were particularly uppermost in my mind when I rose to move a Motion to thank the Government for the way internal security had been maintained, and the Police for the part they played. These two incidents point to the fact that without the vigilance of the Government, we would not

have been able to prove to the outside world that Nigeria can govern herself. Secondly, the Police have been able to handle a situation in which they had no training. These facts stand out very creditably and the Government, together with the Police, should be praised for the part they played.

**Mr Speaker** : Alhaji Daura.

**Mr F. L. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : On a point of order, my name stands third on the list, and I wonder why I was omitted.

**Mr Speaker** : If the hon. Gentleman would refer to the Standing Orders, he might know that Motions are moved and seconded. The question of the third person is completely outside the Standing Orders, but he could be accommodated at the discretion of the Chair.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Maska) : The work of the Police in any community can never be over-emphasised. The Nigeria Police have been doing commendable work and the Nation owes a great deal to them. The peace and prosperity of the Nation depends to a very large extent on the Police. The Nigeria Police distinguished themselves in the Congo and they are now demonstrating the same distinction here in Nigeria.

The way in which the Nigeria Police handled the affairs of this country is very exemplary, and they have demonstrated their efficiency in the handling of the recent affairs confronting this country.

**Hon. Members** : Which is the recent one ?

**Alhaji L. Daura** : In this respect, we must be thankful for this great heritage that the British had left to us. The Police have done so much to keep the internal security of this country. It is very clear to every one of us that a country without internal security is just like a person with internal trouble, whose efforts are bound to be impotent.

What I suggest to the Government to do for the Nigeria Police is, as some other speakers have said, to give them better conditions of service so that they may be able to carry on their good work without fear or favour. Some of the speakers have already talked about giving them better salaries, better houses and better conditions of service. I sincerely ask the Government, in appreciation of the services rendered by the Police to this country,

to do some better things for them. As I have already said, the existence of this country or of any Nation depends so much on the Police.

**Hon. Members** : This is repetition.

**Alhaji L. Daura** : Yes. The Nigeria Police stand as an example and they are the best Police institution in all the African countries, and Nigeria should be rightly proud of it.

With these few comments, I beg to support.

**Minister of State for Police Affairs** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I rise to support this Motion which is acceptable to the Government. In supporting it, I wish to add the following comments to the Police activities throughout the Federation of Nigeria, apart from Lagos—the Federal Territory as already narrated by the Mover of the Motion Hon. Abii.

The Nigeria Police Force and the Security Branch extend to all parts of the Federation and they provide the same services with the same efficiency throughout the country.

The planned expansion and reorganisation of the Force have made possible a greater degree of co-ordination in the various fields of Police activity. The Special Branch establishment is to be increased further to ensure that all the Governments of the Federation will have available a sufficiency of competent staff to run this important organisation for the collection and collation of information necessary for the security and good government of the country.

There is greater public realisation of the need for a much larger Police Force than had been the case in the past. Expansion in men necessitates expansion in buildings to accommodate the increases in personnel, and it is in this field that a problem exists. It has been stated from time to time in Parliament and recognised by all sides of the House, that housing for the Force is, in many areas, either non-existent or inadequate in the extreme due to limited financial resources. It is therefore hoped that the overall activities of the Force will be expanded as financial resources permit.

The steadfastness and efficiency with which all ranks have been doing their work in various sections encourage confidence in the Force

[MR OLAREWaju]

and also the gratitude of persons for goodwill in Nigeria and that of the Government. Already a Police Mobile Force is being established to combat rioters and to ensure more peace and freedom throughout the Federation. Before long, Police will use dogs in Nigeria to detect crimes as in other leading countries of the world.

Our women police numbering over 220 rank and file are exceptionally bright and I am very happy to say that these ladies are demonstrating to all women in this country that they can also play their best role in all shades of life as well as being members of the various Forces.

I personally join the hon. Member for Owerri East (*Mr Abii*) to congratulate the Nigeria Police Force for the role they have been playing to protect our lives and property. The Federal Government is very keen about the condition of Police services and the interest of the members of the Force will be carefully looked into.

Sir, I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Minister of Education rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put, but Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.*

**Dr K. Ezera** (Bende East): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

**An hon. Member**: On a point of order—

**Mr Speaker**: No point of order can be raised from a Seat other than where the hon. Member is entitled to sit.

**Dr Ezera**: My contribution to this Motion is just to make a few remarks. I notice that the Prime Minister himself is keenly interested in this Motion because he had been on the Floor of this House. I would like to say that this Motion is very important. However this phrase "for the past six months" creates the impression that the Police and the security services of this country have hitherto not been efficient. That worries me a little bit.

I want to say that there is a very urgent need for the Police, in order to become more efficient, to utilise the services of the new Nigerian Law School in Lagos so that they can be trained there for a period of two or three years in order to become more efficient Policemen. The Nigerian Law School, I am

sure, would be very willing to absorb all of them, both the men and the women. The Police need an aspect of the knowledge of law for the efficient performance of their duty, and I think that in-service training courses for them offered by the new Nigerian Law School will not be out of order.

The second point I want to raise is that in order to improve their efficiency, they must be excluded from the trammels of the General Orders just as the Army. So far as the Police are inhibited by the bureaucratic tendencies prevalent in the General Orders, these will prevent them from performing their duties efficiently. I think also that consideration should be given to the question of excising them completely from the General Orders and making for the Police separate Orders just analogous to those of the Army and Navy.

The other suggestion I would like to make is that there is need for raising their retiring age from the present low minimum to something like 60, because it is at this precise age that we need the wealth of their experience accumulated over the years, instead of sending them home to become either farmers or mere pensioners.

The last and, perhaps, the most important point is the question of security. I have observed that this issue had been raised from time to time on the Floor of this House and I think since we are not privileged to know the details of the security, it is only right that we should air our views to the Government, particularly to the Prime Minister, in order that he may appreciate that we are fully cognisant of the urgency and the need for a tight and efficient security service. Most of us are not very happy about the talk that our security services are still largely manned by expatriates. This may not be so, but we believe that from the information available our security services, which of course have been praised in this Motion, are still largely handled by expatriates.

There is no doubt that any country whose security services are completely handled by expatriates, is living in a fool's paradise. We have the best friends surely, but we never can tell to-morrow. One's best friends to-day in politics or international affairs might become one's worst enemy tomorrow. Therefore, we

think that the need for Nigerianising completely the security services of this country has become more and more urgent.

These are the few words I would like to say in respect of this Motion.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House notes with pleasure and admiration the excellent work done in the Federal Territory of Lagos in the past six months by the Nigeria Police in general and the Security Branch of the Nigeria Police in particular and calls on the Government to extend similar services to all parts of the Federation.

#### CONVERSION OF POSTAL AGENCIES INTO SUB-POST OFFICES

12.55 p.m.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, That this House considers the 24,000 units for the conversion of a postal agency into a Sub-Post Office too high and urges Government to reduce this figure to 18,000 units.

Many times on the Floor of this House when we ask questions about the conversion of a postal agency here or there to a Sub-Post Office, a certain document is always quoted and that document is said to have existed since 1947 or 1957. I am inclined to think, Mr Speaker, that that document which I have here in my hand was written in the colonial days when our colonial masters did not wish the rural areas of this country to take advantage of postal facilities. What is more, section 12, subsection 1 of that Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, says: "Suitable persons must be available to conduct the business of a sub-Post Office. The sub-Post Office may be established in any suitable building."

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mr Ekanem** : As I was saying this morning, many a time in this House when we put questions to the hon. Minister of Communications about anything pertaining to telecommunications, postal agencies and so on, he refers us to the Sessional Paper. It is now clear that this document called the Sessional Paper should be treated in the way it deserves,

namely, it is below the dignity of this country with regard to telecommunications because a lot has happened in the country.

Hon. Members will see in section 13 of the document that a figure is quoted which entitles a postal agency to be converted to a sub-post office. I remember that on the Floor of this House the hon. the Minister of Communications in answer to a question said that a certain sub-agency had registered 16,000 units but had not been converted to a sub-post office and the Minister had the boldness to refer this House to this old document. This section 13 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 is what this Motion seeks to amend.

I would further draw the attention of the House to page 19 of the *Hansard* of this House for the period 21st March to 7th April, 1962. Page 19, column 6 contains the Speech from the Throne with particular reference to telecommunications and postal matters. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I read :

*"Fifteen new Post Offices will be established and in addition telephone, telegraph and telex services will be expanded to the maximum within the capacity of the national telecommunications system."*

To say that we are even at the minimum will be very misleading. We are not even up to the minimum in this important matter of telecommunications with particular reference to post offices. The telecommunications system is being concentrated in the big cities. I would like to call the attention of the Minister to another document entitled, "Handbook of Commerce and Industry". In that document, the huge sum of £29.7 million has been allocated to telecommunications with particular reference to post offices. For postal matters the sum of £2.3 million has been allocated. This Motion is quite timely and I would like to say that when making use of this £2.3 million consideration be given to rural areas. The Government of any Region, and even the Federal Government, cannot function effectively without the help of other bodies like the County Councils, and this Motion seeks to give these facilities to places where local councils are situated in the country. It is now apparent that development projects are concentrated in Lagos and other Regional capitals like Ibadan, Kaduna and Enugu. I

[MR EKANEM]

know the hon. Minister of Communications will say that the Government has gone farther than that, but it is a fact that nothing has been done to the rural areas. This Motion seeks to bring postal facilities to rural areas.

According to the Sessional Paper, a post office cannot be opened within a distance of two miles from an existing post office. Everybody in this House will agree that apart from Lagos, the nearest distance between one post office and another is about thirty miles. I speak from experience. Let us take my own constituency, Itu, where the hon. the Minister of Communications opened a very magnificent post office about a year ago. I was there, and I said "thank you" to him. I am still very grateful but there is more to be done. The nearest agency to Itu which is the headquarters, is twelve miles away. That goes contrary to the contents of this Policy Paper of 1957 and the argument of 24,000 units contained in this Paper is nothing short of a device to deprive the people in the rural areas of the facilities of sub-post offices.

This Motion is praying the Government, under the Six-Year Development Programme to reduce this figure to 18,000 units. The difference is only 6,000 and I think the figure of 6,000 is so negligible that Government will not hesitate to accept the Motion. The country is developing and we want quick service. People do not write letters, and when they write they do not post them because there is no post office, and in many cases in the rural areas where there is a sub-agency, the agency is run by the local councils or county councils and these councils appoint someone who is already an employee of the council to man this sub-agency. The person appointed may be a messenger or a clerk, as a result of which he does not give his whole time to the service of the agency. He has a dual service to perform, one is his clerical work, and the other is to attend to postal matters.

The condition laid down in this Policy Paper is "if suitable staff are available". From what I know and from the view point of the pressing need of the people, any county council or village that can register the figure contained in my Motion will be prepared to send somebody for training or even sponsor a person from its own funds in order to avail itself of the advantages of this very important and vital branch of development.

I need not belabour the Motion. It is what every hon. Member in this House has been advocating.

**Dr Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): There is nobody on the Benches on the hon. Gentleman's side of the House.

**Mr Ekanem**: I am not talking to the Benches here. I am talking to the people on the big Benches on the other side. Whenever I talk the hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr Ezera*) sits there and says "You can have your say, but we will have our way" and it is to the people who will have their way that I am now talking.

From what you see you will notice that I am not alone in this Motion, the West is in this Motion, the East is there, and the North is there, and, so, for the Government, to start opposing this Motion is to do a great disservice to this country.

As I said, when there is a good Motion like this there is nothing to talk about and there is no need to waste the time of the House. It is the intention of this Government, and it should also be the paramount intention of the Minister of Communications to allow the rural areas to avail themselves of basic amenities; that done, the people in the rural areas will turn round and say that this Government which is called the Federal Government (some do not even know how to pronounce it, they call it the Government at *Eko*, or the Government in Lagos,) this good Government, has given them Post Office. The fact is always taken into account that the agent of any Government in this country is the County Council.

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

**Mr Ekanem**: I do not go there, a man like the hon. Member who has just spoken will go there. I am here in the big Government. I think the little Government is for the Minister of Education to go to, it is not for me.

You will then see that if you accept this figure the Government will have done what the Imperial Government did not do for the period of sixty years. If you stick to this old figure then nothing better has come out of it. Whoever opposes this Motion, be he from the Government side or from any side of the House, has colonial mentality.

As I said earlier, I need not waste the time of this House. The Motion itself is clear, and commends itself to this House. It is therefore for the Government to view the Motion with sympathy.

I beg to move.

**Mr Speaker :** Dr Nzeribe !

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** On a point of Order ; I think that I am scheduled to second it.

**Mr Speaker :** I understand that Mr Ekanem has agreed that Dr Nzeribe should second this Motion, and you might have the opportunity to speak later. (*Interruption*). Order. Did the hon. Member for Awka Central file a Motion ?

**Mr Muojeke :** I did.

**Mr Speaker :** You just presented your name as one of the speakers to the Motion !

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe (Orlu West) :** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The fact is that some hon. Members smuggled in their names without going through the proper channel.

**Mr Muojeke :** On a point of order, I do not want the hon. Member for Orlu West, (*Dr Nzeribe*), to impute motives that some Members smuggled their names in the Order Paper because the Order Paper is the authority for us to speak, and before I placed my name there I got the consent of the Mover in writing and presented it to the Clerk of the House. He cannot come now to say that the names were smuggled in. If there is anybody who has smuggled his name into the Order Paper he is Dr Nzeribe.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. I think the hon. Member ought to allow progress to be made now.

**Dr Nzeribe :** When it is a matter affecting the interest, welfare, and destiny of ninety per cent of the people of this nation the people in the rural areas, I am one and inseparable with hon. Ekanem.

**An hon. Member :** Does the hon. Gentleman know where Mr Ekanem comes from ?

**Dr Nzeribe :** When it comes to the matter affecting the destiny and welfare of the rural population of this country I am one and inseparable with anybody who will fight for the cause, and that is why I stand up to second this Motion which affects the large majority of the taxpayers, the peasant, the farmers, and the people on whose back all these edifices, big cars, and luxuries are built. I say this time after time that any Government which relegates to the background the feelings, the frustrations, the aspirations, and the yearnings of ninety per cent of population of this country is to say the least riding for a fall. I am not referring to any particular Government, but I am saying that anywhere in the world history is witness, and those of us who have decided to go back to the rural areas to stay are not—

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin East) :** On a point of order is it proper for any Member of the Opposition to make a Motion attacking our Government and for a Member of the Government, to support him ?

**Mr Speaker :** Order. This is not question time.

**Dr Nzeribe :** Those of us who have abandoned the delicacies of city life to go back to the rural areas cannot by any stretch of the imagination be called fools. We, too, are entitled to some of the basic amenities of life. The Sessional Paper, that obnoxious, anachronistic piece of paper of 1957, imperial days, is now to be burnt right away, and a new blueprint set up for revising this important artery of communication which even now is more important than roads. At this particular stage of our development post office communications are more important than roads. In fact, roads are now redundant in many areas. The moment we leave home we are impounded into a purgatory on earth. You cannot write home ; you cannot send a telegram home ; you are out of touch with your Constituency because you happen to live in a rural area, whereas in the city here before you walk from one pole to another you see postal facilities. I think this is unfair, to say the least, and everyone here from the rural areas who has a rural background will bear me out that this is very unfair treatment. Even some of the Ministers, perhaps including the Minister of Communica-



[DR NZERIBE]

tions himself come from rural areas. I happened to see a signboard when I was passing *Okitipupa* the other time and I hope he will give us ears on this very important matter.

If you look at the total frame work of the nation you will see that most of the schools are in the rural areas, and you will see that taken together, most of the colleges in Nigeria are in the rural areas and most of the hospitals and local government centres are in the rural areas; and the Local Government is the mainstay of any government including the Federal Government of Nigeria. If you look at Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 which sets out the criterion for building postal agencies, post offices and so on you will see that it is a vicious circle which makes it impossible for a postal agency to grow into a sub-post office. In the first place it requires twenty thousand units of work. Of this, a parcel is looked upon as two units' work a registered mail is two units' work, a postal order is one unit work, a telegram is five units' work, Savings Bank Account is six units and £1 worth of stamps is ten units now, the illogicality of the system is this. How many of us will be prepared to go to the post office to send a telegram when you know that a telegram sent through a postal agency may not leave even after two to three days?

The logic, therefore, is that people by-pass the postal agency and go to the main post office. The postal agency is therefore still starved because nobody wants to go there. It is just like the old economic terminology—"poverty begets poverty". The postal agency becomes poorer. You cannot go to save your money in the postal agency, you cannot go to buy a money order from a postal agency. If you mail your letter there it may remain there for two or three days. In many areas postal agencies receive mails and despatch bills only once, twice or thrice a week. It is just like telling a poor man that if he saves one thousand pounds a car will be bought for him. A poor man has no job, he has no education, in fact, he does not earn enough to keep his body and soul together. He cannot save money and that is why he is poor, and he is poor because he is poor; and if you buy him a car you will make him poorer. Therefore

the law that if you are able to make up twenty-four thousand units of work you will become a sub-post office, is impossible and illogical.

Another thing is that the men working in most of these postal agencies are untrained. This piece of document says that £15 per annum remuneration be paid to a postal clerk; it also says at page 24 that this is very ample remuneration.

**Several hon. Members :** £15 per annum ?

**Dr Nzeribe :** Yes, £15 per annum. This is the allowance paid by the P. and T. and the Local Authority makes it up. In some areas the Local Authorities are very poor—for example in my own area only one villager maintains the postal agency and we only pay him £1-10s-0d and Government pays him £1-5s-0d which is a salary of £2-15s-0d per month. Who among us here can send his son to become postal agent for £2-15-0d per month? There again comes the vicious circle. The postal agency is poor therefore any body who can afford to receive £2-15s-0d is going to work there.

This document says that once a community can set up a postal agency it will be given an allowance of £15 per month. So, in many communities in Nigeria we have about four or five postal agencies, all of them competing for existence and none surviving. I see no reason why government should make such a liberal and extravagant offer, resulting in the people building individually, instead of building together. For instance, in my own constituency there are three postal agencies and the volume of business in these postal agencies is at the moment more than forty thousand. I have often raised the point on the Floor of this House and each time I have got the answer that unless the people decide to merge nothing will be done.

But this sort of thing is inimical to the set up of Nigeria because the rural people will fight each for its section. To them it is a prestige item; they cannot on their own choose to close down two postal agencies or to close one and support the other. Why does the government not say, "if you like you can build ten colleges, if you like you can have your own police, you can have your own House of Parliament, if you like you can have your own

Constituency sub-divided?" Why this kind of overgenerous type of Greek horse? This is exactly a fifteenth century British system of postal service. That document says that it is based on the British system as old as Methuselah, and yet this is Nigeria of the 20th century.

I want to illustrate now from the problems we experience in my own constituency. We have, for example, in my constituency over eight-five first class schools. We have about six strong Missionary Headquarters. We have a hospital and we have four colleges; and we have police posts, apart from the fact that we have over one hundred thousand people, able-bodied yeomen. The nearest Post Office is at Orlu, thirty miles away. This morning I wanted to send a message to my family, and I had to book three calls; one to Orlu, one to Ihiala and one to Oguta. I was taking a chance to see which one comes through and when it comes through the people have to hire a taxi to deliver the message to my family and yet I am a Member of Parliament—in the Prison Yard, cut off from the rest of the world.

Sir, as was mentioned by the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) 1962-68 Development Programme provides for about £30 million for development of postal and telecommunication facilities. That sum is about 4 per cent of the total amount of money earmarked for our Development Programme for the six-year period. This is really ample and the Government should be congratulated for making available this sum of money for the improvement of Communications. But, I think that it will be a big disservice to our rural population if we do not mark out at least 40 per cent of this money, that is about £12 million, leaving £18 million for our beloved town and city development. Give us only 40 per cent of the whole sum which is about £12 million for the development of postal facilities in the rural areas.

I want to make another suggestion to our able Minister of Communications. I am saying this because we have confidence in him and his Government. The Minister is cool-headed and I hope he will listen to me. The first thing I want to suggest is that the cost of building post offices should be revised. We spend too much money on building. It is

only a dying man who wants to build an empire, a monument. This is a young country. Why should we spend our money in building monuments? Looking at the psychology of nations, when the Roman Empire was about to die, it began to build edifices. We have just started. I think that a post office building which at the moment costs £3,000 can be built for £2,000. Let the Government provide the technical know-how. Everywhere in the country you see poor ramshackle houses, built to-day, leaking tomorrow. This is a waste. If a community, for example, wants to build a post office and it is prepared to provide cement and blocks, let the Government provide an engineer to supervise the building. This is much more helpful to our people than giving them £500. I am sure that where the Government would spend £5,000 building a post office, if you give the community the engineer and the supervisor, at least it will cost half that amount.

The second suggestion is that every constituency, whatever the population may be, should be entitled to a sub-post office.

**Several hon. Members:** Which constituency?

**Dr Nzeribe:** Federal constituency. And I would say that at least all local government headquarters should be entitled to a sub-post office and that this sub-post office should be something different from what we have now—a mere building devoid of life, no equipment, no trained staff, empty big houses. Every post office should have modern equipment and trained staff. Every local government headquarter or constituency having a post office at least should be equipped with telegraph facilities, telephone facilities, money order facilities, postal order facilities, and savings bank facilities.

The third suggestion is that the Government should immediately take over payment of the salaries of these people we call postal agents. They should either train them or upgrade them; otherwise if their services are of no use, they should be dispensed with. There is no sense keeping somebody who causes irritation to people every now and then.

[DR NZERIBE]

The fourth suggestion is that the Government should re-arrange the system of distributing and posting mails. Almost all over the world to-day, if you go along the streets of many countries, you will find post office boxes where people easily drop their mail and go back to their houses. In other words, postal facilities are at the doorstep of everybody. If centres and villages could have this kind of box where somebody can simply drop his letter, then the question of clearing mail will be made easier. This is very simple. When postmen come in the morning they go straight to where the boxes are and clear the mail. This is just like what some Governments are doing now to bring water supply to the doorstep of everybody.

Lastly, I want to say that the use of postal services should be popularised. At the moment many people in this country send their letters by hand, and this is a loss to the revenue of the Government. If we popularise our post offices, our people will learn to make use of them. They will post their letters there, save money and send telegrams and they will take pride in our post offices.

With these, I second the Motion.

**The Minister of Communications** (Hon. Olu Akinfosile): I rise to move an Amendment that stands in my names which is that in

“Line 1, leave out from “House” to end and add—“notes with pleasure that the Minister of Communications is examining the possibility of reducing the number of units which qualify a Postal Agency for Conversion to a Sub-Post Office as part of the 1962-1968 Postal Programme.”

You will see, Sir, from the terms of the proposed Amendment that I am very much in sympathy with the spirit behind the Motion moved by hon. Ekanem and his Colleagues. I appreciate the very great value that is attached by the public to the facilities that can be provided by a sub-post office, especially in the remoter and less developed areas of our country (*Hear, hear*) particularly as I myself a Member of this House, represent a rural constituency. It is my desire to provide these facilities in as many places and to as many people as is possible. At the same time I must, however, have regard to the economic viability of our postal services.

In our national endeavour to finance the 1962-68 Development Plan, there can be no room whatsoever for extravagant expenditure, and in planning the expansion and development of postal services. I must always ensure that the revenue returned, although not actually bringing a profit, should not at least put us too much in the red. I have already announced that the Posts and Telegraphs Division will, as a matter of policy, go commercial in its operations. Our long-term aim is that Posts and Telegraphs should ultimately be self-supporting. In planning postal development, I cannot lose sight of this long-term aim, but at the same time, I am determined to expand and extend our postal services as much as is possible during the 1962-68 development period.

Preliminary study of the problem makes me reasonably confident that it will be possible for me to reduce the number of units which will be required before a postal agency can be converted into a sub-post office. Our studies have not yet gone far enough to allow us to decide what the new figure to adopt should be, whether new criteria should be employed, and a number of other detailed matters. I am not, therefore, ready to commit the Government to the specific terms of the Motion which has been moved by hon. Ekanem and his Colleagues. I think, however, that I have made it clear to this House that my general intentions are in line with hon. Members' wishes and I am confident that the House will therefore support the Amendment to the Motion that I am now moving.

I beg to move,

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to second.

**Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): In rising to support the Amendment to this Motion, I should like in the first place to congratulate the Minister of Communications on providing Kano with one of the best and one of the most modern post offices in West Africa, if not in the whole world. I should like to assure the hon. Minister that as long as that building stands, so long will his memory remain in the minds of the people of Kano. I praise people when they deserve praise and I only criticise people when and only when it is absolutely necessary.

It is a matter for regret that whilst the Minister is doing his best to convert the postal agencies into sub-post offices his own people in Kano are indiscriminately closing down many postal agencies. Unless—

**An hon. Member :** Why ?

**Alhaji Muhtari :** I am coming to that. Unless the Minister is very vigilant, the very post office at Kano for which I have thanked him will one day be closed down. They have closed down the postal agency at Dambatta, Gwarzo, Dawakin-Tofa, Birninkudu, Wudil, and they are intending to close many more.

**An hon. Member :** Who is that ?

**Alhaji Muhtari :** The post office people at Kano. I do not know the reason why the other postal agencies had to be closed down, but as far as the postal agency at Dambatta is concerned, I think, as a Member from that Constituency, I am in a position to tell the Minister all that happened.

The postal agent at Kano has been working there for the past four-and-a-half years. Sometime in September this year, he wrote to say that he was intending to resign because he was taking a better appointment and he gave a month's notice. I wrote and informed the people of Kano accordingly. They wrote back to say that I should send somebody for training in order to take over from the man who was resigning. I got somebody and sent him for training and he was duly trained he signed every document and went before a court of law and made his declaration. He then came back with a letter saying that he could assume duty. On the following morning, when that man was about to assume duty, somebody from Kano stepped into my office, greeted me and asked, "Are you the District Head?" I said, "Yes, can I help you?" Then he said, "I have come to close down your postal agency now now." I said, "But the boy to do the work is now here; he has been trained and he is going to assume his duties." Then he said, "No, this is an instruction from Kano." I said, "But why so frantically?" He replied, "It is only an instruction." As I had no alternative, I gave him the money, the postal orders, the stamps and everything. On the following morning I drove to Kano to see the boss but he was no where to be found, and that was the end of the matter. No reason was given to us for closing down this postal agency.

I therefore want the Minister to order a full investigation into the circumstances leading to the closure of this postal agency in Danbatta. We have asked for telephone, the Minister said there was no money; we asked for post Office, he said the amount of work there was not enough; and the only one small Postal agency that we have been running for over four and a half years, the people at Kano went and closed it down. I want an explanation, and the assurance of the Minister that he will investigate the matter and that he will take necessary action.

I beg to support.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke (Awka Central) :** In supporting the Amendment moved by the hon. Minister of Communications, I have no doubt and no fear that he will now use his youthful vigour and energy to modernise our postal agencies. In this task of modernising our Postal Agencies he might take some suggestions.

In the first place, the 24,000 units of business is out-moded and anachronistic. It was fixed at the time when our colonial masters were trying their very best to retard the progress of the countries under them.—

**An hon. Member :** No, it was our own Parliament that made it.

**Mr Muojeke :** Now that Nigeria is independent the first duty we should do is to see that the shackles of colonialism are torn asunder, and the best way to do it is to revise this policy drastically.

Again, it is very, very difficult for us to show the man in the street—the person in the rural area—that there is something like the Federal Government. We want the influence of the Federal Government to be felt in every part of the country.

**An hon. Member :** And in the West ?

**Mr Muojeke :** And the best way to do it is to see that the postal facility which is within the exclusive list of the Federal Government is modernised so that every person wishing to post his letters or to receive them will receive them without much difficulty.

Again, there is this savings campaign. We have not got any National Bank in the rural areas, nor have we got the Chasemanhattan Bank nor the Bank of West Africa. The bank which everybody is expected to see in the villages is the Savings Bank, so that if anybody

[MR CHUKWU]

*imports are virtually free from control, and Nigeria is anxious to trade with any country in the world".*

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): What about the hon. Member's own message?

**Mr Chukwu**: Now this is my own. As an eye witness at the show, let me give the Members a brief account of what happened. The following countries attended the Trade Fair—

**Mr Brown**: I think it is the responsibility of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to give a report of the Trade Fair and not my hon. Friend.

**Mr Speaker**: I think he is asking permission to quote part of the speech made by the Minister.

**Mr Chukwu**: Thank you Mr Speaker. The following countries attended the Trade Fair: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroun, Canada, Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, Denmark, Western Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Rumania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanganyika, Tunisia, United Kingdom, U.A.R. U.S.A., U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia.

During the show, the Nigerian Government made arrangement for seventeen countries to observe any chosen day as their own National Day which gave them the opportunity of giving drinks and shows to some V.I.Ps and businessmen and which also gave them more opportunity of making contacts. The three Regional Governments in the Federation, *i.e.*, the Governments of Northern, Eastern and Western Regions with the Federal Government were in one building as the Nigerian Government. The Government wants to prove that Nigerians, despite diversity both in creed, tribe or tongue, belong to one big family and common destiny.

In the 1960 Trade Fair, the Regional Governments and the Federal Government had their different buildings and pavilions in different places. But that was not the case at the last Trade Fair. The whole Governments came together to represent the Nation as a united and peaceful country. It was a proof

to the whole world that Nigeria is united and there is a bedrock of peace and tranquility among the governments in the country.

The attitude of the Federal Government is really praise-worthy, and I would like Members to take note of this and join me in congratulating our leaders for placing Nigeria on the commercial and economic map of the world.

About seventy-six industrial companies in Nigeria attended and occupied the "Made in Nigeria" Pavilion each company in its own separate stand. The commercial firms also had their own Pavilion buildings. Public Corporations and companies such as the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Coal Corporation, Nkalagu Cement Company, the Agib Oil Company and other big organisations and companies had their own stands in different places.

Over one million visitors attended the Trade Fair which was held for the first time in the history of this country; and it might be rare in any other country for such a huge crowd peacefully to attend one particular show, without trouble. Throughout the Fair the Police reported that there was no case of fighting, stealing or breaking into Pavilions or Stands. Two American visitors came to my Company's stand in the "Made in Nigeria" Pavilion and after admiring paints, face powder, clay/bentomite, drilling chemicals and agricultural fertilizers which my Company produced and exhibited at the show, secretly told me, "We have seen thousands of cheerful Nigerians, men and women, and school children all at a time, passing and moving quietly. We are happy. Nigerians are cheerful and friendly people. We really like them."

The Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry has done a very big and excellent job in organising the Fair; and all the officers and staff must be congratulated for the good work they have done. The principal person in the Ministry is Mr R. H. C. Hammond, the Director of the Trade Fair. Many people always claim to be experts in their different fields of occupation and profession, but Mr Hammond really proved that he is an expert in commercial organisation.

I was also highly impressed with the way his Deputy, Mr G. O. Delaru and Mr Olu Akinsuroju, the Publicity Officer of the Trade

Fair, did their work excellently; how cheerful the people were attending to foreign visitors. By the attitude of those officers, Nigeria really proved to the world that she is always friendly with strangers.

While I congratulate the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry and his Ministry, it will be unfair if the police, and newsmen are not mentioned. The police officers in charge of the Trade Fair proved to the world that Nigeria has an efficient Police Force. They were able to co-operate and attend to the exhibitors and visitors, calmly and cheerfully, trying to direct everybody in his or her own way.

The newsmen of both the Federal and Regional Ministries of Information who attended the Fair, *i.e.*, the N.B.C., the W.N.T.V., E.N.T.V. and Northern Regional Broadcasting Service and the entire national papers and publishers in Lagos must be congratulated on the most wonderful way in which they attended the foreign governments and visitors, and Nigerian exhibitors.

In conclusion, I congratulate Sir Abubakar, not only for causing the organisation of the Trade Fair, but also for his general activities in running a stable Government. Nigeria should thank God for having a strong man like Sir Abubakar who is bold, dynamic, and intelligent and who is so Godly and fatherly to the nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): In seconding the Motion, Mr Speaker, I wish to join in congratulating the Government for the foresight the Government had in promoting the Trade Fair. In fact, I did not expect the Trade Fair would be the huge success it was. I did not expect that the organisation would be as good as it was.

This is really a credit to the Government and whenever the Government does something good we must all join in praising the Government. In this very respect, the Government has done a wonderful job in inviting the countries that attended the Trade Fair. I went through the list and discovered of course that a few countries were not represented. I do not know whether these countries were not invited or whether they purposely chose to be absent from this huge Trade Fair, and one of the

greatest countries that should have been invited is China. Not only that, I did not even see countries from Latin America. These countries have a lot to offer to Nigeria and we have a lot to exchange with these countries and yet, practically, none of them was represented in this Trade Fair.

Similarly, I did not see Australia. Maybe I am wrong, but I did not see Australia and I did not see a big nation like Indonesia. The Soviet Union was properly represented. I think the Government's greatest achievement in the Trade Fair is opportunity given to the Nigerian people to see for themselves in a nutshell what is behind the Iron Curtain because many people do not know what is behind the Iron Curtain.

As you could see the Soviet pavilion was the best. It was the best because it presented to the Nigerian people the actual intention of the Soviet people towards this country. It is the intention—

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): It is not correct for the hon. Member to say that Nigeria detested the country; we are friends of all nations.

**Mr Ememe**: I did not say that Nigeria detested the country. I was saying that the Soviet Pavilion actually demonstrated that the Soviet people have the interest of Nigeria at heart, that means they presented to us materials which they have made and goods which we can use in this country. At the same time, they presented equipment which we can use in making these materials. This is what has been omitted by the other countries such as those from the western world—the capitalist countries. They completely omitted showing us the machines which we can use in making these things. The fact is that many of the countries from the west actually showed us goods which they have made and they were just interested in our buying these goods. But the Socialist countries made it a theme in their pavilions to show Nigeria that they are willing not only to sell the goods to us, but also to teach us how to make these goods. That is the difference and that difference is very very essential indeed.

Another important matter is that several countries invested huge sums of money in the Trade Fair by accepting the invitation and by

[MR EMEME]

accepting the challenge to come to Nigeria to help in our development. They have actually invested a huge sum of money in setting up the pavilions. Now, may I ask the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry the simple question: is Nigeria making the best use of this huge investment? This is very important for if we have this wonderful opportunity and yet we do not use it or we do not make it possible for Nigerians to use it, then, we have lost a lot and have also made other countries lose a lot by such huge investments. I wish of course that the Minister of Commerce and Industry in his able way of doing things, would allow countries not only in the capitalist world, but also in the socialist world, to actually trade with us in the most profitable way.

**Chief P. Dame-Oboh (Ishan West)**: On a point of order, the Motion seeks to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Government and not to criticise them. The hon. Member is going beyond the context of the Motion.

**Mr Speaker**: I think he is speaking within the terms of the Motion.

**Mr Ememe**: I have no intention to criticise the Government, in fact, I said that the Government have done at least this time one of the best things they should have done. Maybe the hon. Gentleman did not understand me. I said that the Government have done very nice work on this. I am only trying to advise the Government to utilize the resources that have been presented to Nigerian people through the Trade Fair by bringing in many other countries as well.

I wish to seize this opportunity in reminding Members that many Nigerians have suffered a lot through this Trade Fair. We have lost an hon. Member, I know about that. Many other people had accidents during the Trade Fair on their way there, their families should not suffer in vain. The Government should actually remember the families of these people who have invested their lives in the improvement of this country. These people should be remembered not only in prayers, but something more concrete should be done to their families.

I wish also to remind the Government that this Trade Fair has not been held in rural areas. That means that many people had not the

opportunity to attend the Trade Fair. When next there is a Trade Fair, the Government should try their best to make it possible for people in remote places in the Eastern Region and Northern Region to come and see for themselves what is going on as was done for people in the West. I was here and I saw many school children being carried in lorries from many schools in the West to come and see the Trade Fair. That was very good. But we in the East missed it because we did not have that opportunity. Those in the North also missed it; they did not have that opportunity. We cannot build a country where only one side will be benefiting all the time. If the Trade Fair is to be conducted next time, I wish it should be conducted in Enugu rather than in Lagos.

**Mr Speaker, Sir**, without wasting the time of the House, I wish to thank the Government for the able way they have handled the Trade Fair and wish they repeat it more often.

**Chief Okunowo (Ijebu Central)**: I beg to associate myself with all the nice words said by the last two speakers on this Motion. As a businessman, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government for the inauguration of this most successful Trade Fair in Nigeria.

I would like to sound a note of warning that our Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry should not allow himself to be influenced by the propaganda made by the last two speakers asking for certain countries to be invited to this country, because in extending invitations to other countries, due consideration must be given to trade. It should not be a one way traffic, rather it should always be a two-way traffic. I would like to associate myself with the method by which our Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry extended the invitations to various countries, because, I do not think it would be in our interest to invite people to this country without consideration of the volume of business that they would transact. Therefore, he should not, during the next Fair, invite countries that would not be of use to this country—countries that will not take our goods away, because it is when they buy from us that we can use that money to buy from other people.

I am sure that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is taking all these into consideration by trying to know, for example, what China, Poland and Russia have been buying from this country before extending invitations to them.

I do not think that it is a waste of words in trying to shower praises on our Prime Minister. Already, if you look at to-day's local newspapers you would see the amount of praises showered on him from all parts of the Federation for his statesmanlike way of doing things. In the same way, I would like to associate myself with what had been said about our Prime Minister. He is really known throughout the country as a holy man of God. He is not a man who is anxious to build up a financial empire around himself. He is a man with contentment, and a man without contentment does not know God.

Our Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry is a man with a lion heart. He can always chase big businessmen whenever they come to the country. He knows their language and knows how to talk to them, and I am sure, he will ensure always that prosperity continues in this country. I beg to support.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr S. Lana):** Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to accept this Motion on behalf of the Prime Minister. The Motion thanks the Prime Minister for deciding that there should be a Trade Fair, but I think much praise is due to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and his staff for organising the Fair so successfully.

The Minister has really demonstrated that Nigeria has come to stay, if given the necessary backing. The Fair was a gigantic undertaking. I wish to assure the Minister and all those who were concerned with the organisation, that the people of this country and the Federal Government and Regional Governments for that matter, greatly appreciated their efforts.

The Prime Minister is grateful to my Friend,—hon D. N. Chukwu for his Motion of congratulations on the first Nigeria International Trade Fair and for the generous terms in which the Motion has been couched.

Hon. Members will recall that following the success of the Nigerian Exhibition of 1960, which was a national show of what Nigeria

could offer to the world, a decision was reached to organise a Trade Fair which should be an international market, where people from all over the world could meet to buy and sell their products. The Trade Fair was also designed to promote our export trade, as one of the ways of meeting the challenge of the country's continued adverse balance of trade and to attract foreign investors to assist in our economic development. Members who visited the Trade Fair will agree with me that, it was a tremendous success and has been widely described as the greatest of its kind in tropical Africa.

The Fair was undoubtedly, a commercial success which enabled Nigerian businessmen to inspect and to buy the best and most modern products of manufacturers from every part of the world. It allowed Nigerian farmers and manufacturers to exhibit their products to buyers from forty-five countries and it attracted a number of new investors to Nigeria. The Fair did more than this. It opened the windows of the world to more than one million Nigerians, many of whom were unable to see something of the products and way of life of other countries, which until the time of the Fair had been nothing but names to them. It also encouraged visitors from forty-five countries to travel to Nigeria and to gain a first hand knowledge of our country. Many of them were greatly surprised at the wide range and high quality of the manufactured products which are already being made in Nigeria. A number of them have returned home encouraged by what they have seen and anxious to help us with our development plan.

Mr Speaker Sir, I accept the Motion.

**Mr N. D. Ukah (Owerri North East):** Mr Speaker Sir, I am very happy to speak on this Motion. First, I must say that the Trade Fair was very good from the aspect of its timing. The Trade Fair was held at the time when there were many international conferences in Nigeria, one of which was the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. That helped us to bring to the Fair, people who otherwise would not have come. Also that was a very good time from the point of the launching of Development Programme and that also made it possible for visitors to see what Nigeria was intending to do and then to find out how best to help Nigeria.



[MR UKAH]

I saw the Trade Fair myself and I must say without any exaggeration that even after having visited the pavilions on three successive occasions, I felt I had not started seeing the Trade Fair. That goes to show how beautiful the pavilions were and how impressive was the organisation.

**An hon. Member :** How much did they charge the hon. Member for his car ?

**Mr Ukah :** I did not bring my car to the pavilion. Secondly, I must say that the setting was beautiful. The place chosen for the Trade Fair was no less than the Victoria Island, the site opposite the Legco Flats and also adjacent to the Palace Hotel—a conspicuous site which I understand, is the site for our Parliament. That place, indeed is such that any visitor coming to Nigeria, will have to pass too many beautiful buildings and perhaps the most beautiful street in Lagos—the Marina. I praise those who organised the Trade Fair for having chosen that site.

The most striking feature of the Trade Fair was that it brought the whole world together. One who has not visited many countries had the opportunity of meeting people from various countries and what was more, each country tried to do as much as possible as part of the propaganda towards the trade of that nation.

I went through most of the important pavilions and I have to say that when I came to the Nigerian Pavilion, I felt that really we were an Independent nation. The Nigerian pavilion was striking in every aspect. First the Guard at the door of the pavilion surprised everybody. Most people thought that it was a statue. I spent over half an hour looking at the Guard until at last, I saw that it was a man. That is a very great tribute to the Nigerian Army and I have to say that, as soon as I entered and went through the pavilion, I saw that the Regions in Nigeria are actually working very hard, and the friendliness with which they received everybody including Nigerians convinced me that the Trade Fair would bear good fruit.

I have to say, with regret, that even though the Federal Government planned the Trade Fair and did a lot in other directions, when I came to the Federal Government section of the Nigeria Pavilion, I was greatly disappointed. I was greatly disappointed because there was

no sign of life there. The Western Region Pavilion, the Eastern Region Pavilion, the Northern Region Pavilion—these were centres of activity—people telling you what we do, what we want to do, and showing you all sorts of things ; but in the Federal Government Pavilion there was no life at all.

I want to say also that even though Lagos is a small area, it is the show-piece of Nigeria, and the impression given by Lagos should be the most striking. I have to make very brief comments on what I consider to be the lessons of the Trade Fair. The Trade Fair was supported by most of us from the point of view that it would increase our external trade and thereby bring in more buyers to Nigeria and consequently raise the prices of our export commodities.

In this direction, I thank the Minister of Commerce and Industry and I humbly suggest that he should follow up the Trade Fair. He should make more contacts and bring in more of these countries that wish to trade with Nigeria. Good preparation was the key note of the success of the Trade Fair. In whatever we are going to do both in Nigeria and most of all in the outside world, we should be thoroughly prepared. I praise the Government for its preparedness with regard to the Trade Fair and I have to say that our Ambassadors overseas should learn from this.

It was really most disgraceful to hear that in Germany a show held there did not portray Nigeria in good light at all. The students from Nigeria were most ashamed because the Nigerian pavilion was just being set up hurriedly when the Fair was about to start and in the end it was inferior to the pavilions of other countries in Africa and countries in other parts of the world. Our Ambassadors should advertise us properly, they should give a long notice to our Government and let everything be done properly.

Finally, I have to say that the Trade Fair is a monument of the wisdom and foresight of our Prime Minister and the Minister of Commerce and Industry in particular, and the Federal Cabinet in general. I have to say that whatever lesson or whatever advantage is to be derived from the Trade Fair reflects a great tribute to the Prime Minister.

I support the Motion.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): In rising to support this Motion, I should like to bring this to the notice of the House, that the Trade Fair was inspired by the Prime Minister and he gave my Ministry all the encouragement, financial as well as moral, in order to make a success of it. It is equally true that my only part in this has been that of a messenger, so to say, the instrument through which the instructions, the inspirations had been passed on to my officials who carried them out in actual practice.

In this respect, I think it is only right that we should thank the Director of the Fair, Mr Hammond, who has been loaned to us under the Technical Aid Programme. Mr Hammond too could not have done such an excellent job without really efficient assistance, and I am glad to tell you that almost all his assistants were Nigerians—the Deputy Director, the Assistant Director, the Publicity Director, the Technical Officer, the Commercial Officer, *et cetera*, were all Nigerians. (*Hear, hear*). I would also like to thank a few of our European officials who have worked completely selflessly in the interest of the nation which they serve. Mr Holloway, the Electrical Engineer, and also the Customs Officer who saw to it that no smuggled goods were in the Fair.

I am really very grateful to hear the observations and we shall take note of the speeches made by hon. Members because the essence of the Fair is to ensure that Nigeria trades with the world in such a manner that Nigeria benefits most.

Thank you very much.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House congratulates the Rt. Honourable Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, for his wisdom and foresight in causing the organisation of the first Nigerian International Trade Fair which was held in Lagos from 27th October to 18th November, 1962.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

#### LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On the Motion of Adjournment, I humbly wish to ask a question. I would like to know from the Prime Minister who now can be called the Leader of the Opposition in this House because of the recognised party, the Action Group does not seem to me now to command a majority in this House. I am asking this question because many people have been running up and down trying to confuse us. We do not know whether we have any Leader of the Opposition now. I think the best thing to do would be for us to hear the Prime Minister, whether we have any Leader of the Opposition.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. Hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr Speaker, for trying to clear some of the confusion which has been hanging over the Opposition Bench since August when you kindly asked each Member on the Opposition Bench to tell you to which Party he belonged, and on the opening of the House on the 5th you gave us the number belonging to each Party on *that* Side.

It is quite plain that at present, as far as we are concerned in this Government, with the present state of the Parties, we do not recognise anybody as the Leader of the Opposition. The Opposition Party, which was originally the Action Group, has now 20 Members. The new Party, the U.P.P., has 25. Another Party which does not know where it is, the U.M.B.C.—it is not with the Action Group, it is not with the U.P.P., it does not know where it is; it is just a Party in suspension—has 9 Members; and there are 3 Members sitting on the fence. So, what I would say is that I am not in a position to say whether we would give official recognition to any of the Parties in the Opposition yet, but I must say straightaway that it will be wrong for us now to recognise the former Leader of the Opposition as the Leader of the Opposition in the House.

The whole idea of an Opposition, I think, is that the Opposition should provide an alternative government. That is the question. A handful of twenty people here cannot provide an alternative government. The Opposition, as we know in all world parliaments, is mainly suitable in places where there is a two-party system. And here on *that* side,

[PRIME MINISTER]

We have got about four parties now. Well, I hope before finishing the meeting of the House towards the end of the week, after consulting my Colleagues, I may be able to give what we think is the best for us to do as far as the Opposition in the House is concerned.

We would very much like to have an Opposition, an effective one. We do like a leader of the Opposition who will be effective. Well, we hope we shall get one before long.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE AT ABRIBA

**Dr Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I would like to raise a matter of—

**Mr Speaker** : The Minister who is to answer this question is not here.

**Dr Ezera** : He is, Sir.

**Mr Speaker** : Is he? I beg your pardon.

**Dr Ezera** : This matter is very crucial to me, and for the nation in general. We profess that we are running a democracy, and the backbone of any democracy is the people—the rural people in the rural areas.

Sometime ago, about October, a squad of Police, Army, and Customs Officials went into my home in my constituency, in Atriba, to be precise, in Bende Division, and threatened these peace-loving people, chased them with arms, looted homes, frightened people. As a matter of fact, I am not going to move a Motion about this, but perhaps there are justifiable reasons for this, but I think the method of approach was wrong. For instance, a young child who had died barely four days ago was exhumed in the so-called search whether for smuggled goods or what ever it was. Another case also was that of one woman, from whose house £400 was taken by the Army people involved in the search. They had no leader. Their superior officers were left two miles away, so that there was an element of pandemonium, as if these people had committed any crime.

I protest most vehemently against this, Sir. I am sure the Government does not fully appreciate this situation. I am sure the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and the Members of the Government do not know what harm has been done. I thought of how to approach this, whether it was to send a petition to the Speaker, but I went through the Standing

Orders and found that one cannot claim any damages from the Government. That is why I seize this opportunity to raise it on the Floor of this House, that a great harm has been done to my people—the people of Atriba and Ohafia areas in Bende Division. I think we still rely on them for the manhood of this country—in case anything happens, we would call on them to finish up those our neighbours who are trying to give us trouble. In other words, we rely on their manhood. We cannot therefore afford to offend them so much. They are part and parcel of this country.

I would, therefore, request the apology of the Government; if the facts are true, if the Government does have the facts yet, to investigate thoroughly and make redress to the people who have been so offended.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : In the first place, I would like to say that the operation to which my hon. Friend referred was carried out throughout the Federation and not particularly restricted to his constituency. It is therefore surprising that these allegations should come from his constituency and his constituency only.

**Several hon. Members** : No ! No !

**The Minister of Finance** : I know that Calabar area which has given rise to hon. Ekanem is the real home of smugglers.

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South) : On a point of order, I beg to oppose this statement.

**Mr Speaker** : You are not debating.

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : On a point of order, I rise to protest vehemently against the use of the term "smugglers" in relation to the people of Calabar. We are honest traders.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am happy that Mr Amechi's gang has released Mr Afanideh from the smuggling camp where he was smuggled the other day.

**Minister of State** (Hon. Mbazulike Amechi) : On a point of order, I think it was made known to this House that it was Mr Afanideh's own people whom he failed to pay that kidnapped him and not Amechi's gang. (Laughter).

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

**The Minister of Finance :** Now, speaking seriously, I want to say that the allegations made by my hon. and respected Friend is a bit serious. But I want to assure him that from the investigations made so far, they have no foundation of fact at all, and some of the people arrested in the area that smuggled goods are still to be tried. The matter in its totality is still *sub-judice*, so it will not be possible for me to give all the facts at the moment, but at the appropriate time I hope to do so.

But it would interest Members of this House to know that for my hon. Friend to tell

us that an isolated woman in his constituency was so rich as to have £400 in her house and—

**Dr Ezera :** On a point of order, the people of this area are indeed, just as Sapele women very very rich, so that Sapele is not the only place where the women have the monopoly of wealth.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at seventeen minutes past five o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 12th December, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## REPORT FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**Mr Speaker :** I have to lay on the Table of the House a Report from the Standing Orders Committee which has been printed and circulated to hon. Members.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
COMMUNICATIONS

## Omoku Post Office

\*O.884. **Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Communications, when it will be possible to extend telegraph facilities to the Post Office at Omoku.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications** (Mr S. F. Nwika): Telegrams are at present accepted at Omoku Post Office and sent by post to Ahoada for onward transmission. Omoku is, however, being considered for telephone service in the 1962-68 Development Programme and, if provided, telegraph facilities will be arranged on a telephone-telegram basis.

## Ijeru Postal Agency

\*O.923. **Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will consider converting the Ijeru Postal Agency at Ogbomosho to a full fledged Post Office.

**Mr Nwika :** Not yet, Sir. The business at Ijeru Postal Agency falls far short of the minimum of 24,000 units prescribed before a Postal Agency can be considered for conversion to a full fledged Post Office. The volume of business actually transacted at Ijeru Postal Agency during the past three years is as follows :

1959	..	..	..	8,389 units
1960	..	..	..	9,454 units
1961	..	..	..	9,654 units

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\*O.926. **Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will consider making a research into fishing in international waters passing through Lagos

and Badagry to the French Dahomey and make suggestions with a view to improving the fishing industry in the areas concerned.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): The Federal Fisheries Service has arranged for an F.A.O. expert from India, Dr Pillay, to study the creek fisheries of the Niger Delta and he is at present actively engaged on this research.

It is known that the fisheries of the creeks to the west of Lagos are in many ways similar in principle to those of the Delta and Dr Pillay's findings will be applicable to Lagos, Badagry, Port Novo creek conflux and will be made available to the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Western Region, which is responsible for fisheries development in the area.

## MOTIONS

PUBLIC FUNDS OF THE FEDERATION  
(DISBURSEMENT)

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name,—That the Public Funds of the Federation (Disbursement) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 162 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on Thursday the 6th of December, be approved.

The purpose of this Amendment to the Royal Nigerian Army Benefit Fund Disbursement Rules is to transfer the authority for the disbursement of monies from the Fund from the General Officer Commanding to the Royal Nigerian Army Council. This ensures that the disbursement of monies from the Fund is not vested on one person. I am sure hon. Members will agree that no matter how honest one person is the disbursement of public funds is so important that we cannot entrust it to one person alone. I commend it for the approval of the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the Public Funds of the Federation (Disbursement) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 162 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on Thursday the 6th of December, be approved.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## CUSTOMS AND EXCISE BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to Customs and Excise be read a Second time.

This is a miscellaneous Bill which consolidates in one measure a number of amendments to the law relating to Customs and Excise which practical experience has shown to be necessary to ensure the effective protection of the Customs and Excise revenue. I hope and believe that hon. Members on all sides of this House are united in their support of the due enforcement of the revenue laws, and I am confident that they will welcome any measure which may be necessary to strengthen the hand of the Customs and Excise officers in the unremitting battle against smugglers, the evaders, and all those who by fraudulent practices seek personal gain at their country's expense.

But this Bill is not concerned only with enforcement measures; it seeks also to rectify some anomalies which have been found to exist in the Customs and Excise Management Act, and to make for more efficient administration.

Clause 1 of the Bill seeks to provide for exemption from export duty in respect of goods which are only temporarily exported. Members will know that there is already provision for exemption from import duty for goods which are temporarily exported. For example, if a person takes his motor car out of the country for a short time, he does not have to pay import duty on it for a second time when he brings it back into the country. But there is no equivalent exemption where an export duty is payable. An example of this is the dog owner who wishes to take his dog with him when he visits a neighbouring territory and has to pay export duty on the animal even though he may return with it the same day. This is, of course, at present only a minor problem, but it is nonetheless a cause of irritation and ill-will, and by making provision for exemption in such cases an undoubted anomaly will be removed.

In August 1961, the House passed the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, whose object, as I explained at the time, was to

enable the Board of Customs and Excise to charge duty on composite goods according to their different parts and ingredients where it appeared equitable to do so. Unfortunately, the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1961, has subsequently been found not to give effect to this intention. Clause 2 of the Bill now before the House, therefore, seeks to remedy this and to give effect to the intention already approved by the House, and to repeal the faulty Act.

Clause 3 of the Bill looks ahead to the day when spirits are distilled in Nigeria (not illicit gin!). It need be no secret that an excise duty will be imposed on such spirits, just as excise duty is already charged on tobacco, beer and mineral waters. No doubt the distillers will wish to build up an export trade, and it will be necessary to exempt from excise duty spirits which are exported or loaded as stores. By amending the law to provide for this now, we can ensure that no obstacle hinders the development of an export trade in Nigerian spirits when these become available.

The Customs and Excise Management Act provides for the warehousing of certain goods upon importation without payment of duty—trade and commerce would indeed be greatly handicapped if it were not lawfully possible to warehouse goods in bond, and it is a very necessary provision. But the range of Nigerian manufactured goods on which excise duty is payable is widening, and the manufacturers of these goods are at a disadvantage as compared with similar imported goods because they cannot warehouse them without payment of excise duty. Clause 4 removes the distinction between imported goods and excisable goods and accords them equal facilities for warehousing without payment of duty.

I have already referred to the probability of the establishment of distilleries, and in Clause 5 certain provision is made concerning revenue control of these establishments. It is necessary to keep the closest revenue control over a distillery, and more often than not it is desirable that an Excise officer should live on or near the distillery premises. Difficulties may be encountered in finding suitable accommodation, and the Board of Customs and Excise therefore needs the power to require that suitable living accommodation be provided by the licensee as a condition of his licence. Such accommodation would be leased to the Board on reasonable terms.

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

The Board of Customs and Excise endeavours to collect the exact duty payable in accordance with the law—no more, and no less. But it is inevitable that some overpayments of duty are made, and in such cases a refund of the excess payment is, of course, made. But experience has shown that all too often overpayments of duty have arisen because the importers have taken insufficient care in the preparation of the documents upon which duty is assessed; and the number of refunds due to this cause has increased sharply to the point that they cause an excessive burden of work. Clause 6 therefore seeks to empower the Board, if it thinks fit, to require a claimant to defray the administrative expenses of making the refund. I hope that the result of this will be greater care on the part of importers in the preparation of their documents, and a consequent reduction in the number of refunds that have to be made.

At its last meeting, this House approved of the Customs Preventive Service (Firearms) Act, which makes it lawful for any member of the Customs Preventive Service not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent to have firearms and ammunition in his possession or under his control on specified occasions. That measure, which received wide-spread support on all sides of this House, was primarily intended to provide protection for the patrols of the Customs Preventive Service in their struggle against smugglers. The arming of patrols had become necessary because the increased pressure which we have been bringing to bear against the smugglers had led them, in desperation, to arm themselves with dangerous weapons much more frequently than they used to do when they were able to pursue their activities almost unchecked.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): In Sapele!

**The Minister of Finance**: In Oron and Calabar and the hon. Member is head of the smugglers.

Mr Speaker, the Act restricts the carrying of firearms to officers of rank not below Assistant Superintendent. This means in practice that unless a Preventive patrol is led by an Assistant Superintendent, the patrol must go unarmed. But there are insufficient Senior Officers in the Preventive Service to enable an

Assistant Superintendent or higher rank to be included in every patrol, so that we have the choice either of restricting the number of patrols, easing the pressure on the smugglers at the very time that we need to increase it, or of sending our unarmed patrols and asking the more junior officers of the Preventive Service to risk their lives with no effective means of defending themselves.

I recall that during the debate on the Customs Preventive Service (Firearms) Act four months ago, hon. Members expressed the view that it did not go far enough, and that the Government was being over-cautious in proposing to restrict the carriage of arms to senior officers. My hon. Friend the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) said, and I quote:

*"I should therefore like the Minister concerned to see that provision is made for the junior officers who at times will have to be on guard without senior officers who have the privilege in this Bill."*

Shortly after this, events tragically proved the hon. Member and other hon. Members of this House to be right, because a junior officer on patrol in the Calabar area was killed in a clash with armed smugglers.

I have given the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) credit now, that what he told me has come to pass, with the acquiescence of the hon. Member.

Mr Speaker, this Government accepts that the powers which it sought last August were not wide-enough to ensure the safety of junior Preventive Officers, and so Clause 7 of the Bill seeks to extend the authorisation to possess and control firearms and ammunition to officers of the Customs Preventive Service not below the rank of Senior Preventive Officer. The Clause also removes an ambiguity from the previous Act and makes it clear that it is lawful for the more junior ranks of the Preventive Service to carry arms and ammunition, provided that they are acting under the personal supervision of a Senior Preventive Officer or higher rank.

Sir, I am the last man who would ever want to see armed men a normal feature of the Nigerian scene, and I pray that such a day may never dawn. Hon. Members may be assured that I would not ask their approval of this measure were I not convinced that it is en-

tirely necessary. The Government is pledged to put an end to the ruinous activities of the smugglers, and we must have the effective means of doing this. Patrol activity must be and will be intensified—but I cannot in all conscience ask the officers of the Customs Preventive Service to press their offensive against the smugglers without giving them means of defending themselves against the smugglers' bitter and vicious attacks.

Now, the last provision of this Bill, in Clause 8, is also directed against those who seek to defraud the country of due revenue. I am deeply concerned at the contraventions of the Customs and Excise laws which have occurred on premises licensed under the Liquor (Licensing) Act. A recent and notorious case will be fresh in Members' minds, when prominent stores in Lagos and the Regions were involved in the supply of duty-free liquor under the false cloak of diplomatic privilege. A heavy fine was imposed, but the most effective penalty, endorsement or forfeiture of the liquor licence, could not be imposed. Clause 8 seeks to empower officers authorised by the Board to enter and search licensed premises in order to enforce the Customs and Excise law. It also provides for the imposition, on conviction, of the penalty of endorsement or forfeiture of the liquor licence, which I believe will prove to be a far more effective deterrent than any fine would be.

Sir, I think I have now sufficiently explained the object of the various amendments incorporated in this Bill, which I commend very seriously to the House for easy passage.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to second.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): This Bill is a most welcome one and the only thing I have to do is to make a few observations on points which are salient. On this score, therefore, I want to say right away that when we impose customs duty, we have either one or two things in mind. The first may be to increase the revenue of the country. This is traditional; it is the traditional approach to customs duty. The other one may be to protect some indigenous industry and, therefore, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister of Finance

that as I have been watching the trend of revenue from customs duty since the imposition of excess duties on certain goods and items during the last Session of this House, I have observed that the Customs revenue is increasingly declining. It is alarmingly declining on many items.

I am saying this because it seems to me that we are losing on the average £2 million every month. I have not had the time to go into the details of how these losses are being sustained, but I am calling the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to check the trend of the revenue losses in this country particularly on those items whose customs duties were increased.

Secondly, I want to say something which is very dear to my heart. Sometimes one can become too ambitious and overthrow oneself. I could see that Nigeria is the only young country in Africa and, perhaps, including some of the Asian countries that imposes, without any allowance, duty on even gifts from overseas countries. Our Ministers, or our Parliamentary delegations go out to solicit for aids and when these aids come into the country, Government insist that customs duties be paid on those goods.

For example, I want to mention that I have known many hospitals, private hospitals and Mission hospitals, which have got gifts of drugs at times as free samples or free gifts, but when they come here, the Board of Customs and Excise insists that customs duties must be paid on them. And sometimes the duties charged are much more than the value of these goods. If a hospital can manage to afford £500 to pay as customs duty for drugs obtained as gifts, why should the hospital not buy the drugs from local dealers in Nigeria?

The same is true of schools. Although there is a provision in the law which exempts schools from paying duties on equipment to be used in the schools, some schools are being discriminated against and are made to pay customs duties. I think this is not only detrimental to the growth of this country, but also pernicious and scandalous to this country that goods given to people in Nigeria are taxed by Nigeria, while the Government itself should have subsidised these young establishments like hospitals and schools. I do not want to go into more details here because the Minister knows what I am



[DR NZERIBE]

talking about and the Board of Customs and Excise also knows what I am talking about. It is scandalous that drugs given to people in Nigeria as gifts should be taxed in Nigeria, whereas time and again, we go out begging for gifts and begging for help from overseas countries.

Thirdly I want to mention what happened about a month or two ago in connection with increased customs duty on flour. Though we all realise that no Government can make any announcement ahead of time on this kind of increases, I want to point that there are a lot of scandalous rumours in Nigeria that certain expatriate firms knew ahead of time that customs duties would be increased. They stocked many, many thousand pounds worth of flour so that when the increases were announced, these people began to make "wind-fall" profits. I would like the Minister to check this up and make a statement to this House sometime, either during the present meeting of the House or when we convene next time.

Finally, I want to point out what happened yesterday at the Ikeja Airport. I am saying this not because I was personally involved but because of the colonial mentality which still prevails among the rank and file particularly of the Police Force in this country. Yesterday I went to collect my visitors who were arriving from the United States of America. I know that according to the law of this country, nobody should be allowed to get into the Immigration area and begin to harrass the workers there. There were three Europeans who came along at the same time with me. The Police officers in charge of the Customs gate allowed these three people to enter and begin to parade up and down within the Customs area. I had no time to check on them whether they had any permits, but the young Police officer at the gate simply allowed them to go in and check on their visitors, whereas when a Nigerian goes there to ask for his visitor, he would be harassed, insulted, abused and very badly treated. He would be told if he liked to take the policeman's number and to go anywhere and report him to anybody, but when these Europeans go there, because they are Europeans, they are simply allowed to go into the place. This kind of mentality is unfair to

Nigerians and I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister to check on this. I have the name of the officer, I mean the young officer who was in charge—

**Mr Speaker :** This is a detail perhaps you might have left for the Committee. It seems you are bringing it too far into the Second Reading stage.

**Dr Nzeribe :** I want to wind up by saying that the Minister of Finance has done a very fine job in checking smugglers in Nigeria and I wish this will continue.

But as I pointed out yesterday, the goods smuggled when confiscated should not be dumped or destroyed. We still get reports that goods are destroyed and about three months ago we heard that certain drugs which were confiscated were given out as gifts. This is a cheat on the revenue. They should be sold and the money paid into the revenue of Nigeria. Every effort should be made to swell the coffers and improve the credit of this country and any money obtained should be paid into the revenue of this country.

With these few points I want to support this Bill.

**Mr A. E. Efiog-Spatts (Calabar) :** Mr Speaker, the Bill as introduced by the Minister of Finance is in general very, very good. There is no argument that the country is one country and everything must be done to prevent smuggling, and cheating the Government. I am happy the Government some time ago passed the Firearms Bill to check smuggling. Government should re-inforce its measures against crooks and smugglers.

Once I visited the Customs with the Minister of Finance and there we saw many goods which had entered Nigeria from Fernando Po. I must say that Calabarians do not deal with such thing very much now; they might have done that sometime ago but I can assure you that Calabar people are not doing that at the present time. I found that the whisky, Gordon Gin and all those things that came from Fernando Po were just like those we buy from local stores. It is alleged that there is a Convention—I do not know how true this is, perhaps the Berlin Convention—by which things imported into Nigeria are made very expensive in order to prevent the Camerounians

from buying. For this reason very high customs duty is charged.

I think that in order to discourage smuggling we should consider the following. If gin and other spirits are sold in Fernando Po at £1-2s-6d a bottle they should be sold at the same price in Nigeria. If this is done nobody will go to Fernando Po to buy. If there is any Convention against this that Convention should be scrapped. We should reduce these things so that if a man goes to Fernando Po to buy and comes to Nigeria to sell at the same price he will never go there again and nobody will buy from him. This shooting of people will thereby be prevented. Otherwise this thing will continue; the officers will be killed and the other people will be killed. The whole thing is that if the price is level everywhere, the question of killing ourselves and our people will be minimised, and this should be looked into. If this is done there will be no sorrow at all in Nigeria and the whole problem of smuggling will stop, because, I repeat, nobody will like to buy cigarettes elsewhere for 1s-6d and come back to Nigeria to sell them for 1s-6d.

With these few remark, sI beg to support.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): I very much welcome this Bill. I am quite in agreement with the hon. the Minister of Finance. But I must have to make some observations. It is no use treating a disease without trying to find out the cause. I am often shocked to see that Calabar area is becoming notorious for smuggling. I agree it is notorious. But what are the causes? I am in sympathy with the Government and I am also in sympathy with the smugglers themselves. (*Laughter*).

I said earlier on that we must find out why the people of Calabar—and I am using that word Calabar in its widest context—are so engaged in smuggling. Are the smugglers Efiks, Ibibios or Anangs alone? Now Calabar happens to be very near Fernando Po, a distance of only 45 miles. If the buyer refuses to buy the seller will not sell. Therefore if any man from Calabar or Ibibio or Anang goes to Fernando Po to bring goods illegally into the country and his neighbours refuse to buy, he will not go there again. There are people who encourage smugglers to go to Fernando Po.

**An hon. Member**: Who are they?

**Mr Ekanem**: The hon. Member knows. I will not joke with those hon. Members, that group opposite.

I am happy that some junior officers of the Preventive Service are to be armed. I am not happy, and nobody in this House is happy, to hear that an officer lost his life in the execution of his duty, and I am aware that the suspect has been apprehended. I will call upon the law to take its course; but as I said, the remedy does not lie in the use of firearms or the use of the helicopter, or in terms of imprisonment.

My suggestions to remedy the situation are as follows. First, there should be free trade between Fernando Po and Nigeria. There should be a reduction in the price of cosmetics and drinks because the people who go to Fernando Po bring drinks, cigarettes, dressing materials, etc. The Minister of Finance should look into this with a view to reducing the price of these things in this country.

It is true that a bottle of *White Horse* Whisky costs 17s-6d in Fernando Po; but how much do we pay here? If we can reduce the price of Whisky, and the price of cigarettes to the normal price, I think that will help.

Secondly, unless and until the Federal Government looks with sympathy to the yearnings of the people of Calabar by establishing some industries there, no power on earth can stop the people of Calabar from engaging in this trade. I feel very strongly about this.

**The Minister of Finance**: I wonder whether the hon. Gentleman is including himself when he says that no power on earth can stop them from smuggling.

**Mr Ekanem**: There is a difference between trading and smuggling. I am not a smuggler and I do not encourage smuggling, but I encourage trade with any country, Fernando Po not exempted. What I am trying to bring out is that every Government of this country seems to neglect Calabar and in order to stop people from going to Fernando Po I must ask, as a matter of urgency, that Government should establish some industries there.

Another point, Sir, is about what the hon. Member for Bende East (*Dr K. Ezera*) said yesterday. The time for that kind of rough-handling of people has passed. No man is a criminal, no man can be sentenced to any

[MR EKANEM]

term of imprisonment unless he is proved guilty. The conduct of the soldiers, policemen, and Customs officers who were sent to carry out the search with a view to stopping this illegal trade leaves much to be desired. Many people were rough-handled.

I must say here that in my area no house was left unsearched. They made poor women leave their houses for days and days. They made poor traders who did not engage in this illegal trade suffer. They broke into some houses. That the Minister of Finance should defend the indefensible is what I cannot understand. I therefore call on the Minister of Finance, and the Federal Government to institute immediately, a commission of inquiry to probe the activities of these people who were engaged in the search.

Coming to the evaders, the law should be so tightened that any evader should be punished most severely, like the one which happened here in Lagos where big businessmen, I do not want to mention names—

**An hon. Member :** Who are they ?

**Mr Ekanem :** Leventis is one ; he is the hon. Member's friend.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East) :** I think it is the standing practice of this House that names of individuals who cannot defend themselves here should not be mentioned in critical terms.

**Mr Speaker :** Order. Everyone knows full well that Mr Ekanem is only throwing a joke.

**Mr Ekanem :** Thank you Mr Speaker. I was throwing a joke but Leventis is a company like S.C.O.A. and so on. They are companies and not names. I know what I am doing.

Now Sir, I am suggesting to the Government (the Attorney-General is not here) to revert this law ; to make the punishment so high that nobody will try to evade on anything brought into the country.

Again, I am happy to see in a section of this Bill that whenever a brewery is to be opened accommodation for the Customs officers will be a condition for the granting of a licence. That is very good indeed. No person or firm should

be allowed to establish a brewery without providing suitable accommodation for the Customs officers who will be there because it is no good for a Customs officer to live at Ikorodu, the town of the Federal Minister of Information, and go from there to collect our revenue in Apapa. We want him to live in the premises because these people can smuggle these things out in the night. There should be as many Customs officers as possible on the premises to be able to enforce the collection of revenue there. If I happen to receive a loan from the Minister of Finance for the establishment of a brewery for beer or illicit gin. I will be able to provide accommodation for the Customs officers.

In conclusion, I would say that the Bill is welcomed, but care must be taken to see that Calabar is not used as a scape-goat because it is not only the people of Calabar who engage in smuggling, it is only because they have the port and they have the creeks. The people from the hinterland are the real people encouraging smuggling ; the people from Aba, Onitsha and Enugu. If the people from Aba, Onitsha and Enugu refuse to buy from them, the people will stop smuggling. The people from Sapele, the people from Port Harcourt are the people who encourage these smugglers.

**An hon. Member :** Calabar is included !

**Mr Ekanem :** Calabar is only used as a scape-goat because it is near the Atlantic Ocean, and I am here to defend the name of Calabar.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) :** I support this Bill. It is indeed a commendable Bill and as the hon. Minister of Finance said, it seeks to remove the anomaly contained in the Bill passed four months ago. It is actually the implementation that we find difficult. Even with the vigilance of the Customs officers smuggling is still going on at an alarming rate. I think it is a question of supply and demand that is boosting this illegal practice. To put a stop to it we must get to the root of the whole practice. I think the cause of it is the fact that smugglers find a ready market for their wares. If these goods are provided legally and at the same time at reasonable prices, there will be no need for smuggling. I am reliably informed that a smuggler who succeeds in only one or two trips makes up for four or five times that he might have failed. It means then that the

trade is very lucrative and as long as it is continued it will result in loss of revenue and loss of manpower to this country.

I support the view that trade in the goods that are mostly smuggled from Fernando Po should be free. What is wrong, for instance, with the Spanish gin? I think that if these goods are sold legally there will be no need for smuggling them. Other substitutes for these goods should be quickly provided in this country. It is to be presumed that at no distant date the Nigerian drink known as 'illicit gin' will be legalised. When this is done we will have gone a long way to discourage an illegal act. I believe that if we are to maintain the prestige of this country we must have a gin of our own so that anybody can buy it legally and cheaply and there will be no need to go to Fernando Po to smuggle Spanish gin.

I support the Bill.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt): I welcome this Bill. Before I make a little observation on this Bill, I would crave the indulgence of the Speaker to refer this hon. House to the Speech from the Throne in March during the Budget Session in respect of the distillation of gin. I quote—

*"Legislation will be introduced to provide for the effective revenue control of the distillation of alcohol and related industries which are at present hampered by archaic legislation."*

I would seize this opportunity to call upon the Government to see to it that the brewing of locally distilled gin is legalised. As the hon. Member for Ahoada Central (*Mr Onwuchekwa*) said, one of the causes of smuggling in this country is this question of not recognising our own things. Locally distilled gin should not be called illicit gin. I think Government should bring a Bill here to make it possible for our own people to enjoy the things which we manufacture. I see no reason why a Bill to legalise all the good things we manufacture in this country should not be brought to this House.

One other point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is tax evasion in this country. Tax evasion in this country to-day is due to the increase in customs duties. I want the Government to help the traders and importers by avoiding increase in customs duties.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East): This Bill is timely and welcomed. The only observation I want to make is that whenever the question of smuggling is mentioned in this House, hon. Members should not direct their minds only to that small Spanish Island, Fernando Po as if all smuggling into Nigeria comes from Fernando Po. This is not the case.

Mr Speaker, I want you to close your eyes and make a mental picture of the Nigerian border from Sokoto to Kano, Bornu, Bauchi and Yola. There is already a hindrance between the Island of Fernando Po and Nigeria which is the Atlantic Ocean. A man cannot use a canoe to transport goods from Fernando Po to Nigeria without somebody seeing him, but along our long Northern frontier towards the Sahara transportation easily takes place. We are the people who live near the border and we know what happens there. I think it is part of the duty of the Minister of Finance to ask the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry to show him these roads, I hope the Minister of Commerce and Industry knows the roads, so that he will see the silent way in which large scale smuggling into Nigeria takes place. The people are essentially one, they speak the same language, they have the same custom and even their phenomena are the same. So, it is quite easily done and I would tell the Minister that a lot of smuggling is taking place along our border with the former French Territories. All the Minister does when he visits the Northern Region is to go to Kaduna. He visited Kano when he was there to lay the foundation stone of the Central Bank. When the Minister visits the North, he should also visit the frontiers where we lose most of the money that should be in the bank. The money is smuggled away. If it is the Army and the Police that are going to help the Customs officers at these places, they should be posted there. I hope the Minister will visit these places before the next sitting of the House. I would like to see the Minister along our Northern Region border with the Sahara. I am serious about what I am saying, smuggling does not only take place between these two places. I am saying with authority that a lot of smuggling takes place along our border with the former French territories.

I support the Bill.

**The Minister of Finance :** I am very grateful to the last speaker, the hon. Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Dandago*) for the observations made on the very wide border which we have with the French-speaking neighbouring territories in the Northern Region. It is not true that I visited only Kano for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the Central Bank. I want to assure him that I am quite conversant with the difficulties which Preventive officers encounter in the Northern Regional border because of its vastness. It is very difficult to control such a vast area where pedestrians go across the border by foot, horses, camels and donkeys.

I do not know what power on earth could cover them even if the power referred to by the hon. Member Opposite could be employed. I would like to say that large-scale smuggling cannot be done by pedestrians jumping across the border. They are very small and minor ones in such circumstances. Heavy ones are done by lorries, canoes and other heavy means of transport. However, this does not mean that we are ignoring these borders. We have a patrol system in the Northern Region. We are building more stations on the borders and it is our hope that we shall arrange patrols as regularly as possible in these areas.

I would like hon. Members also to know that this morning, I signed a contract to buy three amphibious planes instead of the helicopter which I mentioned before. We have given the question very serious consideration and we believe that amphibious planes that can land on water and on land will be the answer. We will get these planes very early next year and then we shall be able to launch another serious blow on the smugglers by land and by sea and in the air if possible.

My Friend, the Member for Orlu West (*Dr Nzeribe*), made several points here. He and others made the point that revenue collection has declined in recent months because of the increased duty on high duty goods. I admit, and I am sure that in the last sitting of the House I said that that is admitted, but we have no regret. You cannot eat your cake and have it. Hon. Members here have made several points on the balance of payments position and when I presented the last increased duty Bill here, I made it abundantly clear, that there were many factors responsible. One of

the primary ones being duty on imported goods, especially luxury goods. The purpose is to ease the balance of payments position, and if you want us to import all these goods as cheaply as possible and you want everybody to buy them, obviously, the balance of payments position will grow worse. I am sure hon. Members will not allow that to happen.

An hon. Member said that gin and whisky are sold at lower rates in the neighbouring territories; we are appreciative of this, but he must know that we have our own sources of revenue collection, different from those of the neighbouring countries. As we have a high rate of duty for alcoholic liquor here, so they have other goods for which the rate of duty is higher on that side than here. You cannot use one single yardstick in measuring the duty that should be imposed on goods in this country and *vice versa*.

My hon. Friend also referred to duty on gifts. If we have an open-door policy that people should have all goods marked 'free gift,' and allow them duty-free into this country, I wonder whether we would collect any revenue again. What would happen daily is that even Dr Nzeribe would get a car from his friend in America, buy it there, pay for it and tell the man to ship it as 'free gift' to Nigeria. You would even receive an aeroplane as 'free gift', and we shall have nothing to do, other than receive parcels of free gifts to this country. No doubt, no serious hon. Member, would ask that such a situation should exist in Nigeria.

I therefore, say, with very great respect to him that when free gifts are really free gifts sent to people here during Christmas or so, and when one goes overseas and is given a present, naturally, we will see to it that such gift is accepted free of duty. But if you are going to bargain with your friends overseas with a view to giving you such heavy high duty goods as your free gift and you expect us to allow it to go free of duty, we will be failing in our responsibilities, if we allow such a thing to happen.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : What about charitable organisations ?

**The Minister of Finance :** Charitable organisations are allowed on application to me, and on proper examination whatever is sent to them, even cash and other things are allowed

to be taken free of duty, provided that we are satisfied that they would be used for charitable purposes.

My hon. Friend made an allegation about the Airport and tried to cast aspersions on the customs officer on duty. I must say, that if the story he told us is true, and I doubt it very much, then, that officer should be thoroughly ashamed of himself. We have the policy of equality of man and equality of treatment in Nigeria. I do not expect that one Nigerian will suffer from such inferiority complex as to give somebody privilege because of the colour of his skin. But it is essential too, that we must treat strangers at our gates with respect and dignity.

**An hon. Member :** And then leave Nigerians to suffer ?

**The Minister of Finance :** I do not know whether any Nigerian is suffering or not. Hon. Members have made much fuss about selling contraband goods. Contraband goods are contraband goods, whether small or large, and we have given this matter very serious consideration. I would like to put an argument, a hypothetical case to the House for consideration. Suppose we get about 130 cases of whisky as contraband and then we sell them to one trader at Onitsha and he in turn sells them to traders in, say, Sapele, Lagos, Warri, Sokoto and Kaduna and that quantity is completely sold out and he has not bought another for about a year ; later he goes to buy real contraband, this time not through the Customs, and if you arrest him he tells you that he bought it about six months ago from the Customs during auction sale ; how would you differentiate between what he bought from the Customs as contraband and what he had bought from the smugglers ?

**An hon. Member :** Stamp it.

**The Minister of Finance :** What kind of stamp will you make in Nigeria that will not be carbon-copied the next day ?

**An hon. Member :** You are an expert on that.

**The Minister of Finance :** I do not know so much about it. I am sure that Abeokuta people would know much about it—Hon. Ayo Rosiji.

We have thought about this and it is the practice all over the world, that the best answer

is to destroy them, so that no one will say—he bought this sometime ago and has not used it, so it is still in my possession. I do not know whether hon. Members have special markets—

**An hon. Member :** How are they destroyed ?

**The Minister of Finance :** It is not for me to tell smugglers here, how we destroy contraband. You can go and tell them how we destroy them and how we operate on them. In any case, this matter has been given very serious thought and we feel that selling contraband is not the proper thing to do.

Hon. Members also talked about free trade between us and Fernando Po. I accept it, but how could we do that ? You would have to arrange a trade agreement. I have personally led one or two delegations to Fernando Po. If you discuss free trade with them, it would be like pouring water into the sea. They will not listen to you because you would be ruining their business. They obviously live on it. All the attempts that have been made by me and the Minister of Commerce and Industry to enter into any trade agreement with Fernando Po have proved abortive. It is really a difficult proposition and I do not know how we shall overcome it. I think that we shall have to force them on their knees by making it impossible for smugglers to succeed in buying things from them. When we do that, they will come on their knees to ask for a trade agreement.

People think that it is only on whisky, brandy and gin that Nigeria is losing. These smugglers take their canoes to Fernando Po with produce like palm oil, palm kernels, cocoa, etc., free of duty. The harm done is not only to the Federal Government, but also to the Regional Governments—Eastern and Northern Regional Governments. People carry groundnuts from the North to the French territory and sell them as soon as they have the opportunity of doing so. It is a great danger and when we cry about it, we are obviously saying the proper thing so that every reasonable person in this country should join with us in condemning smugglers and make it impossible for the people to operate.

The hon. Gentleman from Calabar (*Mr Ekanem*) was talking about the establishment of industries there. The people of Calabar were responsible for the economic disaster in the area now, because all the companies doing

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

their legitimate business in the area were unable to make profits. They were unable to sell their goods and since they could not sell and they could not buy; there was no alternative but to leave the place by closing down and going to a profitable area.

**Mr Ekanem** : No.

**The Minister of Finance** : The hon. Member can go and establish there and see whether he will sell anything.

**Mr Ekanem** : Give me a loan.

**The Minister of Finance** : The hon. Gentleman wants a loan from me to establish. I am not going to give him such a loan.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE BILL : CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

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

*Clause 5—(PROVISION OF LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR OFFICERS AT PREMISES LICENSED FOR EXCISE PURPOSES).*

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central) : I just want to make a remark on this Clause. I do not know whether the Minister consulted some of his friends, the Medical Officer of Health and some of the Trade Unionists. Although the hon. Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) has made certain remarks about them, I do not know whether the Minister considers such a Clause necessary. I do not think that it is conducive to the health of individuals as well as the Industry itself to accommodate workers in the premises where they work. I should have thought that the reasonable thing to expect of a human being is to work in one place, go home and relax—away from his office or away from his place of work, so that he forgets about it; he comes back to work the following morning refreshed. It would not be to our interest to build a sort of concentration camp for workers in a particular industry. This idea beats my imagination. I would like the Minister, therefore to reconsider such a Clause and consider the health and well being, not only of the workers but also of the industry

itself. Such a situation is very inimical to the life of the industry.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman is irrelevant. The point at issue is not buildings for workers but accommodation for a particular customs officer. So he should not generalise it.

**The Chairman** : A Customs officer is a worker.

**Mr Amadi** : I think the hon. Gentleman has not read wide and is not capable of understanding English. The Clause provides that workers should have quarters built for them by the Industry and that is exactly what I am saying. It is not proper for the industries to do this. For example, one industry occupies so many acres of land whereas we cannot afford to give a small industry 70 to 200 acres of land. We cannot afford to do that, and unless we are prepared to do that, I do not see the sense in expecting the industry to put up quarters within the premises.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South) : Mr Chairman, this Clause 5 which empowers the Board to require the holder of an excise licence to provide suitable living accommodation for an Excise officer whose duties require that he should reside on or near the licensed premises is very suitable.

The position is that some people are ignorant of the whole thing, and if this Bill is passed with Clause 5 it will make the company brewing bear or gin or whisky to be co-operative with the Government. I want to say that while this Clause is good the Customs Board should see that any officer asked to take charge is not put there permanently because of what I would call "abuse of office" which may result if he is there for long. He should be asked to be there for a certain time, six months, one year or two years. The officers should be changed as time permits so that graft is not engendered and so that they do not drink at large otherwise, they will forget the duty which the Government ask them to go there and do. That is the note of warning I want to sound. They should not be stationary.

I think what I will talk about is the operational aspect of this Bill when it is passed into law. I do not want it to be one-sided because I know from experience that exemption from

customs duty of goods imported into this country has been one-sided. It would interest hon. Members to know that the old colonial mentality is still operating in this country. There are some goods for which exemption from customs duty has been lifted. Some goods imported from Great Britain only are special quality goods. But in the case of goods imported from Germany, America, Italy and other countries, our Customs Board puts excessive duties on them. As a result, we are still using the inferior British goods.

Take the pharmaceutical goods law, which is still the same as it was before independence. I am advising the Minister of Finance to look into this so that only the best can be obtained in this country. When we have the best things somewhere, we are paying heavy duty on them, and the one that is inferior is the one that is going to be duty free. What do you get from that? I will suggest that a representative of pharmacists in this country be invited to the Customs Board, who will be able to give advice to the Board on the quality of the chemicals that will be imported free. This is very serious. Those hon. Members who understand the inner meaning of it will remember that in the old colonial days, we used to say "British specification" and we say we are non-aligned with any nation, but things that are British are to us the best, and we forget all about other places, where we can get much better ones.

In this country, people are dying for want of adequate drugs, because the best drugs are not brought to this country as a result of this excessive rate of duty. I should like the Minister of Commerce and Industry to look into this and see that the Pharmacists' Association in this country has a representative in the Customs Board to advise the Minister of Finance and his Board on these drugs, particularly on the scientific materials they contain.

I now go again to the arming of the preventive officers. When this Bill was brought before us here last time, we told the Minister of Finance to see to it that officers of the preventive section of the Customs are well armed so that when they go about looking for these smugglers—and these smugglers are always carrying their ammunition—they are not dangerously exposed. Otherwise with what do you think these officers will be protecting themselves?

Nothing, expect when the senior officer is in their midst, who of course, only carries one revolver, and that is all. But events have proved hon. Members of this House correct, and I think we have learned a lesson after losing lives. I am sorry the Minister brought this here, and we are all sorry for this. I hope it will not recur.

Any officer who is sent out to look for smugglers must be well protected and I think as from now, when this Bill is passed, the smugglers will be afraid because all officers will now be able to carry arms—not the arms that are imported to this country without duty—

With this, I beg to support the Bill.

*Clause 5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 6—(RECOVERY OF BOARD'S EXPENSES IN REFUNDING EXCESS PAYMENTS OF DUTY)*

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): This Clause is meant to defray the cost of investigation where an excess duty is charged, and this Clause will make the poor traders suffer more. Not only that, already the Customs officers are now growing very rich at the expense of the ignorant traders of this country. Some of the Customs officers usually detain the goods of the traders in order that they may be paid, and when payment is not forthcoming excess duty is charged. This Clause is trying to help the Customs officers to continue to dupe the traders of this country. I am sure that if this Clause is not amended in the very near future it will make the poor traders suffer more in the hands of these Customs officers.

I wish to give an example. At Port Harcourt to-day, some traders from my constituency have their goods detained. Unless they pay huge sums of money their goods will not be released; and when such is discovered and the excess duty charged is to be refunded they have to defray the cost of Government investigation into it. In this respect, I think the Government should do something to delete this, otherwise it will be very hard on the traders.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I think the hon. Member for Aba Urban (Mr



[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]

*Okoronkwo*) is misleading the House and it is only right that I should explain the situation to him.

The reason why this Clause has been put there is to ensure that the people concerned prepare their papers correctly so that they may pay the right customs duty. But if they are so careless and so inefficient that they prepare their papers carelessly, and because of this they are made to pay higher duties and later on it is found out that they have paid in error, then they should be made to pay the administrative expenses incurred in remedying the error so that they will be more careful next time. What more can you expect than that generosity?

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): I think the point that the Members are trying to get clear here is the long standing tradition of the impossibility of reclaiming money that has already been paid to the State. It is not unknown that in every department of Government, if you make the mistake of paying in excess or if anything happens and you want to get your money back the amount of correspondence, time and everything that you do to get that money back values more than the money you are claiming back. I therefore think that it is unfortunate to start talking about the Board here. The Board is in Lagos and you may have paid the duty in Port Harcourt, you may have paid it in Kano. Why should it take you all that time to claim it back? After all the Board may get inundated with a lot of these petty applications for refunds. Why cannot the Collector of Customs in Port Harcourt be delegated the responsibility of exercising some discretion in making some refunds? If it runs into hundreds of thousands of pounds we can understand that, but surely in this matter of claiming refunds of excess paid, things should be made much easier. And I must say that anyone who has intimate contact with these traders knows that several times they take the officials by their words, and these calculations and these representations are often the result of incorrect information from the officials.

It is therefore my sincere prayer to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Finance that this matter be given a further thought. Even if you still insist that the administrative expenses should be borne by the applicants you—

**An hon. Member**: Sit down, my Friend.

**Mr Akwivu**: I will sit down when I finish, but not when the hon. Member says so.

Even if you say they should bear the administrative expenses it must be made easy and it must be a matter that can be finalised between the applicants and the local Collector of Customs.

*Clause 6—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 7—(POSSESSION OF ARMS BY MEMBERS OF CUSTOMS PREVENTIVE SERVICE)*

**Mr V. A. Nwalieji** (Nsukka West): This Clause states that "the authorisation to possess and control arms and ammunition given by the Customs Preventive Service (Firearms) Act, 1962, to members of the Customs Preventive Service not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent shall extend to officers of that service not below the rank of Senior Preventive Officer, and to members of that service below that rank when, but only when, they are acting under the personal supervision of such an officer."

I wish to suggest that as long as these smugglers are armed to the teeth the Customs Officers should always be armed so that they may be able to do their duty properly. Well, I do not know, but I think these officers do not always work under the strict supervision of their superior officers. They could sometimes be sent somewhere to do their business and if they are not properly armed they may be afraid or may work at the risk of their lives. I am suggesting that whenever they are on duty they should be given the privilege of being properly armed.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): Under this Clause the junior Waterguards are given the opportunity to carry arms. I have always been one of those Members who oppose Government giving arms to the Waterguards because it is a very negative attitude in the sense that it will give them the opportunity of killing people who are trying to smuggle. Most of these smugglers live on smuggling and there is nothing you can do about it. If you do not provide something better for them to live on they must continue with smuggling. If you give a Waterguard one

Federal Parliament Debates

3007

[Customs and Excise Bill]

12 DECEMBER 1962

[Customs and Excise Bill]

3008

gun the smuggler will carry two guns to face the Waterguard ; there is no doubt about that, it is a matter of livelihood for them.

I humbly suggest that the normal procedure which many countries have always used to combat actual smuggling should not be the killing of their nationals, rather, it is by adopting economic policy that will make it possible for smuggling to be non-existent. For example, you encourage people to live flamboyantly and you encourage people to get anything they want by all kinds of crooked means and then you come back and give guns to people to kill them.

I feel very strongly that the answer is nationalisation of industries because if the Government is able to nationalise most of the industries there will be plenty of money for the Government to use instead of depending on import duties. The very essence of the matter is that government depends too much on import duties. The main source of Government income is import duty and that is why the government keeps on crying and crying for import duties, making it impossible for us to compete with other neighbouring countries in prices. There is no need for this. If Government can take over the foreign trade, Government will have enough money to finance its activities rather than try to give guns to fire at each other.

Thank you, Mr Chairman

**Mr D. Senu-Oke** (Badagry) : There is only one point I would like to hammer, and that is, that the passage of this section of the Bill will only help us to see people carrying guns to market places. I quite agree that guns should be provided for the Custom Preventive officers, but it should not only be given to the senior officers alone but also to all the officers on duty. I would also like to mention that guns should only be given to the officers when they are on special duty and at a special time and not always so that the question of carrying guns at all times will cease and this will end the question of soldiers and the police carrying guns into the market places. That is the only thing I want to deal with on this Bill.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. O. Ifezue** (Orlu North) : I understand that the qualification for entry into the Preventive Service is very high. Qualification for

entry is the West African School Certificate. These Cambridge Certificate holders get bored with the work and they resign. I had already made one suggestion that the Standard VI boys who have very strong physics should be employed and trained to do the job. If you employ people with higher qualification they get bored with the work and resign. Therefore, I would like the Minister to look into.

Another thing I would like to mention is that I understand that promotions are obtained by way—

**The Chairman** : Order, order. This Clause concerns the control of ammunition.

**Mr Ifezue** : I support.

*Clause 7—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 8 and 9—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without Amendment*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—* (The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : This is certainly a very progressive Bill and I am very happy that the Bill has been able to pass through this House. I only wish at this stage to draw attention to some factors that may interfere with the operation of the Bill, which I think the Minister is already aware of.

A lot has been said about smuggling. But I would like to say that in the application of this law, great care should be taken to see that some of the factors which are now responsible for the increase in smuggling are taken due care of. For example, we have heard a lot more about smuggling, since the last duty increase, and the position, putting it simply, is that the states surrounding us now have vested interests in duty evasion, as far as Nigeria is concerned. The new duties place the goods that come into Nigeria on such high level that the people around us can have their goods sold here at a profit in spite of the duties paid on them, the result is that it is so tempting that it is making the administration of our Customs and Excise law almost impossible.

It does not matter how many people we take to court, we find that the number of smugglers is getting more and more, and I humbly submit

[Mr AKWIWU]

Sir, that this is a matter that will affect the successful or unsuccessful administration of our Customs and Excise law, that is, that our level of duties is completely unrelated to what is happening around us. I think that in order to be able to apply this law successfully, our Minister of Finance or the powers more directly concerned should think again about our duty policy. The essence of a law is that a law will be easily administered, and not to make a law that will be almost impossible to be administered, in conditions created by ourselves.

I think one other point on which this Bill should be commended is the fact that it makes some allowance for home-produced gin. May I respectfully say that following up the good spirit here, we should recognise, in order to be able to check and regulate, such spirits as are manufactured within the country. If we recognise the fact that they are produced and will be produced; the fact that people want them, and must continue to want them; then we will be in a position even to go farther than we have provided for in this Bill. So, I think there is a lot to be said for the Government to make a more positive move towards recognising the fact that what has been traditionally known as *illicit gin* or "*O.H.M.S.*" in local places, or whatever name people give to it, has come to stay—thanks to the industry of the people of Ijaw and the Rivers areas. So the point, is that we should recognise it and if possible, place the recipe on scientific basis, and having done that, we could be in a better position to increase the happiness of our people.

I am quite sure that with the popularity enjoyed by the so called "*illicit gin*" now, if we place a duty of five shillings on each bottle people will still buy it and consume it, and we will be earning a lot more than we are now earning from selling whisky at about £2. or £3 a bottle while our neighbours sell it just about £1 and make considerable profit even at that. So, I do sincerely support those who supported the passing of the Bill.

I will end by saying that the timing of the operation of the law should be more carefully worked out. I would also add that since the last duty increase on flour, many Nigerian traders have been put out of business. Flour has been ordered and has arrived, but simply

because some people probably did not submit their customs forms within an hour or two, many of them have had to pay fabulous duties indeed, and it has affected so many of them. I do hope that the Government will be able to inquire into such cases and see if they can do something to help them out.

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): In supporting the passing of this Bill, I want to make a strong appeal to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry, in respect of schools, on the clause about the recovery of claims. It is our experience as school masters, that when we import scientific equipment for use in schools we are told that we could import these equipments duty free on the production of a certificate of status. Unfortunately, Sir, when this certificate of status is presented to the Customs authorities, one often finds that even before the certificate arrives, they have already assessed duties on these scientific equipment which are supposed to come in duty free and one is compelled to pay the duty so assessed, and one is told to apply to the relevant authority for the recovery of this payment. I am talking from experience because not very long ago, I received an order, paid, and was asked to make such a claim. I did make the claim, and up till now I have not had a reply either in the positive or in the negative. I think, that it would be a good thing if the Minister concerned would perhaps adopt a different policy on that matter.

Grammar schools are not little things that are hidden away in the back yards. The names of the recognised grammar schools teaching science are known to the Ministry of Education. It should be possible, therefore, for the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance, or which ever department is responsible, to find out, or to ask the Ministry of Education to submit a list of the recognised Grammar Schools teaching science, and on the signature of the principal of that Grammar School, to allow the importation of science equipments duty free, instead of having to wait for a certificate of status which may take so long to come from the Ministry of Education that the Customs authorities will begin to wonder whether the goods being imported are really for school use or not, and also put the school into further expense by forcing it to pay rents for warehouses or other importing agents.

I think, that this is a very very important matter which the Minister should look into because it affects the welfare of our schools. Now that we are crying for the teaching of science, we cannot say we want science on the one hand and then retard the teaching of science on the other, by such a legislation, or if not the legislation itself, the execution of the legislation.

I think the Minister should gear up the Ministry to see that such problems or difficulties are not placed in the way of grammar schools that are teaching science. Furthermore, I have also been informed, quite reliably too, that special types of these equipments are even exempted from duty simply because they are made of certain materials. I do not see any reason why an equipment made of plastic should be regarded as different from an identical equipment made of some other material. I am told that, for example, when one orders a plastic beaker one has to pay duty on it but if one orders a glass beaker one does not pay duty on it. What is the sense in that; what is the reason for it?

If the grammar schools find it more beneficial to import plastic beakers why should they not import this type of beakers? Afterall, they are all functioning in the interest of the nation. I am appealing to the Ministers concerned to alter this policy because the beaurocracy in the Customs and such places makes things very difficult for us. Afterall, one is also subject to other things like inspection and we cannot, therefore, wait indefinitely for officials in these departments to go through their beaurocratic processes before we can get the equipments to the classrooms.

We are appealing to the Government, therefore, to make it possible for scientific equipments ordered for use in schools to be imported on the authority of the headmaster or the principal of the school which is recognised by the Ministry of Education. It is very easy to check on that and, of course, if a principal infringes that it is very easy to bring the law to bear on him. But I think that the delay and the unnecessary expense which are occasioned by the present policy would have to be reconsidered.

I may as well mention before I resume my seat another little point that I would like the Minister of Finance to think about. When

he introduced these measures on duty recently he classified goods into luxury and non-luxury goods and I was amazed to hear that building materials were regarded as luxury goods. I wonder very much and hope he will think over that point again.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill to amend the law relating to weights and measures and to make provision for metric weights and measures and other connected matters be now read a Second time.

The existing Weights and Measures Ordinance is very much out of date and its terms are unbecoming to an independent sovereign State like ours. It was enacted in 1917 and defines the standard weights and measures to be used in Nigeria by reference to a United Kingdom Act of Parliament, not to this Parliament. It also ties Nigeria to the imperial system of weights and measures and makes no provision for the use or recognition of the metric system which is now used exclusively by more than half the countries of the world.

In view of the desirability of broadening the scope of Nigeria's trade, it is essential that our standards of weights and measures should be internationally recognised. This can be achieved by this country becoming a member of the International Metric Convention to which practically all nations subscribe including U.S.A., U.S.S.R., U.K., Japan and nearly all European, Asian and South American states. This Bill contains provisions which will enable Nigeria to apply for membership. The Bill seeks also to give equal legality and recognition to both the metric system and the British or imperial system.

In the sphere of internal trade, my Ministry's officials have discovered widespread malpractices in the use of weights and measures, many of them fraudulent and indefensible if order and justice in trade are to be valued. These fraudulent practices are particularly prevalent in the buying and selling of cash

[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]

crops. The Bill seeks to impose severe penalties on such offenders and empowers my officials to make the necessary tests and inspections required to detect these frauds.

In the field of external trade the status of Nigerian trade depends, to a large extent, on the maintenance of high standards in exported products and the Bill seeks to empower my officials to take steps to ensure that there is no shortage or inconsistency in the weight and measure of produce for export.

The Bill, if enacted, will also give me power to regulate the sale by weight or measure of certain commodities; to regulate the use of all types of weighing and measuring apparatus used in trade and to require the annual testing and certification of certain instruments. The selling of short weight, measure or number to a customer will be a punishable offence.

The proposed changes in the law have been designed to avoid any immediate violent impact on anyone but the dishonest trader and the Bill is so drafted that the changes will be brought into force gradually, area by area, after due publicity and consultation with those affected.

Since taking over responsibility for weights and measures from the Nigeria Police, my Ministry has been engaged in the training of the necessary corps of officers required to put the law into effect. Some twenty-eight inspectors will be required, acting under the supervision of a superintendent and four deputy superintendents and, for the convenience of the public and in the interests of efficiency, it is proposed that they will be stationed at appropriate places throughout the country.

The Schedules to the Bill make provision for the collection of fees for the annual testing and certifying of weighing and measuring apparatus and the costs of the service will be met to a large extent, but not entirely, by the raising of new revenue.

Sir, this is not a Bill on which a long speech is necessary. It is non-contentious and the objects are clear and patently affect the social and economic welfare of the whole country. The need for revision is self-evident, and I have no doubt that the Bill will be supported by all Sides of the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): Sir, we have to congratulate the Minister of Commerce and Industry for bringing up this Bill. In fact, lots of fraudulent acts have been done in our markets and firms. For instance, when one goes to the market one finds that a lot of our weights and measures are either under the normal standard or intentionally fraudulent. So, it is difficult for one to go to a market and actually have a real measurement.

When the Minister was making his speech here he mentioned that about twenty-eight inspectors would be trained. If this Bill is to cover the whole Federation of Nigeria twenty-eight inspectors will be too small because I know how big the whole Federation is. These inspectors will have to go and inspect and do their duties as well. Efforts should be made too to see that these inspectors are well nurtured people, people who cannot be bribed and corrupted. If an effort is not made in this direction I know some of them may go on inspection one day and find out that a weight is faulty or fraudulent and yet pass it. We know the Minister is very vigilant and such a thing will never occur.

Another point is about the sales of meat and fish. These days it is a question of going to either a trader or a businessman to ask, 'how much is your meat or your fish?' But I am sure that if these weights and measures come into operation, it will be a question of going to a dealer in fish or meat who will just weigh the thing and give the actual price and not a question of standing for hours beating the price down.

We are very grateful to the Minister for introducing this Bill at this time and efforts should be made to guard against all those things that will make this Bill unworkable.

**Mr D. O. Ahamefula** (Okigwi South): I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I have to congratulate the Government for trying to protect the interest of the people by trying to put up a very accurate weights and measures Bill to guide them against some of the unscrupulous traders.

I have to refer the Government to section 21 of this Bill which deals with the sale

bread and its weights and measures. In this connection, I have to remind the Government that bread, like every other cooked or baked food, loses some of its raw weight when it is baked and in most cases this loss in weight is not more than two ounces. Therefore, I would like the Government to draw the attention of the inspectors to this aspect otherwise they may misconstrue the situation to mean a cheat on the public.

Another thing I would like to add, although it might be said that this was not well connected, is that the Government should try as far as possible to protect the interest of the bakers in this country. There have been yearnings on the side of the bakers asking the Government to waive the exorbitant import duty on bread wrappers and I think the Government should be kind enough to approach this issue with sympathy because after all the bakers in this country are helping the Government in promoting the economy and solving unemployment. When one considers the number of bakers throughout the Federation that have closed down business as a result of this high import duty on bread wrappers one is bound to call the attention of the Government to know exactly what to do in order to protect the small businessmen who are out to help the Government and its people.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): I rise to support this Bill because it is a non-controversial Bill. I have to commend the Minister of Commerce and Industry for introducing it at this time. The purpose of this Bill reminds me of one thing. This is like when the licensing of beer was taken from the Police by the local councils in the Regions. The same thing happens now as the Federal Government is taking this job from the Police and giving it to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The activities of the officials who are going to perform the job should not be limited to one particular province. The officer who is going to inspect one's premises must not be known. He should be appointed and detailed by the Minister at his own discretion to avoid corruption because I have handled produce inspection before when I was in the G.B. Ollivant and the activities of produce inspectors

leave much to be desired. The store-keepers and all the other officers who used to be in charge of the different commodities always performed such tricks that are derogatory to the name of this country.

**The Minister of Finance**: How did the hon. Gentleman know about the tricks?

**Oba Oladiran**: Well, I was an eye-witness. I have to congratulate the Minister for introducing this Weights and Measures Bill at this time. I do not want to prolong my speech, but rather to associate myself with the views already expressed by previous speakers.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Alhaji L. Daura** (Maska): I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I would like, in the first place, to congratulate the Government for this progressive step that it has taken.

The first point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is that Nigeria has been made to associate with the rest of the world in the introduction of the metric system of measurement.

As regards the inspection of weights and measures, I feel that the number of inspectors is not adequate to be effective throughout the Federation. For example, in the North during the season, I believe four or five inspectors will have more than enough work to do in a province.

I should like to say also that the inspection should not be yearly, in my opinion. It should be done regularly at the time of the season so as to be able to carry out effective check if there is fraud anywhere.

Another point that I would like to make is that great publicity must be given to the introduction of this new system of measurement, the metric system of measurement. It should be remembered that a great number of our people are illiterates and it should not be difficult for the Government to help them get acquainted with the new system. The Government should do everything in its power to start from now to educate the people about the use of this new system of measurement.

With this, I support.

**Mr J. M. Damla** (Pankshin West): I rise to support the Bill and in doing so, I should like to say that it is quite clear even to onlookers

[MR DAMLA]

and observers of the progress of this country that the Federal Government is surely shouldering the responsibilities of Nigeria as an independent nation.

Though there are some irresponsible politicians who have lost the confidence of the people and so plan to take over power by violence, our Government is increasingly aware of its responsibilities and it has the confidence of the masses. The Federal Government should revise all the outmoded Acts and present truly national Acts.

Step by step, the Federal Government is proving its usefulness and showing that it is responsible to the nation. The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers should be congratulated for their getting together to achieve the unity of the country.

This Bill is very important. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister concerned to see that as soon as it is passed into law, local traders in the remote areas are considered with seriousness. The Bill should not be implemented in a way to have any bad effect on any person but if anybody acts against the provisions of the Bill, such a person should be dealt with very quickly; he should be punished severely. I say this because there are many people who do not care about the law of the country.

Finally, I congratulate the Minister concerned. The Minister should see that the officers responsible for carrying out these duties are responsible people.

I beg to support this Bill whole-heartedly.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): In supporting this Bill I must say that it is an interesting Bill because what it seeks to do is to put a perpetual end to bribery and corruption in this country. If one knows what the produce dealers in this country suffer because of the wrong use of weights and measures, one will be sorry for them. This has landed many produce buyers in acute bankruptcy, therefore, I would say that in making the appointment of the people who are to work on this, the Minister should give major consideration to people who are not money-minded, who are honest, who have no love for money, but who think only of sincerity of purpose. There are plenty of such people. There are

certain people who have no love for money, but there are others who think of money more than their lives in this world.

This Bill is a simple Bill and for that reason, there is no need to waste much time on it; therefore, I support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

OFFICIAL SECRETS (AMENDMENT) BILL  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

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

*Bill reported without Amendment, read the third time and passed.*

LAGOS SPORTS COUNCIL BILL—CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1 to 15—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 16—(OFFENCES).*

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa** (Ahoada Central)  
Clause 16 says: "The council may give directions not inconsistent with this Act to any person; and if the person to whom the directions are given refuses without lawful excuse to comply with them it shall be an offence under this Act and the offender shall be liable on conviction, to a fine of five pounds."

I wonder why this Bill should seek to give such a wide power to the Council because it will be difficult to interpret what is consistent and inconsistent with this Act. It should be specific. The directions that should be given to any person should be specific because if such a wide power is given it could be misused.

**Minister of State** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): The power to give directions to any person connected with Sports is to make it possible for the Council to function very effectively. The word 'person' in law includes a club or an organisation. The penalty of five pounds imposed is to serve as a deterrent to irresponsible club organisers and sportsmen whose activities may become detrimental to the interest of sports generally.

*Clause 16—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 17 to 19—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(Minister of State—Dr K. O. Mbadiwe).*

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): I have only one point here and that is that this Bill states that provision should be made for the Lagos Sports Council to be established. I am of the opinion that sports have so much degenerated in Nigeria that all the time we continue to have amateur sports and so on and nothing international. I think efforts should be made for the Federation of Nigeria to have or arrange to have national sports outlook and not only Lagos. Some of our amateurs are becoming internationals and arrangements should be made for these men to be professionals so that they may be paid by the Federal Government. They will then devote the whole of their time to sports instead of doing their duties half of the time and going in for sports half of the time.

**Minister of State** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I want to say that we should not confuse the Lagos Sports Council with the National Sports Council. There is already a provisional council functioning at the present time in which Lagos and the Regions are represented. That is the national structure of sports but we have the Regional Sports Councils and we now have one for the Territory of Lagos, and all these will function through the National Sports Council. The Bill is now in preparation and I think by the next meeting of the House it will be presented to this House. So we are very much aware of the need for sports nationally.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

STANDING ORDERS

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That the existing Standing Orders of this House be revoked and the Standing Orders contained in the draft of which a copy was laid upon the Table on the 18th April,

1961, be the Standing Orders of this House, subject to the following amendments reported from the Standing Orders Committee:—

(i) *Standing Order 17.*

Paragraph (b), page 17, leave out line 33 and add "may be determined by ballot".

(ii) *Standing Order 26.*

Paragraph (14), page 25, line 6, add after the word "name" the words "Ministers of State will be referred to as such and also by name".

(iii) *Standing Order 55.*

Paragraph (1) (a), page 50, line 24; leave out the word "five" and insert the word "seven".

Paragraph (1) (c), page 51, leave out paragraph (c) and insert the following:

"(c) to select and report to the House from time to time Notices of Motions of Private Members to be placed on the Order Paper on Tuesdays".

(iv) *Standing Order 63.*

Paragraph (3), page 59, line 20, leave out the word "five" and insert the word "seven".

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): I am sure every Member of this House will agree with the spirit behind the Motion to amend our Standing Orders. In a number of respects our Standing Orders have proved inappropriate to the needs and requirements of the present House because until now we have been operating on the Standing Orders which were in use when the number of Members was half its present size, and many of us have noticed some of the limitations working hardship on our enthusiastic Members who would like to place on record the needs of their constituencies. This has been more particularly noticeable during the Budget Session. Many Members have always been eager to make contributions during the debate on the Speech from the Throne and many have been eager to make their contributions during the debate on the



[MR AKWIWU]

Budget Speech and have hoped to make contributions during the Committee Stage, but under Standing Orders as they existed, the time allowed did not afford many Members the opportunity to put in a word. So we are very grateful that it has now been felt necessary to make these amendments and no doubt now that we have started amending it, it is only to be seen at the next Budget Session whether the number of days now added would be appropriate or would meet the needs of our Members.

Mr Speaker, the other aspect that has not been touched is with regard to the question of Committees. In the old House, some forms of Committees as previously existed came under very bitter criticisms. One was condemned as being imperialistic in manner and outlook, and accordingly they were then amended. The Finance Committee was abolished. But, Sir, there is one aspect of Standing Committee which has never been adhered to whether in the old Standing Orders or in the new ones as amended.

Now, Sir, we have observed that even in the House of Commons before Bills are passed through the House, there are Standing Committees to which Bills are referred. These Committees go into great details in enquiring into these Bills, getting as much information as they can either through research or through study, or through interrogations, or through asking for memoranda or information from the parties concerned. We also observe that even in the United States where democracy is also practised but with a slightly different parliamentary system, the Committee Stage of the Legislature plays a very very important part.

As a matter of fact, provisions are made, facilities are provided for them while going through Committee to invite views not only from official advisers, but also from knowledgeable members of the public to come and express their views before the Committee so as to place the Committee in a position, not only to read the Bills objectively as individuals but also have the advantage of the views of the experts and also the views of knowledgeable members of the public. As a result they sum up their findings and make them available to Members of the Legislature who are then in a position not only to read the tightly-worded

Bills but also the findings and recommendations and views of their own Committee so as to place them in a position to be able to make some real and valuable contribution when a Bill is being debated.

I would like to suggest that knowing how far apart we all are from Lagos many Members have always complained about their not receiving *Gazettes* containing publications of Bills.

It is in the Standing Orders that Bills be first published in the *Gazette* and I suppose the idea of that is for the members of the public as well as Members of the Legislature to be able to acquaint themselves with the terms of these Bills before they come to be debated. But how many of us receive *Gazettes* before we come to this House? When we come to the House the rush of business is such that even with the best intentions in the world and with first class intelligence, it is not always easy for Members to read, digest and get facts about Bills that we come to pass. So, we seriously commend it to the Government to consider initiating a further move for the introduction of effective committee system in our Standing Orders. I understand another beautiful name for it is "Bills Scrutiny Committee".

I think that doing a thing half-heartedly is not good. Anything worth doing must be done well. We are starting on a long and enviable democratic tradition and we do sincerely hope that now that there is abundant evidence that we have passed successfully the first stage in democracy, we should think seriously on embarking upon the second stage which is one of searching, critical self-examination. So that, we should have some form of Committee, we may call it a Bills Scrutiny Committee or otherwise, whose duty and function will be to spend more time than is available to the Legislature as a whole in considering our Bills before the House is called upon to go into them. I think if we do that many of us will be much more familiar with the terms of the Bills we pass. Many of us would be in a far better position to appreciate the practical as well as the academic implications of some of the Bills we pass and, I am sure, the public whom we have the humble honour of representing would be in a better position to be assured that the interest of the nation, and of all Sides concerned have been fully reflected in our legislations.

Whereupon the Minister of Finance rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the existing Standing Orders of this House be revoked and the Standing Orders contained in the draft of which a copy was laid upon the Table on the 18th April, 1961, be the Standing Orders of this House, subject to the following amendments reported from the Standing Orders Committee:—

(i) Standing Order 17.

Paragraph (b), page 17, leave out line 33 and add "may be determined by ballot".

(ii) Standing Order 26.

Paragraph (14), page 25, line 6, add after the word "name" the words "Ministers of State will be referred to as such and also by name".

(iii) Standing Order 55.

Paragraph (1) (a), page 50, line 24, leave out the word "five" and insert the word "seven".

Paragraph (1) (c), page 51, leave out paragraph (c) and insert the following:

"(c) to select and report to the House from time to time Notices of Motions of Private Members to be placed on the Order Paper on Tuesdays."

(iv) Standing Order 63.

Paragraph (3), page 59, line 20, leave out the word "five" and insert the word "seven".

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(MINISTER OF STATE, HON. J. C. O'BANDE).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes to one o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Thursday, 13th December, 1962

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** The following Paper which has been published in Supplementary *Official Gazette* No. 92 of 22nd November, 1962, copies of which have already been distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table.

National Provident (Seamen) Regulations 1962, Legal Notice No. 158 of 1962.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Commonwealth Parliamentary  
Conference

\*O.927. **Mr V. L. Lajide** asked the Prime Minister, how much did the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Pre-Conference Tours cost the Federal Government and what are the details of expenditure.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (M. Abubakar Isandu): The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Pre-Conference Tours cost the Federal Government the sum of £5,517-3s-7d. Details of expenditure are available in the office of the Clerk of the Parliament.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Voting at United Nations

\*O.888. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, if he will explain why Nigeria abstained from voting at the United Nations General Assembly on the Soviet Resolution to make the Peoples' Republic of China the true representative of China in place of the Nationalist China.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Mr M. O. Okilo): It is well known that Nigeria has always maintained that the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China is the effective Government of that country. The Government has also always advocated that the Peoples' Republic of China should be admitted to the United Nations Organisation. Whenever it was suggested that the Government

of the Peoples' Republic of China should be admitted as a replacement for any other existing Member, the Government felt that there was a far more reaching point of principle involved to which we could not commit ourselves. If the Soviet resolution was a straight forward one, asking for the admission of the Peoples' Republic of China, our delegation would have voted for it. As the resolution sought to replace an existing Member of the United Nations, our delegation was instructed to abstain from voting on the resolution.

Representation Abroad

\*O.889. **Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether Nigeria has any diplomatic relations with the Peoples' Republic of China, German Democratic Republic, Algeria, Cuba and Indonesia.

**Mr Okilo :** Although Nigeria is in friendly relations with all countries in the world it has not been possible to establish formal diplomatic relations with several countries including the countries mentioned by the hon. Member. In some cases, arrangements are in progress for the establishment of formal relations. In others the Nigerian Government has had friendly and close contact with the countries concerned.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): What about trade relations with other countries?

**Mr Speaker :** Mr Mbah will now ask his Question by special notice.

Forged Currency Notes

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, if he is aware of the judgment recently passed in a case at Onitsha, to the effect that under the present law no offence of forgery of Central Bank notes could be established because the law referred to the West African Currency and has not been amended to relate to the former, and if he will make a statement.

**The Minister of Finance :** I have had a notice on this Question from another hon. Member. The matter is being looked into by my Legal Adviser in consultation with the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. In the meantime, I should like to say that the West African Currency note is no more legal tender in Nigeria. It is one of those currency notes that are still being exchanged, but I do

not think that one could under the Currency Ordinance forge it with impunity.

However, as I said, the magistrate is entitled to his judgment which will be looked into by my hon. Friend and colleague the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. As far as we are concerned, we are examining it from the Central Bank's point of view.

#### ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

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

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

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : This is one of the best Motions ever brought before this House by the Leader of the House, the hon. Minister of Finance. We are all very happy as it gives us time to go and prepare for Christmas. But I would like to say that we have got a very short sitting. Some business of the Government which ought to have been done here have not been done. I therefore, ask the Minister of Finance and also the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to summon another meeting as early as possible after Christmas. There are certain business, which we believe should not be done in the Cabinet but should be brought here in the House.

As I said, we are very happy that we shall be leaving here tomorrow. I support.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : It is very difficult to assess the mentality of some Members. They should give the Ministers time to consider their consolidated allowance. We want to give them time to consider hon. Members' consolidated allowance.

The Leader of the House wants from now to Christmas and that is why he is asking that at its rising this day the House should adjourn *sine die*. They want to have time to consider what hon. Members are asking them to do.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri South) : I did not get what the last speaker was saying, but I believe that he was referring to a matter that is very pressing to the Members of this House. That is, since we entered this austerity period, it has become too austere for hon. Members and hon. Members consider that their consolidated allowance means nothing. It does not

help them to travel and see their constituencies. It does not pay for their sitting here. Therefore, it is necessary on this Motion of Adjournment to remind our good Prime Minister and the Members of the Cabinet to consider giving a reasonable consolidated allowance to Members of Parliament.

If I may add, it is necessary to know that the Northern Regional Government is paying £240 consolidated allowance. If you will allow me to give another example, in Britain, I think Members of Parliament receive about £800 consolidated allowance. I humbly feel that in this Motion of Adjournment, Government should give serious consideration to the increase in the consolidated allowance.

**The Minister of Finance** : I know that hon. Members know the sympathetic disposition of our respected Prime Minister, and I can only say that I will convey the feelings of the House on this matter to the Prime Minister for consideration.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS (NORTHERN NIGERIA) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for references to the Resident in any Federal Law to have effect, in relation to Northern Nigeria, as references to the Provincial Commissioner, be read a Second time.

This is a very short Bill. The Northern Region has decided to appoint Provincial Commissioners in place of Residents of Provinces to look after provincial administration, and this Bill is designed to transfer the functions which were formerly exercised by the Residents to the Commissioners. The Regional Law passed by the Regional Legislature had already conferred the functions which are the responsibility of the Regional Government, and the Federal Government has certain functions conferred upon the Residents and these are what this Bill seeks to do. It is very short and non-controversial and I recommend it to the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS (NORTHERN NIGERIA) BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(CONSTRUCTION OF REFERENCES TO THE RESIDENT).*

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): In this connection I wish to stress the need for the establishment of these Commissioners which the Northern Region wants to establish and which the Eastern Region has established. I wish it could also be extended to the Western Region. In future this should be taken as the basis of the Government in this country, so that the unitary government which has been desired by our parties would dominate this country in future.

Sir, I beg to support.

*Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(The Prime Minister).*

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): This Bill is welcome as has been said by hon. Members and I hope that the establishment of Provincial Commissioners in the Northern Region will contribute to the progress and happiness of the people of that Region as it has done for the Eastern Region.

Experience has shown that these Provincial Commissioners—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of Order, the hon. Gentleman, is misleading the House. The Provincial Commissioners in the Eastern Region are nothing more than political Organising Secretaries.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): I wonder where the hon. Gentleman from Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) came from.

**Mr Speaker**: These are no points of order.

**Mr Ogbalu**: It is a well known fact throughout the Federation that the Provincial Commissioners in the Eastern Region have been doing

a lot of good work, and while I support this Bill I hope that the Commissioners in the North will also bring progress and prosperity to the Northern Region.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): It is most unfortunate that we cannot get any other name for these administrative officers other than Provincial Commissioners. I remember many years ago when we were under old regime, Provincial Commissioners were carried in hammocks, using free labour whenever they went on tour. While I support the Bill I would like it to be impressed upon those people to be appointed Provincial Commissioners that the age of carrying people in hammocks is past and dead and is not to come any more. So our Provincial Commissioners these days should not be expected to be carried in hammocks—

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): On a point of order, I think the hon. Member for Ijebu Central (*Chief Okunowo*) is irrelevant because the fact that this Bill is presented to this House does not in any way entitle him to say anything about the Northern Provincial Commissioners about which he knows little. The Bill only seeks to transfer those functions and powers vested hitherto in the Resident by the Federal Law to the Provincial Commissioners, and that is all.

**Mr Speaker**: I would not say he was totally irrelevant, but he probably has wandered rather too far.

**Chief Okunowo**: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am speaking from experience. Perhaps my hon. Friend was not born in the age that I was referring to. In those days Provincial Commissioners were carried all around in hammocks whenever they went out. I therefore want us to see that the Provincial Commissioners appointed these days are not carried about in places and they should not use our people to carry them about whenever they are on tour.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr S. Lana): I am so happy about this Bill because it is very, very progressive. I would say that when a new Government is restored in my Region I would like the new government to take similar steps to appoint Provincial Commissioners so that we

may have a uniform provincial administration in the country as this may lead to the revision of the present Constitution which is very very difficult to operate.

I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): This Bill is welcome, but I want to sound a note of warning.

To-day in the Eastern Region we have Provincial Commissioners and we are now introducing it in the Northern Region, and in a very short time I hope the Western Region Government will do the same thing. I must warn that Provincial Commissioners when appointed should not be used as an instrument of oppression and suppression by some political parties in this country to eliminate their opponents.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Daura** (Maska): I rise to support the Third Reading of this Progress Bill. It is very progressive and tends to promote understanding and better relations between the Regional Governments and the public. In this way, it helps the Regional Government to hear the complaints of the public so that the government can take the best measures to remedy them.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Regional Governments for introducing this system of administration.

I support the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to consolidate and amend certain enactments relating to the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges be read a Second time.

Prior to independence, Nigeria could not exchange diplomatic representatives with foreign countries legally and normally as an Independent country until October. But in 1947 the Diplomatic Privileges Extension Ordinance was passed to make provision for certain International Organisations such as the

United Nations Organisation and specialised agencies. In 1957 the Diplomatic Privileges Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland Ordinance was enacted to extend Immunities and Privileges to Consular and Commonwealth representatives, and in certain respects Nigeria and other Commonwealth employees of these representatives.

Since Nigeria became independent it has become necessary to have a Legislation which will be comprehensive, and to extend Immunities in accordance with the normal practice in international relations. In consequence, this Bill which is a consolidating Bill and at the same time an amending Bill has been introduced in order to have a comprehensive Law regulating Immunities and Privileges as extended normally to all foreign and Commonwealth countries.

The object of the Bill is quite clearly stated. The Bill is divided into three parts. Part I deals with Privileges and Immunities to foreign and Commonwealth countries; Part II deals with Immunities and Privileges to international organisations and specialised agencies and persons connected therewith, and Part III deals with the interpretation regulations and miscellaneous provisions.

The Bill is non-controversial and is very urgent and necessary, considering the present state of Nigeria, and I am sure hon. Members would welcome this Bill. It is handy indeed and it will make it possible for all hon. Members to obtain in one document all the privileges and immunities that have been extended to the Diplomats in this country as is the practice in other countries.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central): This Bill is non-controversial and I support it whole-heartedly. It is very timely because it is one of those things that must come with independence; codification of our laws which operated when we were under Great Britain. But Sir, I want to sound a note of warning.

Just over two years ago, we were under the protecting wings of the British Government. To-day, we are exposed because we are opening embassies and having diplomatic rela-

[**DR OKEKE**]  
tions with many countries of the world, and these countries are bringing their shrewd diplomats into our country. We must be extra vigilant because these diplomats could be serving their countries against the interests of Nigeria. They could spy on our major projects and reveal our secrets, and yet hide under diplomatic immunity. We must tighten our intelligence service in this country, train our personnel to be able to hold their own against these diplomats from countries that have been doing the job many years before we came into it.

I will implore our Minister of Foreign Affairs to exercise utmost vigilance and train Nigerians who would be able to find out when these diplomats begin to spy on our very strategic projects in this country. We have many things to hide indeed because we are a country and we have to protect our own interests. In the past what we had was protected for us by Britain. Now we have to do this ourselves.

My hon. Friend here asked why we have no diplomatic relations with Russia, China, Cuba and other communist countries. Those communist countries coming into this country are coming not only because they like us, but because they want to carry on warfare on our own soil.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): On a point of order, I would like the last speaker to clarify what he really means by "carrying on warfare on our own soil".

**Mr Speaker**: I think the hon. Member should depart from his attack on diplomacy.

**Dr Okeke**: Yes, Sir, I know there are so many friends of the communists here in this House, who must defend them.

However, I have only tried to point out that in this age of ideological warfare this country must be extra vigilant in having diplomatic relations with other countries, especially those countries with whom we differ ideologically.

**Mr F. L. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the hon. Member is trying to show that Nigeria is enemy to certain countries and in that respect is deviating from the declared foreign policy of this country of non-alignment.

**Mr Speaker**: Maybe the hon. Member was not careful in selecting his words, but

it is probably clear that in his mind he does not mean that Nigeria is an enemy to any country. May I remind hon. Members that on speaking in matters of foreign affairs, they should be selective in what they say.

**Dr Okeke**: There is no point in hiding what we know is true. We have to come to the bare facts and face the truth, whether we want it or not. It does not matter to which camp one belongs. That does not arise. But Nigeria's interest comes first. We are Nigerians first and our interests must be protected, and our Foreign Minister must see to it that no matter from which country a diplomat comes, our interests must be protected and our integrity must be respected. So all these diplomats coming in must know that they are treading on the soil of a country that is respected, a country that has stood its ground, and there is no going round about it. Which ever camp we belong to, we are all Nigerians primarily, and stand for Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): On the principle of "do unto others as you would like them to do unto you", I would like to support this Bill. But when it comes to the point that my house is being destroyed on account of a privilege of diplomatic immunity, I am bound to say a few words.

There are some countries—I am not going to mention names—but some embassies in this country are using this diplomatic privilege to the detriment of this country. I would like to cite the case of an embassy buying about 300 cases of whisky in two months. This embassy buys 300 cases of whisky in two months because it is not going to pay any duties on them. This is to the detriment of this country. I think this is a matter that should be examined by our Minister of Finance, and he should look into it with a view to sending a report to their home Government that their embassy in Nigeria is consuming so many cases of whisky in two months. They will then know whether they have got enough money to buy three cases of whisky in two months. They all use this place as black market. Some firms in this country were fined heavy sums of money only a few weeks ago. They bought all this whisky from the foreign embassies in this country.

I should like this matter to be looked into because when we say there is diplomatic immunity, and this works directly to our detriment, I do not think it is quite an easy matter.

Coming back, to the question of privilege, definitely we would like to support this Bill because the issue is a grave one. We would like our people to be honoured abroad. In the same way, we would like to honour people in our own country. I fully support this Bill, but I would like the Government to look into this question of profiteering or black marketing under the cloak of diplomatic privilege.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambata)**: While I welcome this Bill, I would like to appeal to our Foreign Minister to see to it that our ambassadors and diplomats abroad do get the same privileges. It is very very embarrassing for one to hear on the air that a Nigerian diplomat has been refused accommodation in other countries. I know Sir, the Minister is doing his best and I would exhort him to try more.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Albatan Yerima Balla (Adamawa North West)**: In supporting this Bill, I must say that since immunity is not classified as a means for the diplomats and ambassadors in this country to undermine our sovereignty, it is really necessary. And here I must quote our Chief Whip who said that immunity must be granted to Nigerians.

We always read in the newspapers of places in the African continent or Europe or America, our own flags cannot fly over our embassies. We also read about countries where our embassies are charged and even searched.

If our country is independent, as we surely are, the immunity granted to all embassies in Nigeria, must be granted to our diplomats abroad in all parts of the world. And in addition, this immunity should not be used, whether by an Eastern country or a Western country, here in Nigeria, to undermine Nigeria's sovereignty. That is important, and the Foreign Minister must take this into consideration, and ensure that the sovereignty of Nigeria is respected. We cannot allow our sovereignty to be undermined by this privilege of diplomatic immunity.

Sir, I support the Bill.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South)**: I rise to support this Bill. But in supporting the Bill, I have to say a word or two to the Foreign Minister about certain criticisms that are being levelled against his Ministry. The criticism is that there is some sort of discrimination in his Ministry in the appointment of Ambassadors to represent us abroad. Many people feel that most of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners representing Nigeria abroad are mainly from the Northern and Eastern Regions.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (Dambata)**: On a point of order, what the hon. Member is saying is most irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker**: I think the hon. Member should come to the point.

**Mr Ajibola**: This Bill is a very lovely one and when we want representatives from other countries to enjoy certain amenities in this country, we too should like our own representatives abroad to enjoy the same amenities. But in sending these representatives abroad, it is for Nigeria at this juncture to make sure that representation should be fairly distributed over the whole country.

At present there are, I do not know the exact number, I think about fifty ambassadors representing Nigeria abroad, and 90 per cent of these ambassadors—

**Mr Speaker**: Order. Is Mr Amadi raising a point of order?

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi (Nsukka Central)**: On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman appears to be ignorant of the Staff List of the Foreign Office.

**Mr Speaker**: Order. Ignorance is not a point of order.

**Mr Ajibola**: Thank you Sir. Most of the staff representing us abroad are mainly from the Northern and Eastern Regions, and I therefore appeal to the Minister that in future some appointments should be made from the Western Region.

I support the Bill.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi (Enyong North)**: Before I dwell on this point (*Interruptions*)—

**Mr Speaker**: Order. Will hon. Members please maintain silence. Mr Udenyi speak louder please.



**Mr Udenyi** : I will first of all crave your indulgence, Sir, to join me in supplicating the goodness of the Members to listen to me attentively. That will help me to talk better, because once they are talking, they cannot understand what I am saying. It is very childish indeed to come to this House and make noise when somebody is speaking. It is childish indeed, I must confess.

Before I dwell on this point, I must say that this Bill is a necessity, and is of primary importance in this country. I would ask hon. Members to think deeply over the words "diplomatic immunity". Just survey the meaning. They will undoubtedly learn that the Foreign Minister wants the security of this country. I am going to give one advice on this point. Before sending out an ambassador to any country, we must give very good consideration to the appointment. Party politics should, and must be cleared out of it. It must go to a man who has a good scholarstic attainment because, if the man is there, all his attitude overseas will reflect on Nigeria, and Nigeria will be judged by his actions. So if we send a stupid man abroad we must remember that he represents Nigeria as a whole. That is why I say party politics should be cleared from it. We want people of integrity, people who believe in duty and sincerity of purpose.

My happiness on the other side is that the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs is an intelligent man. With him, I think, we are covered. He is going to do his best to see that no diplomat can come here to deceive us.

Last time in the Eastern House of Assembly a certain Member made a statement and suggested that our ambassador in Ghana should be removed.

**An hon. Member** : Embassy, not ambassador.

**Mr Udenyi** : Well, he said our embassy should be closed. I object to such a statement or suggestion.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I sincerely support the Second Reading of this Bill. It is gratifying to note that diplomatic immunity is reciprocal. I think that I have one or two observations to make. In the first place, there has been some determined

attempt to mislead this House, and the nation this morning in the suggestion that the representatives of this country abroad are mostly people from the North and the East. But the Member who was at pains to strike that note may have lost sight of the fact that our most important Missions abroad—in the United Nations, in the United States, in Ghana, Freetown, Liberia, Conakry and a number of other places—are manned by the people of the Western Region. One would not have to enumerate all of them. As a matter of fact, if he is suggesting that he himself is not made one of the representatives, that can be understood, but certainly I think that it is a deliberate attempt to provoke once more tribal rivalry if he is to start talking about the Western Region not being represented. He should come out plain to say exactly what he wants to say, but even if he does that, he would still be wrong.

The Bill contains some reference to visiting representatives. I think there again reciprocity is worth-while, but I think from experience, our visiting V.I.Ps. or visiting delegations abroad may fail to enjoy the diplomatic immunities to which they are entitled through lack of vigilance on the part of our own foreign representatives. For example, but for the vigilance of our Consulate in New York this year, the hon. the Speaker and the President of the Senate when they arrived in the United States would have had nobody to attend to them, even though they were visiting the country on the invitation of the United States Government, and that was not due to negligence on the part of the State Department, but somebody misinformed the State Department.

When the delegation left here, a message was dispatched to New York to say that the delegation was on its way by Pan American flight, but somehow somebody transmitting the message and added "not", so that the State Department was under the impression that the President of the Senate and the Speaker were not arriving in the United States on that day. But for the vigilance of the Nigerian Consulate there, the delegation would have been completely flabbergasted.

Then in the United Kingdom the opposite happened. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House arrived in the United Kingdom at Southampton on board the *Queen Elizabeth*, but there was nobody there

to meet them not even a third class clerk from the Nigerian High Commissioner's Office. The result was that the President of the Senate and the Speaker suffered the humiliation of having their baggages treated like those of the ordinary people in the Customs and, in fact, but for the restraint exercised by the British Customs officials, they would have missed their train. This is not good enough.

I do sincerely hope that in future our foreign diplomats will be conscious of the fact that the dignity which our people are accorded abroad will to some extent be conditioned by the diplomats themselves. If they show complete disregard, then we cannot blame the foreign authorities for whatever they do to our people.

A lot has been said about the type of representatives we have abroad. Much more care should be exercised in the selection of our foreign diplomats and when they are selected, efforts should be made to make sure that they understand some of the responsibilities they have to exercise when they take their places. I do not think I need say more than this on that.

The third point I would like to make is that anyone who comes across some of our diplomats abroad complains about the slow pace of communication between them and their home office. Not being within the Ministry, many of us are not in a position to deny or confirm this but I would certainly appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to make sure that officials under him give correspondence coming in from our Missions overseas urgent attention.

Some have complained that when they make requests in respect of which they expect replies within a very short time their papers would not be acknowledged for a very long time, let alone the answer to their requests. I think that our Foreign Ministry has started a difficult job with frankness and with boldness. I do not think it calls for blame at this stage, but what we ought to do is to give them all the support and encouragement we can because to represent a nation overseas is not an easy job, and to conduct the affairs of a sovereign State overseas is not an easy job. So I think both the Minister of Foreign Affairs and our foreign diplomats are certainly doing a very difficult job very courageously and we do sincerely hope that they will not be too slow in learning from their mistakes.

**M. Muhammadu Bayero (Bici West):** I rise to support the Bill, and in doing so I would like to appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Government to consider our relationship with other countries. What I mean is that I should like the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Government to see that if there is any foreign country which is not willing to co-operate with Nigeria, and wants to bring disunity between Nigeria and any other African country Nigeria should break her relationship with that country.

It is understood that some African countries do not want to co-operate with Nigeria, so, Nigeria should consider very carefully her relationship with such African countries. If such countries are still not willing to co-operate, we should break relationship with them.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban):** While I welcome this Bill, I would like the Minister of Foreign Affairs to take note of any country whose diplomat in Nigeria is trying to work against the solidarity and the sovereignty of this nation. Such country's embassy should be closed because the people of this country fought very hard to make the British Government grant independence to Nigeria. We would not be prepared to surrender that hard-won independence through the subversive activities of any foreign embassy.

For instance, some countries of the world have taken active steps in the past to send away any diplomatic representative of another country who carries on subversive activities against the State. In our own country to-day we should be vigilant enough and in doing that the members of the Police Force should work very closely with all the embassies in this country as we are being treated in other countries of the world.

The question of discrimination against our embassies and ambassadors in some parts of the world should be looked into. Time without number we have heard on the radio and we have read in the daily newspapers how our representatives abroad have been discriminated against, especially in America. I think the Minister of Foreign Affairs should take serious objection against such discrimination against the diplomats of our country.

[MR OKORONKWO]

Nigeria is a very young country in regard to diplomatic representations. I agree with this, but those who are sent abroad to represent Nigeria must represent us in all aspects.

Finally, I am appealing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to take a very bold step to watch closely any ambassador or consul who is working against the solidarity of Nigeria and send away such ambassador or consul forthwith.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr P. U. Umoh** (Abak South East) : I have the greatest respect for this Bill and I support it. In doing so, I only want, to comment very briefly on the points which my hon. Friends who have spoken before have not touched upon. In particular, I want to deal with the question of reciprocity of treatment given to diplomatic representatives, which my hon. Friend the Member for Orlu South East (*Mr Akwivu*) has mentioned.

An hon. Member on the Government Bench also mentioned the fact that in America our diplomats are being treated in a very bad manner, like card boards. Well, if America does this on the supposition that we are inferior and, therefore, we are deserving of that treatment, there is no reason why Nigeria should not tell America bluntly that we are not people who should be treated as inferiors.

If there is a known case that a Nigerian diplomat in the United States is being treated in a derogatory manner, there is no reason why we should not pay America back in her own coins. In this light there are about three types of people to be dealt with. There are those whom one has to flatter before one gets what one wants. There are those whom one has to coax and cajole before they admit one on one's terms or at least on terms acceptable to both parties.

Lastly, there are those who must be bullied in order that we can knock sense into them. I think we should try to classify America in one of these categories. It is not only America but also any other country which follows the American pattern of treatment. If we find that it is only by bullying that America will come to her senses, then let us bully America at all costs. Without this it will be impossible to maintain our honour and prestige.

I want to make a very important point here. In all strategic Ministries, there should be a regulation stating that no direct appointment should be offered by any foreign diplomat to an employee of this country. I have in mind especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have just read in the papers what happened in England a few days ago where a woman was convicted for having divulged secrets to a foreign diplomat. Unless the intercourse, social or otherwise, between foreign diplomats and certain officials in policy making posts in this country is regulated, I am sorry to say that the security of this country can never be guaranteed. So, I am appealing to the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to tighten up control of his offices so as to avoid history repeating itself. I beg to support.

**Mr P. O. Eleke** (Okigwi South East) : I am happy to support this Bill. The granting of diplomatic immunities is a time-honoured practice among friendly countries. It has often been a healthy sign of the friendliness and good relationship that exist between one country and another. So we welcome this Bill. Nigeria wants to be friendly to all the countries of the world except perhaps South Africa because of her *apathied* policy. But diplomatic immunity is a reciprocal privilege to foreign envoys. The Minister should therefore bear this in mind when the question of granting diplomatic immunities to representatives of and organisations from other countries arises. If any country fails to accord our diplomats in their country the same privileges granted to her envoy in Nigeria, please see that the immunities or privileges granted to that country's envoy are modified or withdrawn at once.

Any Nigerian who is sent to any country to represent Nigeria goes there to project the personality of Nigeria. He should not be carried away by anything no matter how plausible; he must not do anything that belittles our great country Nigeria in the eyes of the world. Our representatives should be careful of what they say, when and how to say it to reflect the proper image of Nigeria abroad.

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs** : I want to thank hon. Members for a lot of constructive criticisms they have made. I can assure you that when Members show concern about the security of this country, they are rendering great service to this country and the people of Nigeria.

I whole-heartedly agree with hon. Members that we have not succeeded in winning our independence from the United Kingdom in order to surrender it to anybody else. Consequently, it is part of our duty to be extremely vigilant in all matters pertaining to possible subversion in this country. I need not tell hon. Members that I will always be available in the Ministry and our other Government agencies will always welcome any useful information that will enable us to guard against this type of trade. I do not need to recall to the minds of hon. Members an occasion when it became necessary for my Ministry to show red light and I think the nation has seen now the consequences and the truth about showing the red light at the appropriate time. (*Applause*).

Now, Sir, a very serious allegation has been made about abuse of diplomatic privileges by some foreign representatives in this country who, it is alleged, used diplomatic immunities to try to defraud the revenue of this country and introduce a kind of economic subversion in our country. I can assure hon. Members that between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we shall endeavour to make this type of subversion impossible in the near future, and I promise you that I will do everything possible and use all available measures consistent with the normal practice in international relation to deal with any foreign representative who thought it necessary to misrepresent his country and defraud our own country.

I share the concern of hon. Members for the treatment that is meted out to some of our representatives abroad not only to our representatives but to representatives of African states abroad. I would like Members not to think that if we did not shout from the mountain top or protest against this, this means that we have been doing nothing. As you know, diplomacy is not conducted in a public square. More often, these things are done more effectively quietly and very often certain things are done which bring discredit to a nation by some irresponsible people. And in all these matters one has to take into consideration so many factors; some of them purely human and consequently, it is the duty of the Foreign Office and all representatives to study each case on its merit and use and devise appropriate measures to deal with them.

But if all legitimate measures are tried and these fail, well there is the law of reprisal which is the safeguard of respect for international law and international relation. So I can assure hon. Members that even though we are a young country and we are entering into the field of diplomacy in which countries have engaged for four or five hundred years, this country is not doing badly at all. We are very conscious of our limitations and will do everything possible to enhance to the best of our ability, the prestige of this country.

I cannot leave a statement which was made by the hon. Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*) without some comments. It is not true that we have fifty Ambassadors abroad and it is not true that ninety per cent of the Ambassadors are from the Northern Region and Eastern Region. In fact, I can assure the hon. Member that without giving him the names of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the Western Region, some of the most important posts to-day in our representations abroad are held by people from the Western Region. Therefore, I think it is only fair to say that this Government has been trying, taking into consideration the materials at our disposal, to see to it that we build a Foreign Service that is Nigerian and represents Nigeria. It is my conviction that if there is any Service that should not have tribalism introduced into it, it is the Foreign Service. Nigerians abroad must represent Nigeria and not any particular Region or any section of the country. They must speak for Nigeria and Nigeria alone, and my concern is that members of the Foreign Ministry should be Nigerians first, Nigerians last and Nigerians all the time.

A comment was made about recruitment and what should be taken into consideration. I can assure hon. Members that this Government, in its recruitment, lays great emphasis on character. It is not enough that one should be clever, it is not enough that one should have academic degrees, but it is absolutely necessary that whoever represents Nigeria or conducts the foreign affairs of this country must be a man or woman of character because with sound character it is not possible for one to work against the interest of one's country. But with a weak character or clever character, one may put a rogue in the diplomatic service

[MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]  
and he will ruin one's own country. Therefore, Sir, in the choice of personnel to represent this country we attach very great importance to the character of our nationals.

**An hon. Member :** What kind of character, N.C.N.C. character ?

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs :** Nigerian character, the character that projects Nigeria in the best light, the character that is consistent with the best tradition in the African. It is that character that makes one proud of the best that is in one's culture and tradition. That is what we expect from Nigerians who represent Nigeria abroad.

In conclusion, I want to say here that our country is a free country, a free society, not a closed one ; and consequently, great latitude is given to all citizens to express their legitimate opinions. As long as I am entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the Foreign Affairs of this country, I shall always welcome fair and honest criticisms, but I ask hon. Members that the conduct of foreign affairs is not as easy as it looks on paper.

Many things go to contribute to arriving at a decision. Perhaps some factors which Members may not think of go to contribute to arriving at a decision and it is after careful analysis of a situation that you arrive at certain conclusions. You do not aim at perfection, but you try to do what is best for your country not forgetting the fundamental policy and interest of the country whenever a decision is being taken. But it is not for us to conduct our affairs by relying on mere sentiments. A thing may be popular but not realistic or practicable.

I thank hon. Members for the manner they have supported this Bill and I promise them that we will do our best to be worthy of the confidence they have reposed in this Government.

*Whereupon the Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim) rose in his place and claimed to move that the Question be now put.*

*Question that the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Original question put and agreed to.*

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

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES  
BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-23 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedules 1-6 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Third time—(The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations).*

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North) :** We are really grateful that this Bill is to be passed but I merely want to make one or two points for the Minister to take note of. Sometime ago, we read in the newspapers that the house of the Acting High Commissioner for Nigeria in Ghana was searched, or an attempt was made to search his house and this matter just ended like that. As the Minister rightly said, diplomacy is not to be conducted in a public square but I think that this sort of cold war between Nigeria and Ghana should be properly reconsidered. I think Government should take a realistic view of the situation so as to determine the relationship between Nigeria and Ghana in the interest of this country and in the interest of Pan-Africanism which we all crave for.

The other point is the case of an Ambassador who was involved in a fight in one of the night clubs in Lagos. It was reported that an Ambassador fought a lady in a night club, called her all sorts of names and got away with it because he cannot be prosecuted. I do not think we need such Ambassadors here. If this is true nobody should hide under diplomatic immunity to do all sorts of things and get away. We have also heard of cases of Ambassadors who buy cars for two or three months, sell them and buy another one making profit on the sale because they buy cars at a cheap rate. These people are duping the country. The Minister should take a serious view of this sort of thing. I am not going to refer to cases of drinks, these are a sort of economic subversion as the Minister said:

I will now go to the question of publicity abroad. For instance, we get a monthly or quarterly publication from the Foreign Embas-

sies of other countries. I think it will not be out of place if such a thing is introduced under the direct supervision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and for our Foreign Ambassadors, I recommend that they read a book entitled "*The Ugly American*". I will not go into details of that book but if they can read it, I am sure they will have a lot to learn from that book.

On the question of subversion, I am all for the suggestion that if any Foreign Mission here hiding under diplomatic immunity attempts to resort to subversion there can be no question of giving them a minute, they should be sent out.

The final point I want to raise is about land. I understand that in Nigeria Foreign Missions are given land to build houses here but in overseas countries we are never allowed to purchase land to build houses: even to get quarters is difficult. How can these Foreign Missions buy land in Nigeria and become Landlords when they cannot offer us the same privilege abroad? I think these are points which we have to look into if diplomatic immunities are to be maintained.

I support the Bill.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central): I rise first of all to defend the idea of treating missionaries like traders. They have come out here to help us and our progress in education and enlightenment depend largely on them. In this way, Members come here and criticise these people forgetting that many of our brothers are employed by these mercantile houses. Hon. Members have criticised the U.A.C. so much that they are now clearing out from Nigeria. I do not think it is good to extend all these criticisms to the poor missionaries who have come here to help us.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): On a point of order, the Bill deals with diplomatic immunities and not missionaries.

**Mr Babatunde**: Another thing that I have just noticed is that there is somebody living next door to me in the Legco Flats who has been taking Government money for several months and has never been fully employed. I think this situation must be rectified and I am not prepared to mention any name—

**Mr Speaker**: Much as you may have the right not to mention names, certainly the Bill has nothing to do with Legco Flats.

**Mr Babatunde**: I am not saying a man should not live in the Legco Flats, I have just made reference to that because I always see the gentleman going up and down without any—

**Mr Speaker**: The Bill has nothing to do with gentlemen.

**Mr Babatunde**: I think if Mr Speaker will permit me I will mention Chief Oweh who has been receiving Government money without doing any work for us. The newspapers reported that he was going to Conakry but how far this is true I do not know.

**Dr B. U. Nzeribe** (Orlu West): I want to mention only a few points of importance. One of these has to do with some foreign nationals who live, trade and work in this country, whose country has no diplomatic missions in Nigeria. There are many people like that living among Nigerians now. Many of these people are traders, some are businessmen and they have no Embassy in this country. When they come into contact with Nigerians in their day-to-day business and Nigerian businessmen are either adversely affected or harassed, there is no official way that these people can be handled. I am just wondering whether it will be possible for the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs to arrange some sort of loose supervision of these foreign national. For example, Syria has no diplomatic representative in Nigeria but many Syrians are business-men and in their day-to-day business transactions, they and Nigerians come into contact and many a time certain things happen and it is difficult for Nigerians to know to whom they should send their complaints.

The other thing, is that when we speak of rights and privileges and immunities, we seem to forget that there are so many thousands of Nigerians abroad. Last time, I fought and fought here without success about Nigerians in the Cameroun Republic. After I had spoken about it, some of the incidents occurred which were more embarrassing than, and could not be compared with the first one. It was

[MR CHIEDOZIE]

marked for electrical installation, but up till now, there is no light in those areas. With these few remarks I beg to support this Supplementary Bill.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East): I think that the one million pounds which has been loaned to the E.C.N. to expand its activities is very welcome. There are one or two points I want to make. The first is that the cost of electricity in Nigeria is still very high and we want it reduced. It is high not only for domestic consumption, but for other industries. If electricity is too costly, then the products of these industries using electricity will also be costly.

In this world of competition we must make sure that the articles and products which we make locally compare favourably with those of other countries.

The E.C.N. is responsible, at least in Ibadan, for supplying street lights, and there is an arrangement between the Council and the E.C.N. to erect the poles and supply the lamps in the streets. In 1958 an approach was made to E.C.N. for the supply of these street lights and they asked for a deposit of £3,000 which was paid. On the strength of that the Council promised the people in the areas that these lights would be supplied. Poles were erected and the people kept on expecting the day when they would have these lights. £3,000 has already been paid to E.C.N. but nothing has been done for the past four years to supply the street lights. This is very very serious and I hope that the E.C.N. will take this up and supply these lights, because I do not understand why a man should take a deposit for services not yet rendered.

**An hon. Member**: Do they pay interest on the money?

**Chief Akinloye**: They do not pay interest.

The other point I want to make is the question of staff. All is not well in the E.C.N. We are very happy that the expatriates there are now leaving and making room for Nigerians, that is very good indeed and we are all very grateful for that. But among the rank and file of the Nigerian officers the feeling is growing that nepotism and favouritism are gaining grounds. This complaint is common among the Electrical Engineers. Those who are qualified and senior in rank are not promoted.

It will be very unfortunate if after getting qualified Electrical Engineers to take the place of the expatriates we still keep these qualified men down because of nepotism and favouritism. I hope that the E.C.N. will see that an end is put to this because only a contented staff can give good services, and I am sure that these boys are willing to work. But when junior and less qualified people are promoted above more qualified and experienced people the Department is heading for trouble.

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

**Zanna Isa Monguno** (Chad): In supporting this Motion I appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to provide every town in the Federation with electricity. There are so many big towns in the Federation which are not supplied with electricity. I also want to say something about electricity charges. The charges are too high. In some places the E.C.N. charges 5d per unit. I feel that this is too high and I appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power to see that the charges are reduced.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): I wish to support this Motion by associating myself with the remarks made by the Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*). I know quite frankly that the Minister, from my personal knowledge of him, and with his youthful dynamism will be up to the task. Some of these things are not the acts of the Minister himself. We must realise that the E.C.N., subject to the powers of the Minister, is autonomous in matters of staff. Fortunately we know that the Minister of Mines and Power will continue to maintain the balance and see to it that the basis for promotions and similar matters in the E.C.N. is nothing but efficiency.

The E.C.N. continues to be one arm of Government that is always annoying house owners and tenants. In Lagos, up till now, it is not unusual to have power faults and power failure. A couple of days ago a friend of this country who is here on tour was given a party, and most of the time the lights were off. The E.C.N. was contacted and their men came round but they could not see what was wrong. So there was black-out in the whole

area for about ten hours. When we pay electric bills in Lagos, in Enugu or anywhere we expect maximum service. There are instances when foods kept in fridges go bad because of this sort of thing.

We all remember with gratitude the promptness with which the Minister, early this year, solved the problem of corrosion in the Boilers and the entry of oxygen into the system. At that time there were criticisms on the Floor of this House and within a few days the Minister came here and gave us an assurance and this has since been redeemed. We are sure that in this case the Minister will also be equal to the task and we are grateful for his dynamism.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin East): I rise to support this Motion. While appreciating the activities of our dynamic Minister I would urge him about the Ilorin extension. The E.C.N. has of its own volition and without the aid of the Government provided Ilorin with electricity but this has not been extended to many parts of the town. There are many quarters and places without light. The Council has cut down its expenditure and earmarked several thousands of pounds for electricity extension. We would like the Minister to see to it that the Ilorin extension is expedited.

**Oba S. A. Oladiran** (Okitipupa South): I rise to support the Second Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1962-63 under Head 623—Electricity. No amount of money is too much for the extension of electricity throughout the Federation. I am happy to say that last Monday, on my way from my home town, I saw certain Electrical Engineers doing some work at Okitipupa. I do not know if this is for election purposes or something like that, but I appreciate the efforts of the Minister of Mines and Power at the moment in supplying electricity to Okitipupa Division. I would like the Minister however to see that the other rural areas in Okitipupa Division are supplied with electricity.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, the hon. Member for Okitipupa (*Oba S. A. Oladiran*) is speaking as an Action Group Member.

**The Chairman**: Order. You either speak on a point of order or on a point of explanation; but certainly not on both at a time.

**Oba Oladiran**: Several hon. Members have suggested on the Floor of this House that industries should be extended to rural areas. Without electricity however, industries cannot function in these areas. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power in making the distribution of electricity not to concentrate his attention on Urban areas so that this £1 million will, as much as possible, be fairly distributed to all the regions. I do not want to say that one particular region is favoured, but I am saying that my own constituency in particular should be provided with electricity.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): I have given specific notice of Amendment and I want to speak on a specific item which is causing a lot of unrest in Awka Division to-day.

**The Chairman**: Order. You cannot secure an opportunity to speak by default.

**Mr F. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): On a point of order, I would like to know whether there is no longer need to put down Amendments on the Order Paper because those of us whose names are on the Order Paper have not been called.

**Mr O. C. Ememe** (Aba South): I have a specific point to make on this electricity loan of £1 million. The Afam Generating Plant in my own constituency is the one to supply the whole of Eastern Region with cheap electricity. From the Afam oil field we get the gas which will supply electricity, but unfortunately, the Six-year Development Programme is such that not one locality in my constituency is considered for electrification even though we deserve it. Many places are up to eleven thousand in population and yet not even one place is considered. I have referred this to the Minister in charge and also to E.C.N. and they have come to the conclusion that some areas would be supplied with electricity in my constituency. Unfortunately the hitch is that the Federal Government expects the Regional Government to vote some money in order to do this.

I am not in the Regional Government and I cannot influence the Regional Government. I am therefore praying the Federal Government to take this as an urgent matter because if



[MR EMEME]

my constituency is fortunate to supply the oil and gas to this country and also give the country all kinds of facilities that will promote industry there is no reason why we should not be compensated somehow. And the only compensation that you can give my people in this respect is the supply of electricity. It is not right to pass electric lights over our head to Aba township, Port Harcourt and Umuahia township and then deny us the benefit of this power within our own soil.

I wish the Minister to take this very seriously because I have no alternative but to appeal to the Minister.

**Alhaji K. O. S. Are** (Ibadan North West): The only contribution I want to make to this Debate is to call the attention of the Minister of Mines and Power to what the hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Chief Akinloye*) said about the £3,000 paid by the Ibadan Council about four years ago for the supply of street lights. If a private man had collected the money and promised to do the job and failed to do it for such a number of years, I wonder what would have happened to that private man. It is rather surprising that a Corporation of E.C.N. calibre collected money for over four years without completing its assignment. I would like the Minister of Mines and Power to institute a Commission of Inquiry into this matter.

Another point I would like to raise is that a lot of corruption is going on in the rank and file of the Electricity Corporation staff. For instance, if a man wants to instal light in his house, he knows how much it will cost him to get this done. Again if somebody wants promotion, even with proper qualifications, he does not get it. Rather somebody who has not got the qualifications will get it, after he has been able to tip the authorities. I wish the Minister of Mines and Power will look into this.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Maitama Sule): First of all it is most unfair for hon. Members to make certain very serious allegations on the Floor of the House, allegations that cannot be substantiated. I refer to the particular allegations that have been made by the hon. Member for Ibadan North East (*Alhaji Are*). I do not think there is all that corruption as he has

claimed in the E.C.N., and I do not believe that people should have to pay for their promotions.

I would like, therefore, to disabuse the minds of hon. Members about this particular allegation which has been made. And I do hope that if there is any specific case, the hon. Member will come and see me in my office and make these allegations to me there.

Before I reply to some of the points that have been made I would like to say one thing generally, and that is that I do realise that at this stage of our economic development we need electricity—not just electricity. We need plentiful, head electricity, and I would like to assure hon. Members that the E.C.N. is doing everything possible in order to supply this. I must admit that the cost of electricity in Nigeria is very high, and this will not give much encouragement to industries. But I would like to inform hon. Members that I have now made a policy that wherever possible, concessionary tariffs should be given to industries. This is done in order to encourage such industries. I am exploring the possibilities of engaging an expert to go into the whole matter and to advise me on how we can reduce the cost of electricity in order to encourage even house consumers to buy more electricity from the E.C.N.

I am in sympathy with Lagos consumers and incidentally, I happen to be one myself. I would like to say this, that we have been making every effort quite recently to see that there are less and less breakdowns, and in fact there is completely no breakdown at all. We are still investigating, and the report is yet to be submitted to me about the causes of the breakdown in the Ijora B power station. But I do hope that while this investigation is going on, we shall make every effort to stop all these things and to give supply continuously to Lagos consumers.

I do not like to go into the details of supply to individual towns, but I would like to say that before the E.C.N. decides to supply electricity to any area, it has got to be satisfied that it is not only economically feasible, but also economically viable to do so. It must be remembered that we are using public money and we cannot possibly supply electricity to any town unless we are satisfied that it is going to be profitable in the end. But it is our hope that in the end, we will be able to

supply electricity to every nook and corner in this country, and then Members will not have cause to complain on the Floor of this House.

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North):** I am very happy to be given this opportunity. I want to speak on a specific problem in connection with this £1 million loan to the Electricity Corporation. One finds that Awka in Onitsha Province is the latest town being supplied with electricity by the Electricity Corporation. I am grateful to the Minister of Mines and Power, for supplying Awka with electricity, but I have to make the point that a lot of protest telegrams and delegations have been sent to the E.C.N. and to the Minister of Mines and Power, and to the Regional Government in connection with what is going on now at Awka, as regards the electricity that is being installed there. The contractor is at present working there with his people. The point is that the E.C.N. while very efficient in its job did not undertake the initial survey of the town before beginning to work seriously.

One quarter of the town is completely left out in the major road, that is the Onitsha-Enugu trunk A road. There are now buildings, modern buildings, storey buildings, hospitals, schools, etc., along the road. But an area of only 880 yards or thereabouts has been left out in the town along the road. So the inhabitants have been protesting and accusing everybody of conspiring to make it impossible for this particular village to be supplied with electricity. I, as the humble Chairman of the Njikoka County Council, have been accused of being privy to the nonsupply of electricity to this particular area.

**The Chairman:** Order. The volume of under-tone is certainly drowning the hon. Member's speech.

**Mr Ogbalu:** This is a very important matter, as I have tried to explain, because I am representing these areas here in Parliament, and at the same time I am the Chairman of that Council. I have gone through the document which was presented by the E.C.N. The E.C.N. failed to make sufficient provision—I am not a technician to know where poles are to be placed and where they are not to be placed. I am saying that even if the Regional Government had no survey of Awka town,

the E.C.N. should have done the initial survey to find out that it would cause a lot of confusion and embarrassment if it just stopped abruptly at a certain point in the middle of the town, and in the major trunk road. The Broad Street, for instance, is a major street in Lagos. If you supply electricity up to the middle of it, and then stop, then you supply electricity to the branch streets, leaving the main trunk road. How will that sound?

The point I am making is that the Minister should see to it that somebody is sent to the spot to see the place where the contractor is working, so as to remove the present unrest. He has received several telegrams and delegations. If he has not received any himself, his workers, the Corporation and the Manager, and the Regional Government have them. And I am appealing very humbly on this matter, that it be taken very seriously at this moment.

I do not wish to speak longer. I am grateful for the supply, and I support the Bill. Thank you Mr Chairman.

**Mr V. L. Lajide (Ogbomosho South):** Thank you Mr Chairman. Last year when our able Minister of Mines and Power, the hon. Maitama Sule came to open the lights in Ogbomosho we appealed to him that the lights were not sufficient for the town and we begged him to extend it. He promised that he would see to that, but up till now nothing has been done. We are still appealing to him because a part of the town was lighted and the burden is so much on those people who have the light as the units are high. We still hope that the Minister will help us so that we have extension of electricity throughout the town.

*Whereupon the Minister of Finance rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-1963 under Head 623—Electricity, be approved.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATE  
HEAD 637—GENERAL

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to move, That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft-Second Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63 under Head 637—General, be approved.

**The Minister of Education :** I beg to second.

**Chief A. M. A. Akinloye** (Ibadan North East) : Under Sub-Head 451 £350,000 is voted for the purchase of the United Nations' Bond Issue 1962, and as explained by the Minister of Finance, this is to assist this very important Organisation to get money for its functions. I think this is very very noble, and is welcome, I support.

But Mr Chairman, without money, it seems the U.N.O. cannot function, so when money is contributed by all member nations it is extremely important that the money should be utilised to the best advantage of the Organisation. There is report of extreme wastage in the United Nations Organisation. Not only that, there is complaint from certain members of the Organisation that a Bloc is using the Organisation for its own end and for this reason a great country like the U.S.S.R. has refused to pay its contribution, particularly towards the expenses of the Congo operation. It is very important therefore, though we are a very young nation, to pay our dues. We are carrying our own responsibility. But I must sound a note of warning that the United Nations Organisation must not be turned into an instrument for the use of only one Bloc.

It beats one's imagination that up till to-day due to the difficulties of a certain section the great Republic of China has not been admitted into the United Nations Organisation. We hope that our Foreign Minister will do every thing possible to make the views of this great country known and also to see to it that the monies we are now contributing to the coffers of the U.N.O. are spent in the best interests of the Organisation.

**Mr B. N. Ukaegbu** (Owerri South East) : I rise to congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for deciding to ask for permission to spend this sum of

£350,000, to help the United Nations Organisation. As a matter of fact, those people who were looking forward to the independence of Nigeria actually had in mind that when this country achieved sovereignty, it would use its own weight in the United Nations Organisation to assist the complete liberation of the African Continent, and also the elevation of the status of people of African descent in every part of the world.

I quite agree Sir, that our representatives in the United Nations and our respected and able Foreign Minister have done a great deal towards the realisation of this hope.

It goes without saying that we have not done as much as we should have done to make our weight fully felt in New York, especially along the line of assisting struggling African nationalists in other parts of this great continent. We have read in the papers and we have heard over the radio of scholarships and bursaries given to young Africans from South Africa, and from certain parts of Central Africa to study in order to feel the joy of independence and also to assist them to realise that the African when he is not subordinated and oppressed as he is in South Africa, in Angola, and so on, when he is independent, is equal to and even can surpass the people of other races.

When they come here, study, and then go back to their own countries, they will have the confidence that will enable them to start liberation movements in their own countries. So when we are subscribing such a huge sum of money towards the fund of the U.N.O. we should also make sure that we spend a little sum to help in encouraging Africans who are struggling for liberation and independence.

Another point I would like to make is that while we have had no cause to quarrel with the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the selections he has made so far of members of our delegations to New York we must say that he should have it in his mind that people who are specialists in their own fields as in international affairs and really educated men who can make substantial contribution to the efforts of the U.N.O. should be selected.

**The Chairman :** May I remind hon. Members that this is not a White Paper on

Foreign Policy, but rather the expenditure of £350,000 on the United Nations Fund.

**Mr Ukaegbu :** The last point I want to make is—(Interruptions). I must make the final point. (Prolonged Interruptions).

**The Chairman :** This shows that the hon. Member is out of order.

**Mr Ukaegbu :** In winding up, I want to congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs for at last including a woman in the delegation of this country to the United Nations Organisation. I understand that this woman was given a great honour and that honour is honour given to Nigeria. Therefore, I congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs for having the courage to include a woman in the delegation to the United Nations and I hope that every year he will include some of our women of respect and good education in our delegations to the United Nations.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) :** On a point of order, the hon. Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukaegbu*) is irrelevant.

**Several hon. Members :** He has finished.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Hundred and Twenty-nine Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Second Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1962-63 under Head 637—General, be approved.

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I have it in command of His Excellency the Governor-General to move the Motion standing in my name, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 6) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 128 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th December, 1962, be confirmed.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 6) Order, 1962 (Legal

Notice No. 128 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th December, 1962, be confirmed.

**The Minister of Finance :** I have it in command of His Excellency, the Governor-General to move the Motion standing in my name, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 7) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 146 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th December, 1962, be confirmed.

**The Minister of Education :** Sir, I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 7) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 146 of 1962), a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th December, 1962, be confirmed.

**The Minister of Finance :** I have it in command of His Excellency the Governor-General, to move the Motion standing in my name, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 149 of 1962) a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th December, 1962, be confirmed.

**The Minister of Education :** Sir, I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1962 (Legal Notice No. 149 of 1962) a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th December, 1962, be confirmed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(MINISTER OF STATE, M. HASHIM ADAJI)*

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. J. A. Wachuku) :** Last week I promised to make a statement in connection with the question which an hon. Member asked. The statement is quite a lengthy one and I am causing it to be printed and circulated to Members.

## Following is the Statement :

## THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

## ELECTION :

## 17TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY—

## NIGERIA'S CANDIDATURE

On Thursday last week during question period an hon. Member, Mr Muojeke, sought to know why Nigeria did not succeed in being elected to occupy one of the non-permanent seats in the Security Council. At that time, considering the nature of the question and the circumstances that might have given rise to the desire of the questioner to know the reason why, I promised to make a statement to the House before it adjourns. I am now in a position to do so.

I know that certain publications had appeared in some of the national newspapers and in some foreign press giving various reasons or attempting to explain why Nigeria did not succeed in being elected. Without any desire to be controversial, I shall endeavour to make a statement which will be factual and up to the point. Before going any further, I would like to explain that the United Nations at its foundation in 1945 was composed of about 51 states and that the Security Council had a membership of 11 according to the Charter of the United Nations. Of these 11 members 5 were and still are permanent members and the remaining 6 non-permanent.

The permanent members are as follows :—

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| (1) United States | (America) |
| (2) U.S.S.R.      | (Europe)  |
| (3) U.K.          | (Europe)  |
| (4) France        | (Europe)  |
| (5) China         | (Asia)    |

Each of the permanent seats carried a right of veto. The remaining six non-permanent seats were to be occupied in rotation for a period of two years each by the non-permanent members. Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that "The General Assembly shall elect six other members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid in the first instance to the contribution of members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the organisation and also to equitable geographical distribution". In order to carry out this provision of the Charter of the United Nations, in 1946 the then members of the United Nations entered into what had come to be known in the United Nations circle as the "Gentlemen's Agreement".

Under this Agreement, the members of the United Nations were grouped for the purpose of the distribution of the six non-permanent seats as follows :—

- (1) British Commonwealth
- (2) Eastern Europe
- (3) Western Europe
- (4) Middle East/Africa
- (5) Asia Pacific
- (6) America.

It is to be noted that Africa and the Middle East were treated as one group.

Under the "Gentlemen's Agreement" the six non-permanent seats had been allocated as follows :—

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Latin America        | —2 seats (20 states) |
| (2) Western Europe       | —1 seat              |
| (3) Eastern Europe       | —1 seat              |
| (4) British Commonwealth | —1 seat              |
| (5) Middle East Africa   | —1 seat              |

This was the position before and up to the time of the 1962 election. Hon. Members will observe that only one seat was allocated to the Middle East and Africa. In 1946, there were two states, South of the Sahara, Ethiopia and Liberia which were members of the defunct League of Nations and founder members of the United Nations. These two African States were considered as purely African States in the United Nations and the other African States in the northern fringe of Africa were treated along with the other Middle Eastern States as coming within the designation, Middle East.

Because of their numerical inferiority, Ethiopia and Liberia were never considered for election to occupy the Middle East/Africa seat. On the other hand, this Middle East/Africa seat had been occupied in rotation since 1946 by the Middle Eastern States and the States on the northern fringe of Africa bordering the Mediterranean as follows: Egypt occupied the seat in the Security Council in 1946, then Syria occupied that seat from 1947-48 then UAR occupied the same seat in 1949-50 and Lebanon occupied it in 1953-54, Iran occupied it in 1955-56, Iraq occupied it in 1957-58, Tunisia occupied it in 1959-60 and then UAR again occupied it in 1961-62, ending in December this year.

As I have said, Ethiopia and Liberia were ignored because of their numerical inferiority since 1946 but in 1960 Nigeria raised the question of African representation in the Security Council considering that there were 25 African states that year in the U.N. and since two non-permanent seats were allocated to 20 Latin American countries and three permanent seats and two non-permanent seats were allocated to Europe, (East and West) even though the number of states on that continent was not greater than the number of states on the continent of Africa in 1960. Nigeria championed the demand of African states for representation in both the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and succeed in organising and mobilising forces in the United Nations to get Liberia and Ethiopia elected into the Security Council and Economic and Social Council respectively. At the time of the election the number of African states had risen from 25 to 30 and since the admission of Uganda to the United Nations the number is now 31. The African states have consistently requested and demanded an equitable redistribution of the seats in the Security Council and other organs and agencies of the United Nations but the states that now occupy these seats have persistently resisted this legitimate request of the African states and have refused to concede to Africa the same right which they have conceded to other geographical areas. Thus it is only the African continent that has neither a permanent seat nor a non-permanent seat which the African states can rotate among themselves as is the case with the states from other continents.

Hon. Members may remember that when the Conference of African and Malagasy Heads of States and Governments was convened in Lagos from 25-30 January 1962 the following resolution was passed and I quote :

*"The conference of Heads of African and Malagasy Heads of States and Governments meeting in Lagos from the 25th to the 30th January, 1962, while recognising and anxious that they should co-operate as far as possible with other states and Governments on matters that may come before the United Nations from time to time decide that (a) the African and Malagasy members of the United Nations should constitute themselves into a distinct and independent group in dealing with all the problems particularly those that are peculiar to Africa and Malagasy states that might henceforth come before the United Nations.*

*(b) This group should strive strenuously to obtain a revision of the Charter of the United Nations in order to have a fair and equitable representation of African and Malagasy States in the Security Council, Economic and Social Council, the Secretariat and other organs of the United Nations".*

In compliance with this resolution at my initiative the first meeting of the African and Malagasy States took place on Tuesday, 2nd October at the United Nations in New York. I was honoured with the chairmanship of the Group. It was also my privilege to explain the purpose of calling the meeting. This was briefly as follows :

(1) to implement the resolution on the United Nations adopted by the Heads of African and Malagasy States and Governments at their meeting in Lagos in January 1962.

(2) to discuss the necessity for a meeting of the Foreign Ministers for the purpose of signing the Charter of the Organisation of the African and Malagasy States.

(3) to consider the question of African representation in the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations.

(4) to seek ways and means for settling the Congo question in collaboration with the Congolese authorities and the United Nations.

(5) to work out a procedure and regularity of meeting of the group.

At this meeting it was decided that a formal request be put forward for the revision of the Charter of the United Nations to increase the non-permanent seats in order to accommodate African interests and also the meeting discussed the candidature of some members of the group for the seat on the Security Council during the Session.

Previously Ethiopia, Mauritania and Nigeria had announced individually their candidature for the seat in the Security Council. On behalf of Nigeria I explained to the Group that Nigeria was seeking election to the Council purely for African representation and that it was up to the Group to decide which seat should be contested and by which member of the Group. After some discussion the Group decided that the seat to be contested should be the one to be vacated by the UAR, that is the Middle East/Africa Seat.

This decision having been reached the representative of Ethiopia announced that he had been instructed to withdraw their candidature in favour of Nigeria. Similarly, the representative of Mauritania announced that his country was standing down in favour of Nigeria. Thereupon, the Group unanimously adopted Nigeria as its candidate to contest the Middle East/Africa seat to be vacated by the United Arab Republic. I expressed Nigeria's gratitude and appreciation to the two countries that had withdrawn in favour of Nigeria and to the African Group for adopting Nigeria as her candidate. At the end of the meeting the Group issued a Press Release announcing the establishment of the Group and its decision to present Nigeria as the Group's candidate for a seat to the Security Council.

With the adoption of Nigeria as the African Group candidate for the seat for the Security Council, it was known then that Morocco and Nigeria, two African countries were then contesting the same seat and therefore effort should be made so that the African States would present only one candidate. A decision was taken by the Group to have the election postponed for one week to enable the African states to present a united front and one candidate. It was my honour and privilege to argue the case for the postponement of the election on behalf of the Group. We succeeded in obtaining the postponement. The object was to see if agreement could be reached between Nigeria and Morocco. I caused a meeting of the whole African Group to be summoned. At that meeting I made it clear to the African Group that Nigeria would abide by any decision arrived at by the Group as a whole and would step down for Morocco if so requested by the Group provided Morocco stood election on behalf of the African States.

During this period President Sekou Toure of Guinea visited the United Nations and when he met the African Group he addressed us on African unity. Following this address a Good Offices Committee, comprising of Sierra Leone, Cameroun, Liberia, Mali and Togo was set up. The purpose of this Committee was to harmonise the interest of the African Group as a whole and to try to secure one candidate for Africa and to report back to the whole Group. The Committee met and when we were summoned I repeated to the Committee the undertaking I had given of the willingness of Nigeria to withdraw if so requested for Morocco if that state would contest the Security Council seat as representative of Africa. The Committee reported to a meeting of the whole African Group that when Morocco was questioned on this point she replied that she was contesting the Middle East seat and that Jordan and Afghanistan, two Middle Eastern countries had stood down for her and that she preferred to leave the issue of representation to be decided by election. When the Committee reported to the whole African Group the majority of the African States argue that if Morocco was contesting the Middle East seat then they were left with no alternative but to sponsor the candidate for Africa and that was Nigeria and therefore they were unwilling to agree that Nigeria should stand down.

I have thought it necessary to present this statement of fact because various mischievous publications have been made by some persons to misrepresent the true position.

## [MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

When Nigeria was put up as a candidate for Africa by the majority of African states, considering that since 1946 that the Middle Eastern states and some north African states had occupied the Middle East/Africa seat in rotation and Ethiopia and Liberia due to their numerical inferiority had never been elected to that seat, the majority of African states had hoped that the sense of justice and fairplay would have persuaded our Middle Eastern friends to allow a representative of Africa south of the Sahara to occupy the seat this time. Some people have said that after all Morocco was an African country. That is true but that is not the point. There is a very serious principle involved. Morocco did not contest the seat as an African country for Africa. She contested, the Middle Eastern seat. And even though she is an African, geographically she preferred to rely on whatever arrangements she had made with other countries.

It must be remembered that in 1960 Nigeria along with other African States co-operated to elect U.A.R. into the Security Council for 1961-62 even though she was succeeding Tunisia another north African country. At that time, the Algerian question was very real and very hot. Consequently, it was considered right that one of the states close to the problem and one that knew it intimately should be able to speak in the Security Council on that particular matter with authority. At the time of the election, happily for Africa, Algeria had become independent and a member of the United Nations and there was no longer any problem threatening international peace and security in that region of Africa. At the present moment the problems facing the United Nations in Africa are concentrated around the Congo. Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Angola, South West Africa, Swaziland, Basutoland, Mozambique, Bechuanaland, Nyasaland and by no means the least, South Africa. The majority of the States contiguous to these troubled areas and have intimate knowledge of the problems involved decided that Nigeria in preference to Morocco should stand on behalf of Africa for the Middle East/Africa seat this time. Besides, Nigeria by her contribution, both in money, military, police and other material resources in the Congo operation, in the opinion of the majority of African States qualified under Article 23 of the United Nations Charter. Also taking the question of geographical representation, Nigeria as a candidate supported by the majority of independent African States also qualified.

Many a time hon. Members have asked Nigeria to give leadership to Africa. I am proud to say that this time Nigeria was called upon by the majority of African States to give leadership and she did. It would have been disastrous and I would have been ashamed of myself and I should have even failed in my duties if when called upon to lead the struggle for African cause in the United Nations, a struggle for a demand for representation for the African States in the various organs of the United Nations in accordance with the resolution of Conference of Heads of African and Malagasy States and Governments, I should have shirked my responsibility because of the possibility of failure. This I could not do, I would let down Nigeria and I would not

let down Africa. Our conduct in abiding by the wishes of the majority of African States in my opinion, is a more honourable course to pursue for it would have been an abandonment of the claim of Africa if African States having requested and demanded that Nigeria should continue to stand, she had chosen to retreat. The simple truth is that Nigeria, indeed Africa, had been a victim of international political expediency. It was not Nigeria that was defeated; Africa was defeated. Let me repeat that I do not consider that Nigeria has been defeated, rather the various States that voted against Nigeria voted against Africa. To us it should be a matter of pride that the 21 Independent African States had and still have such confidence in Nigeria that they were quite prepared to stand by her and to call her to give them leadership. Nigeria had not faltered.

Let me say that I consider the battle as having just started and that it is our determination to pursue more vigorously the question of fair and equitable distribution of seats in all the organs of the United Nations in order to have adequate provision for the new Nations of Africa and to place African Nations in a position to be able to speak for themselves and by themselves in all matters of vital concern to them and to Africa. It is our determination that Africa shall no longer be represented indirectly. It is our firm resolve that Nigeria should firmly champion the cause of Africa no matter what the consequences may be so long as we have the support of our fellow African States. We may succeed and we may fail. It is not a temporary or momentary failure that matters. It is the achievement of the ultimate objectives that should be a greater concern to us all.

Finally I would like to put on record that I did not after the election give any interview to *Reuters* or any other Press Agency, and what I have read elsewhere attributed to me are absolutely untrue.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North):** According to Standing Orders, question from hon. Members are either answered in Parliament by Ministers or they are sent to them if the House happened to rise before the questions are answered. During the last Session and the present Session of this House, some questions which have been sent have never been answered and in this Session too, questions which hon. Members have sent have not been printed in the Order Paper and I presume that they will not be answered by Ministers when we might have reached our constituencies.

This is a very important matter because question in Parliament is one of the machineries of Parliamentary Practice and that is the only opportunity open to Members to make

suggestions to the Government and to make their views felt. So, I wish the Minister will help us to get answers to the questions which we have put in the present Session.

**The Minister of Economic Development** (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim): I think if hon. Members can give some instances, we shall certainly look into them. It has been our policy to answer all questions either orally or in writing and where the House rises before answers are given, then Members are written to. So, Government has taken note of this complaint and the position will be rectified.

#### N.B.C. TRANSMITTER

**Mr F. A. M. Amadi** (Nsukka Central): I wish to speak on the question of the N.B.C. transmitter at Enugu. Those of us who come from the East know too well from experience and those of us who try to tune in from Enugu know also that the transmitter at Enugu is very, very weak indeed and I just wonder why such a transmitter is still left in the capital of one of the Regions of this country.

I appeal, therefore, to the Minister of Information to do something about this particular transmitter. I remember very well that this issue was raised, in fact, in the very first Session of this Parliament in 1960 and a promise was made that the matter would be looked into in due course and as soon as practicable. I wonder whether that period of practicability has never arrived. I am asking the Minister of Information if he does not intend to let the Eastern Region have a transmitter, well let him remove the junk he has there and he can as well bring it to Lagos. Certainly what we have there is not a transmitter at all.

I might as well mention that one is never thrilled to hear telephones ringing in the middle of a news bulletin every day. One hears telephones ringing either from the transmitting room or from an adjoining office. If there is a telephone that is always nearby while the news is being read, something should be done to shut out the sound.

Thank you very much.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information** (Hon. S. A. Yerokun): The request of the hon. Gentleman is noted. A survey is being conducted now throughout the Regions and when this survey is completed and funds are made available, new transmitters will be installed not only in the Eastern Region but also in the Northern and the Western Regions.

#### PAYMENT OF FEES BY UNDERGRADUATES

**Mr C. Chiedozie** (Enugu): The hon. the Federal Minister of Education must have been aware of the present fate of 600 undergraduates of the University College, Ibadan, who have been served notices by the University Authorities not to return to the University in January 1963, for failing to pay their boarding and tuition fees which were alleged amounted to £45,000.

As the hon. Minister is aware, this would amount to a national tragedy if it is allowed to happen. I want the hon. Minister, whom I always know as very hardworking, sympathetic, and humanitarian, to make a categorical statement on what steps the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, is contemplating to take in order to give financial aid and, if possible, loans to these young and unfortunate undergraduates who will be leaders of tomorrow.

**The Minister of Education** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I understand that 600 students at the University of Ibadan owe the University sums totalling unfortunately £45,000. The number of students are as follows: 322 come from Western Nigeria; 223 come from Eastern Nigeria; 14 come from Northern Nigeria and seven come from the Federal territory.

I have to say that the University Authorities owe a duty to ensure that before students are admitted to the Universities, they make adequate financial provision or have the wherewithal for sums of monies to carry them through their courses.

At present, it would be unacceptable by Government to unquestionably pay a debt of £45,000 owed by students at Ibadan University.

We have at present the Federal Scholarship Board which invites applications from all the Federation and those who are qualified always



[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]  
secure these scholarships without a hitch. It will be most unwise to accept to give automatic scholarships to those students because by doing that we are creating two separate Scholarship Boards; one official and the other one unofficial.

At present, I am trying to meet my colleagues to see whether we will be able to evolve means of setting up a revolving loans fund so that the needy students, those who are really in need and in financial anxiety might be helped through this loan. But there has been one obstacle in this. The students who received loans have always made no efforts at the completion of their studies to refund these loans and that has been the cause of hesitancy on the part of Government to carry on with loans to students.

However, at present, it will be, as I have said, unwise for the Federal Government to take any unilateral action. What I intend to do is first of all to meet my colleagues in the Regions to evolve means to extricate these students from their present intricacies.

**Mr Speaker :** Mr Nwangbo, the Prime Minister is not here to answer your question and Mr Ukaegbu, you have not got the consent of the Minister of Finance.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-seven minutes to one o'clock sine die, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS—5th DECEMBER, 1962

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Public Mail Service

**O.773. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Communications, whether he does not consider it expedient at this stage to stop transporting mails on vehicles owned by Armels Transport and if he will take steps to purchase vans for transporting the mails or transport them on vehicles owned by indigenous transporters.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika):** The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's question is No, Sir. Since Armels Transport had a contract for carrying mail there has been a distinct improvement in the mail services concerned and I do not consider that it would be in the public interest to interfere with the existing arrangements.

In answer to the second part of the hon. Member's question I would say that the P. & T. Division already does operate mail services

with its own transport in certain areas, and that in other areas, which are not covered by the Armels Transport contract, no less than 25 indigenous transporters have been given mail carrying contracts.

I am giving careful consideration to the question of improving mail services during the 1962-68 planning period, and I can assure the hon. Member that I will examine all possible methods of improvement, and will naturally make use of our indigenous resources to the fullest extent that is compatible with meeting the needs of the public and providing an efficient service.

#### Ekwerazu Postal Agency

**O.953. Mr N. D. Ukah** asked the Minister of Communications, what was the volume of business transacted in the Ekwerazu Postal Agency in 1961.

**Mr Nwika:** The volume of business transacted at Ekwerazu Postal Agency in 1961 amounted to 22,076 units.

10th December, 1962

## APPENDIX

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
WORKS AND SURVEYS

## Funtua-Gusau Road

O.811. **Mallam Haliru Gwandu** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state the date-line promised by the contractors for completion of the bituminous surfacing of the Funtua-Gusau road.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys** : According to terms of the contract, the reconstruction will be finished by 28th February, 1964.

## Ida-Nsukka Road

O.819. **Mr D. O. Enefola** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider taking over responsibility for the Ida-Nsukka Road in view of its importance as a link between the Northern and Eastern Regions.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** : It is regretted that the provision for roads in the Development Plan was insufficient to allow for the taking over of any Regional roads, however important, in the period 1962-68.

## Ilorin-Kabba Road

O.820. **Mr P. B. Olatunde** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when Ilorin-Kabba Trunk Road 'A' will be tarred.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** : 26 miles of this road have been tarred—(Ilorin to Ajasse). There is no specific provision in the 1962-68 Programme for tarring the rest. However, the whole route has been surveyed and it is proposed to reconstruct the bridges and generally rehabilitate certain sections of the road which may also include tarring such sections of the road. Already negotiations are being started for the portions which are to be tarred.

## AVIATION

## Air Hostesses

O.821. **Mallam Sule Abba Bui** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how many Air Hostesses are at present employed by the Nigerian Airways and how many of them have completed their initial training.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** : 36 Air Hostesses are at present employed in Nigerian Airways and 15 of them have completed their initial training.

## Survey of Cross River

O.822. **Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation whether now that the result of the plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons has been known, he is in a position to make a statement on a proposal to carry out a full-scale hydrological survey of the Cross River in the Eastern Region.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** : I regret that I am not yet in a position to make a statement on this matter. The Federal Government is consulting with the Eastern Nigeria Government on the scope of the proposed survey and any statement will have to await the conclusion of the consultations.

## NEDECO Report

O.823. **Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation whether the report of the study by NEDECO of the Eastern Delta has now been submitted to him and if he will make the report available to members.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** : The NEDECO report on their investigation of the waters of the Niger Delta has been submitted to me and I have sent copies to Regional Governments, interested Federal Ministries and Departments, and a number of interested bodies and organisations. Consultations are going on at present with Regional Governments and Niger Delta Development Board and when these are concluded, the Federal Government will produce a statement of policy which will eventually be published as a White Paper

Copies of this voluminous report are available for sale at the Ministry of Information, Printing Division, Lagos, at a price of £6-6s-0d a copy. I am sure the hon. Member will agree it would be very expensive to provide every member with a copy. The Clerk of Parliament may, however, wish to purchase one or two copies and place in the library of the House for the use of hon. Members.

## TRANSPORT

## Mkpa/Lodu Railway Crossing

**O.824. Mr H. O. Chukwu** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation if he will state when he hopes to complete the Mkpa/Lodu Railway crossing near Uzuakoli in Bende Division, in view of the importance of the road and the danger it constitutes to the lives of the villagers in Mkpa/Lodu.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** Railway crossings are not usually installed until the ancillary protective works have been completed. The Mkpa Community are at present executing the approach works on the road and I have been assured by the Railway Corporation that the crossing can be installed within two days of the satisfactory completion of the works.

## Gambling on Trains

**O.825. Mallam Abba Yola** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, what action he has taken to combat the growing menace of robbers and gamblers on passenger trains since the passing of a motion to this effect during the last Budget meeting of this House.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** The menace of robbers and gamblers is most pronounced in the North and there have been intensified activities in the Investigation and Preventive Branches of the Railway Police in an effort to rid the trains of these undesirables. In this respect, hon. Members will be pleased to know that the Railway Police and the Northern

Native Authority Police have, to an appreciable extent, joined forces in maintaining an excellent patrol system on passenger trains. The situation is improving.

It is felt that better results still would be achieved if a reasonable number of N.A. Police, who are more capable of recognising rogues and gamblers, could be seconded to the Railway Police. In point of fact, provision was made in the 1962-63 (N.R. Corporation) Estimates for the proposed secondment and approaches have already been made by the Corporation to the appropriate Authorities but a reply has not yet been received.

In addition, efforts are being made to effect expeditious trials of gambling and theft cases on the trains. With regard to gambling, it is hoped that the travelling public will also co-operate, for as long as they are willing to be duped by gamblers, the chances are that the problem will remain.

**O.826. Mallam Abba Yola** asked the Minister of Transport and Aviation, how many cases of theft, robbery and gambling on passenger trains on the Nguru-Kano-Zaria-Kafanchan line were brought before the Law Courts by the Railway Police between 1st April, 1961 and 30th June, 1962 and what was the result in each case.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation :** 52 cases of theft were reported, 20 were convicted 28 acquitted and 4 are awaiting trial. 18 cases of robbery were reported, 3 were convicted, 6 acquitted and 9 are awaiting trial. 13 gambling cases were reported, 6 were convicted, 3 acquitted and 4 are awaiting trial.

## 11th December, 1962

### MINES AND POWER

**O.838. Mallam Haliru Gwandu** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, if he will state the progress so far made in the mineral investigations being carried out in Gwandu Emirate.

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** The Northern part of Gwandu Emirate is included in the Geological Survey's current mapping programme on which good progress is being maintained. No workable deposits of economic minerals have been found so far but mapping of the sediments indicated the possibility of obtaining pressure water at Birnin Kebbi and each of the three boreholes which were drilled there on Geological Survey advice produced artesian water.

### Mineral Deposits

**O.843. Mr F. U. Ihe** asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he is aware of the existence of iron deposits at Uturu and salt at Umuchieze in Okigwi North East Constituency and if he will investigate the extent to which these mineral deposits can be developed to commercial advantage.

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** The Geological Survey is aware of the existence of lateritic ironstone in the Uturu area but the deposit is not extensive enough to warrant further investigation at present.

The existence of salt in springs in the Umuchieze area is also known to the Geological Survey but the concentration of salt in the water is well below the level at which extraction of the salt would be an economic proposition during present day methods.

### INFORMATION

#### Federal Film Unit

**O.847. Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** asked the Minister of Information, if he will state how much the Federal Film Unit spent from 1st April, 1959 to 31st March, 1961 in its efforts to produce good films and if he will state its success or failure in this field.

**The Minister of Information :** The total expenditure on the Film Unit between 1st April, 1959 and 31st March, 1961 was £157,522.

During this period the following films were made, some of which received world-wide acclaim, in addition to which a large number of newsreels were produced.

1959

- Nigeria Fights T.B.
- Geological Survey
- Victoria Centenary Celebrations
- Leaders of Tomorrow
- Customs Film "Prevention of Smuggling".

1960

- This is Nigeria
- Army Officer Recruitment
- Nigeria Hails Independence
- Exhibition Film
- Installation of His Excellency the Governor-General of the Federation

1961

- A Year of Endeavour
- Nigeria Rejoices

A large number of newsreels were also produced during the same period.

I should like to point out to the hon. Member that these successes were achieved with a limited amount of money available for film making and despite severe staff shortages. The years in question were the formative years of the Unit and much of the expenditure was incurred in buying new machinery and equipment.

Although good films have been produced during this period, the operation of the Unit cannot be said to have been an unqualified success, and to rectify the position an expert has been called in under technical assistance to advise on the reorganisation of the Unit. He has produced his report and its proposals are now being studied. If these proposals are accepted and funds are available, it is hoped

to expand the Unit considerably and at the same time to initiate a comprehensive training scheme.

### Radio and Television

**O.848. Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi** asked the Minister of Information, when he will introduce more Nigerian features into the Radio and Television programmes.

**The Minister of Information :** The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts over sixty Nigerian features annually. This year it has already broadcast more than seventy programmes on topics—in and about Nigeria. These now include a weekly programme entitled "FOR PROGRESS" which deals with various aspects of development in each of the governments of the Federation in turn. In addition, there are regular feature programmes on music and featurettes of interest to women and children. Feature programmes on various aspects of life in Nigeria are broadcast weekly in the Nigerian languages from the National and Regional headquarters of the Corporation.

Only five special feature programmes from overseas have been broadcast this year and these were thought to be of interest to Nigerians, for example, "WELCOME JAMAICA"—a programme to mark Jamaica's attainment of Independence.

There is only one regular overseas feature programme broadcast by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. This is "THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED NATIONS".

The Nigerian Television Service, in the short time of its operation, has increased its Nigerian programmes, including News items, to approximately 40 per cent of the total programmes. This has been achieved despite the fact that the Service has been operating without adequate facilities and personnel.

This policy of emphasising Nigerian features will continue and expand in the next eighteen months to two years, following the completion of facilities and the engaging of personnel. When both these conditions are met, the on-the-job and academic training will be intensified and accelerated.

I might add that another facet of the development of Nigerian features in the programme

schedule is the continuing activity of the Television Service in searching out and developing talent that will make good television fare. This is of course over and above the training and developing of service.

### Daily Hansard

**O.849. Mallam Umaru Maltunbi** asked the Minister of Information, how many copies of the Daily *Hansard* were sold from April 1959 to 31st March, 1962 and what plan is he making to encourage the public to read this publication.

**The Minister of Information :** The total number of copies of the Daily *Hansard*, both for the House of Representatives and for the Senate, sold from 1st April, 1959 to 31st March, 1962, was 20,712. This is made up as follows: 18,715 copies of the Daily *Hansard* for the House of Representatives and 1,997 copies of the Daily *Hansard* for the Senate during the period under consideration.

In answer to the second part of the question, my Ministry is taking steps to encourage the members of the public to take interest in the daily proceedings of the both Houses of Parliament by means of the daily commentary by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. I refer, of course, to the popular feature, "TODAY IN PARLIAMENT", which is broadcast whenever Parliament is in session. There is an increasing public interest in the proceedings of Parliament. I shall certainly take more steps to make it generally known to the public that copies of the Daily *Hansard* are available for sale at the Bookshop attached to the Printing Division of my Ministry.

### DEFENCE

#### Legal Adviser

**O.850. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide** asked the Minister of Defence, whether he is aware that many prominent Nigerian Lawyers feel encouraged as a result of the meritorious service rendered by a Nigerian in the Department of Judge-Advocate in the Congo, and are willing to serve in that Department if and when created in the Nigerian Army; and whether he will consider creating the Department in view of the expansion of the Army and the importance of that Department.

**The Minister of Defence :** The post of Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Defence has been established and was filled on the 1st of December, 1962.

#### Recruitment from Ahoada

**O.851. Mr N. E. Elenwa** asked the Minister of Defence, if he will make it possible for the army recruiting team to visit Ahoada Division soon.

**The Minister of Defence :** There is a sufficient flow of volunteers seeking enlistment at battalion headquarters at Enugu, to make unnecessary the formation of a recruitment team to tour the Region. If in the future, however, a recruitment team is formed, the needs of Ahoada Division, as well as those of all other Divisions in the Region, will be borne in mind.

## 12th December, 1962

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Ozanisi Postal Agency

**O.853. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, what was the total units of business transacted in Ozanisi Postal Agency between 1st April, 1961 and 31st March, 1962.

**The Minister of Communications :** 2,767 units Sir. The Agency was however, temporarily closed between April and September 1961 and not reopened until October 1961. In a full year the Agency would probably have transacted about 5,500 units.

#### Conversion of Sub-Post Offices

**O.854. Mr D. N. Oronsaye** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will enumerate in order of priority the 14 sub-post offices which will be converted to full post office status in the next six-year development period.

**The Minister of Communications :** With permission, I will invite the hon. Member's attention to the answer given to Question O.766 of 5th December, 1962.

#### Postal Agency for Isiagu

**O.885. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Communications, whether in view of the remoteness, the strategic importance and the special needs of Isiagu town in Awka Central Constituency, he would permit the town to open a Postal Agency now.

**The Minister of Communications :** Investigation is being conducted on the justification of establishing a Postal Agency at Isiagu.

As soon as this is completed and, if such an establishment is found justified, action will be taken to open a Postal Agency there.

#### Business at Postal Agencies

**O.886. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Communications, what is the value and volume of postal agency services at Umuawulu, Adazi-Ani, Ndikelionwu, Owerre-Ezukala, Ezira and Ufuma from January to December 1960 and 1961 respectively.

**The Minister of Communications :** Business transactions at Postal Agencies, whether monetary or otherwise, are converted to unit values. The units of business of the Postal Agencies mentioned are as follows:—

Agency	1960-61	1961-62
Umuawulu	.. 5,203	6,432
Adazi-Ani	.. 3,775	4,520
Ndikelionwu	.. 7,067	8,245
Owerre Ezukala	.. 5,538	5,898

There are no Postal Agencies at Ezira and Ufuma.

#### Umuawulu Postal Agency

**O.887. Mr R. N. Muojeke** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will convert the Postal Agency at Umuawulu into a sub-post office in view of the great communal efforts of the townspeople, the educational, cultural, social, demographical and industrial growth and advancement of the town.

**The Minister of Communications :** No Sir.

The annual unit figures of amount of business handled by Umuawulu Postal Agency are far below the minimum of 24,000 units

prescribed in the Sessional Paper 4 of 1957. The unit figures for the Agency for the past three years are :—

1959	..	..	5,504
1960	..	..	5,203
1961	..	..	6,432

#### Conversion of Postal Agencies

O.924. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will consider amending the requirement of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957; in order to make it possible for postal agencies in rural areas to be converted to sub-post offices, in view of the impossibility of attaining the required volume of 24,000 units in these rural areas.

**The Minister of Communications :** The conditions laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 for the conversion of postal agencies to sub-post offices are at present under review.

#### Okon Postal Agency

O.925. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, what assistance he intends to give to enable the Postal Agency at Okon Local Council Area in Central Annang which has been built by communal labour to function.

**The Minister of Communications :** The Okon Postal Agency which was temporarily closed on the 1st July, 1960, owing to the withdrawal of the guarantors was reopened on 2nd September, 1960 and is functioning

It is the responsibility of the Authority or person sponsoring a postal agency to provide suitable accommodation for the agency.



of the 1850s, and the 1860s, and the 1870s.

The 1850s were a period of rapid growth and expansion for the United States, and the 1860s were a period of crisis and conflict. The 1870s were a period of reconstruction and reform.

4. *Constitutional History*

1800 - 1850  
1850 - 1860  
1860 - 1870  
1870 - 1880

1800 - 1850

The 1800s were a period of relative stability and growth for the United States, and the 1810s were a period of rapid expansion.

1810 - 1820

1820 - 1830

1830 - 1840

1840 - 1850

The 1850s were a period of rapid growth and expansion for the United States, and the 1860s were a period of crisis and conflict.

The 1870s were a period of reconstruction and reform, and the 1880s were a period of rapid growth and expansion.

The 1890s were a period of rapid growth and expansion, and the 1900s were a period of crisis and conflict.

The 1910s were a period of rapid growth and expansion, and the 1920s were a period of crisis and conflict.

The 1930s were a period of rapid growth and expansion, and the 1940s were a period of crisis and conflict.

The 1950s were a period of rapid growth and expansion, and the 1960s were a period of crisis and conflict.

The 1970s were a period of rapid growth and expansion, and the 1980s were a period of crisis and conflict.

# INDEX TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATES

## OFFICIAL REPORT

SESSION 1962-63

5th—13th December, 1962

### EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS

Bills : Read First, Second or Third Time = 1R, 2R, 3R.

Com. = Committee

Q. = Question.

A	Column	Column	
<b>Abba Yola, M :</b>		<b>Akinyemi, Mr J. A. :</b>	
Gambling on trains .. .. .	111 Q	Census .. .. .	2732 Q
<b>Abii, Chief D. N. :</b>		Escort of Prisoners .. .. .	2754
Adjournment ( <i>sine die</i> ) .. .. .	3027	Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2818
Business of the House .. .. .	2832	Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2924
Leadership of the Opposition .. .. .	2976	Police activities in Lagos .. 2929, 2935, 2939	2929
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2929	University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2872
<b>Afanideh, Mr M. B. :</b>		<b>Akor, Mr J. A. :</b>	
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	119 Q	Industries .. .. .	2852 Q
Okon Postal Agency .. .. .	120 Q	Nigerian Trade Fair .. .. .	2852 Q
Police accommodation .. .. .	2748 Q	<b>Akwiwu, Mr E. C. :</b>	
Postal Agency for Nwa Igwe .. .. .	2728 Q	Census result .. .. .	2737
Radio Licence fees .. .. .	2728 Q	Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2993, 3005, 3008
Thugs at campaign meetings .. .. .	2749 Q	Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3037
<b>Aghahowa, Mr D. E. Y. :</b>		Sitting of the House .. .. .	2787
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2803	Standing Orders .. .. .	3020
<b>Ahamefula, Mr D. O. :</b>		<b>Aliyu, Bissalla, Alhaji :</b>	
Amaturu Postal Agency .. .. .	2727 Q	Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2821
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2891	<b>Amadi, Mr F. A. M. :</b>	
Old currency notes .. .. .	2899 Q	Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3056
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3014	Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3001, 3010
<b>Ajasin, Mr M. A. :</b>		Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3036
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2864	Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2911
<b>Ajibola, Mr A. A. :</b>		<b>Araka, Mr E. O. :</b>	
Coker Commission of Inquiry .. .. .	2900 Q	Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2891
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3036	Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2819
<b>Akerele, Chief A. :</b>		<b>Are, Alhaji, K. O. S. :</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2779	Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3057
<b>Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B. :</b>		Insurance .. .. .	2852 Q
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2806, 2816	Roads and Buildings .. .. .	2855 Q
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2872	Trunk 'A' Roads .. .. .	2854 Q
<b>Akinjide, Mr R. O. A. :</b>		<b>Arrest of Members .. .. .</b>	2723
Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill .. .. .	2768	<b>Assadugu, Mr J. A. :</b>	
Gift of Speaker's Chair .. .. .	2743	State of Parties .. .. .	2752
Legal Adviser .. .. .	116 Q	<b>Ayeni, Mr O. U. :</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2815	Federal Investment .. .. .	2898 Q
<b>Akinloye, Chief A. M. A. :</b>		Graduate science teachers .. .. .	2751 Q
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3053, 3061		
Legal Practitioners Bill 2773, 2822, 2825, 2828 2830			

<b>B</b>	Column	Column	
<b>Babatunde, Mr S. A. :</b>		<b>Provincial Commissioners (Northern Nigeria)</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. ..	3055	Bill :	
Conversion of Postal Agencies into sub-post offices .. ..	2952	Presented and 1R .. ..	2860
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. ..	3047	2R .. ..	3028
Nigeria Airways .. ..	2912	Com. .. ..	3029
Police activities in Lagos .. ..	2938	3R .. ..	3031
<b>Balla Mohammed Dutsinma, M. :</b>		<b>Tafawa Balewa Square (Adjustment of Boundaries) Bill :</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. ..	2801	Presented and 1R .. ..	2738
<b>Bello Dandago, Alhaji :</b>		2R .. ..	2892
Adjournment ( <i>sine die</i> ) .. ..	3027	Com. .. ..	2894
Customs and Excise Bill .. ..	2996	3R .. ..	2894
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill .. ..	2844	<b>University of Ibadan Bill :</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. ..	2775	Presented and 1R .. ..	2832
Sitting of the House .. ..	2790	2R .. ..	2862
Tafawa Balewa Square Management (Amendment) Bill .. ..	2894	Com. .. ..	2879
<b>Benson, Mr T. O. S. (see Information, Minister of) :</b>		3R .. ..	2883
<b>Bills</b>		<b>Vehicle Licences Bill :</b>	
<b>Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill :</b>		Presented and 1R .. ..	2738
Presented and 1R .. ..	2737	2R .. ..	2756
2R .. ..	2767	Com. .. ..	2766
Com. .. ..	2770	3R .. ..	2767
3R .. ..	2770	<b>Weights and Measures Bill :</b>	
<b>Customs and Excise Bill :</b>		Presented and 1R .. ..	2738
Presented and 1R .. ..	2860	2R .. ..	3012
2R .. ..	2983	Com. .. ..	3018
Com. .. ..	3001	3R .. ..	3019
3R .. ..	3012	<b>Briggs, Mr W. O. :</b>	
<b>Diplomatic Immunities Bill :</b>		Gift of Speaker's Chair .. ..	2742
Presented and 1R .. ..	2907	Immigration .. ..	2849 Q
2R .. ..	3031	Legal Practitioners Bill .. ..	2785-2797
Com. .. ..	3046	Sitting of the House .. ..	2789
3R .. ..	3050	University of Ibadan Bill .. ..	2868-2873
<b>Escort of Prisoners and Other Persons Bill :</b>		<b>Brown, Mr I. A. :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. ..	2737	Alleged outrage at Abriba .. ..	2978
2R .. ..	2753	First Nigerian International Trade Fair .. ..	2965
Com. .. ..	2756	Nigerian News .. ..	2905 Q
3R .. ..	2756	Oil Prospecting .. ..	2902 Q
<b>Flags and Coats of Arms Bill :</b>		Sitting of the House .. ..	2789
Presented and 1R .. ..	2738	<b>Business Statement</b> .. ..	2831
2R .. ..	2838		
Com. .. ..	2844	<b>C</b>	
3R .. ..	2845	<b>Chiedozie, Mr C. O. :</b>	
<b>Income Tax (Amendment) Bill :</b>		Capital Expenditure Estimates .. ..	3052
Presented and 1R .. ..	2738	Police activities in Lagos .. ..	2936
2R .. ..	2834	Post Office for Ogbete .. ..	2729 Q
Com. .. ..	2837	University of Ibadan Bill .. ..	2870
3R .. ..	2838	<b>Chikelu, Mr I. :</b>	
<b>Lagos Sports Council Bill :</b>		Electricity supply to Ngwo .. ..	2904 Q
Presented and 1R .. ..	2738	Employment of retrenched miners .. ..	2904 Q
2R .. ..	2883	Ije Village .. ..	2751 Q
Com. .. ..	3018	Police activities in Lagos .. ..	2941
3R .. ..	3019	Slum clearance .. ..	2751 Q
<b>Legal Practitioners Bill :</b>		<b>Chukwu, Mr D. N. :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. ..	2739	Electricity supply to Achi .. ..	2902 Q
2R .. ..	2770	Electricity supply to Awgu .. ..	2902 Q
Com. .. ..	2815	First Nigerian International Trade Fair .. ..	2962
3R .. ..	2830	Survey of Awgu Division .. ..	2903 Q
<b>Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill :</b>		<b>Chukwu, Mr H. O. :</b>	
Presented and 1R .. ..	2737	Allocation of Police Constables .. ..	2747 Q
2R .. ..	2860	Conversion of Postal Agencies .. ..	2726 Q
Com. .. ..	3018	Diplomatic Missions abroad .. ..	2749 Q
3R .. ..	3018	Federal Investment .. ..	2897 Q

	Column
Immigration .. .. .	2848 Q
Mkpa-Lodu Railway Crossing .. .. .	111 Q
Police Motor Vehicles .. .. .	2747 Q
Police Stations .. .. .	2747 Q
Prison Sentences .. .. .	2848 Q
Smuggling .. .. .	2897 Q
Sub-Post Office for Bende Division .. .. .	2726 Q
Telephone facilities .. .. .	2726 Q

#### Commerce and Industry, Minister of

(Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) :	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3004
First Nigerian International Trade Fair .. .. .	2975
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3012

#### Committees :

Business Committee .. .. .	2831
Standing Orders Committee .. .. .	2724
Special Committee .. .. .	2981

#### Communications, Minister of (Hon. Olu

Akinfosile) :	
Conversion of Postal Agencies into Sub-Post Offices .. .. .	2958

### D

#### Dame-Oboh, Mr P. :

Conversion of Sub-Post Offices .. .. .	2727 Q
Ekpoma sub-Post Office .. .. .	2727 Q
First Nigerian International Trade Fair .. .. .	2969

#### Damla, Mr J. M. :

Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2782
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3016

#### Daura, Alhaji L. :

Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2943
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	3081
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3016

#### de Omomadia, Mr J. K. :

Fish Production .. .. .	2731 Q
-------------------------	--------

#### Death of a Member .. .. .

2723, 2831

#### Dosunmu, Mr L. J. :

Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2889
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2792, 2815, 2817 2821, 2826

### E

#### Eboigbodi, Mr J. B. :

Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2841
--	------

#### Economic Development, Minister of

Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) :	
Census result .. .. .	2734-2736

#### Education, Minister of (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) :

University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2862, 2866
-----------------------------------	------------

#### Effiong-Spatts, Mr A. E. :

Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2990
---------------------------------	------

#### Ekanem, Mr P. E. :

Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill .. .. .	2769
Adjournment ( <i>sine die</i> ) .. .. .	3027
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	2947, 2961
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2991
Escort of Prisoners Bill .. .. .	2756
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2839

### Column

Income Tax (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2836, 2837
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2888
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2810, 2823
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2915
Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2861
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	3029

#### Eleke, Mr P. O. :

Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3042
------------------------------------	------

#### Elenwa, Mr N. E. :

Ahoada Warders Quarters .. .. .	2848 Q
Omoku Post Office .. .. .	2981 Q
Recruitment from Ahoada .. .. .	117 Q
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3014, 3019

#### Elias, Dr the hon. T. O. (*see* Justice, Minister of) :

#### Ememe, Mr O. C. :

Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3056
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3006
First Nigerian International Trade Fair .. .. .	2967
Insurance .. .. .	2853 Q
Nigerian news .. .. .	2905 Q
Nigerian Produce Marketing Co. Ltd. .. .. .	2849 Q
Oil Agreement .. .. .	2901 Q
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	3029
Representation abroad .. .. .	3026 Q
Trade Agreements .. .. .	2849 Q, 2899 Q
Voting at U.N. Security Council .. .. .	3025 Q

#### Eminue, Mr O. J. :

Exchange control .. .. .	2895 Q
NEDECO Report .. .. .	110 Q
Oil Prospecting .. .. .	2902 Q
Survey of Cross River .. .. .	110 Q
Uya-Oron bridge .. .. .	2858 Q

#### Enefola, Mr D. O. :

Ida-Nsukka road .. .. .	109 Q
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2786

#### Ezera, Dr Kalu :

Alleged outrage at Abriba .. .. .	2977, 2980
Geological Survey .. .. .	2903 Q
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2817
Ministerial disagreement .. .. .	2907 Q
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2914
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2932, 2938, 2945
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2867

### F

#### Finance, Minister of (Chief the hon. F. S.

Okotie-Eboh) :	
Adjournment ( <i>sine die</i> ) .. .. .	3027
Alleged outrage in Abriba .. .. .	2978
Business Statements .. .. .	2736, 2831
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3050, 3061
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2983, 2997
Customs Tariff .. .. .	3063
Flags and Coats of Arms Bill .. .. .	2838
Forged Currency Notes .. .. .	3026
Gift of Speaker's Chair .. .. .	2739, 2743
Income Tax (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2834
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2816, 2822
Public Funds of the Federation (Disbursement) .. .. .	2982
Sitting of the House .. .. .	2788
Standing Orders .. .. .	3019
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2756, 2763, 2767

	<i>Column</i>
<b>Foreign Affairs, Minister of (Hon. Jaja Wachuku):</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill ..	3032-3042
U.N. Security Council Election ..	3064

### G

<b>Gift of Speaker's Chair .. .. .</b>	2739
--	------

### H

<b>Haliru Gwandu, M. :</b>	
Funtua-Gusau road .. .. .	109 Q
Minerals in Gwandu Emirate ..	113 Q

### I

<b>Ibrahim Gusau, M. :</b>	
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2885
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2869
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2766

<b>Ibrahim Na Maitama, M. :</b>	
Accommodation in Lagos .. .. .	2733 Q
Census .. .. .	2732 Q
Overseas tours .. .. .	2748 Q

<b>Ifezue, Mr E. O. :</b>	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3007
Tafawa Balewa Square Management (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2893

<b>Ihe, Mr F. U. :</b>	
Mineral deposits .. .. .	113 Q

<b>Information, Minister of (Mr T. O. S. Benson):</b>	
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill	2844

<b>Isa Monguna, Zanna :</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3054

### J

<b>Justice, Minister of (Dr the hon T. O. Elias):</b>	
Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill .. .. .	2768
Legal Practitioners Bill 2770, 2811, 2817, 2822, 2823, 2826, 2829	
Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill	2860, 2862

### K

<b>Kolade, Mr S. O. :</b>	
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill	2841
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2802

### L

<b>Lagos Affairs, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua):</b>	
Tafawa Balewa Square Management (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2892

<b>Lajide, Mr V. L. :</b>	
C.P.A. Conference .. .. .	3025 Q
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3060
Ijeru Postal Agency .. .. .	2781 Q

	<i>Column</i>
<b>Lana, Mr S. (see Prime Minister, Parliamentary Secretary):</b>	

<b>Lar, Mr S. D. :</b>	
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill	2840

### M

<b>Mariere, Chief S. J. :</b>	
Escort of Prisoners Bill .. .. .	2754

<b>Mbadiwe, Dr K. O. (Minister of State):</b>	
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2883
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3018, 3019

<b>Mbah, Mr A. U. D. :</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3046
Forged currency notes .. .. .	3026 Q

<b>Mines and Power, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule):</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3057

<b>Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai :</b>	
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	2958
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3035
Escort of Prisoners Bill .. .. .	2755
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill	2843
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	3030

<b>Mordi, Mr E. A. :</b>	
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2926

<b>Motions (Private Members) :</b>	
Business of the House .. .. .	2832
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	2947
First Nigerian International Trade Fair ..	2962
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2907
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2929

<b>Muhammadu Kaoje, M. :</b>	
High-Level manpower .. .. .	2751 Q

<b>Muojeke, Mr R. N. :</b>	
Business at postal agencies .. .. .	118 Q
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	2951-2960
Defeat in Security Council .. .. .	2749 Q
External loans .. .. .	2900 Q
Franchise .. .. .	2847 Q
Graduate science teachers .. .. .	2750 Q
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2788, 2791
Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2862
Old currency notes .. .. .	2898 Q
Postal Agency for Isiagu .. .. .	117 Q
Professional football .. .. .	2900 Q
Public mail service .. .. .	107 Q
Umuawulu Postal Agency .. .. .	118 Q

<b>Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua (see, Lagos Affairs, Minister of)</b>	
--	--

### N

<b>Njoku, Mr R. A. (see, Transport, Minister of):</b>	
---	--

<b>Nwalieji, Mr V. A. :</b>	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3006

<b>Nzeribe, Dr B. U. :</b>	
Conversion of Postal Agencies .. .. .	2951
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2987
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3048

	Column
Exchange Control .. .. .	2896 Q
Foreign Christian Missionaries .. .. .	2847 Q
Foreign trade .. .. .	2851 Q
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2933
Smuggling .. .. .	2897 Q
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2873

## O

<b>Obi, Mr M. C. K. :</b>	
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2761, 2765
<b>Odebunmi, Mr J. D. :</b>	
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2885
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2934
Tafawa Balewa Square Management (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2893
<b>Odey, Mr J. U. :</b>	
Holiday resorts .. .. .	2851 Q
<b>Odigbo, Mr C. A. :</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2798
<b>Odulana, Mr A. F. :</b>	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3002
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2844
Income Tax (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2837
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2889
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2797
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2914
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2935
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2766
<b>Offor, Mr F. E. (see Transport and Aviation, Parliamentary Secretary).</b>	
<b>Ogbalu, Mr F. C. :</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3056, 3059
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3033
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2886
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2918
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	3029
Tafawa Balewa Square Management (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2893
<b>Ogedengbe, Mr S. A. :</b>	
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2762
<b>Ogunbiyi, Mr J. O.</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2782, 2821, 2828
<b>Ogunkanmi, Mr E. O. :</b>	
Establishment of Industry .. .. .	2849 Q
Free Primary Schools .. .. .	2750 Q
Ijora Power Station .. .. .	2904 Q
Radio and Television .. .. .	115 Q
<b>Ogunleye, Chief D. A. :</b>	
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	2843
<b>Ogunsanya, Mr A. O. :</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3054
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2776, 2823
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2872
<b>Okay, Mr D. D. U. :</b>	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2995

	Column
<b>Okeke, Dr P. N. :</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3032
Graduate science teachers .. .. .	2751 Q
<b>Okoronkwo, Mr F. I. :</b>	
Aba-Ikot-Ekpene road .. .. .	2859 Q
Aba-Owerri road .. .. .	2858 Q
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3004
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3033, 3040
Federal Film Unit .. .. .	113 Q
Foreign Trade .. .. .	2853 Q
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2945
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	3031
Technical Education .. .. .	2749 Q
Trade Agreements .. .. .	2899 Q
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2762
<b>Okunowo, Chief E. O. :</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3034
First Nigerian International Trade Fair .. .. .	2968, 2970
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill .. .. .	
Provincial Commissioners Bill .. .. .	2843
Representation abroad .. .. .	3026 Q
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2758
<b>Oladiran, Oba S. A. :</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3055
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3015
<b>Olarewaju, Mr M. A. O. (Minister of State for Police Affairs) :</b>	
Police activities in Lagos .. .. .	2944
<b>Olatunde, Mr P. B. :</b>	
Ilorin-Kabba road .. .. .	109 Q
Oro Postal Agency .. .. .	2725 Q
Telephone facilities to Ajassepo and Oro .. .. .	2759 Q
<b>Onwuchekwa, Mr I. S. :</b>	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	2994
Old Currency Notes .. .. .	2899 Q
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3018
<b>Opia, Mr A. :</b>	
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2760
<b>Oronsaye, Mr D. N. :</b>	
Condemned persons .. .. .	2848
Conversion of sub-Post Offices .. .. .	117 Q
Customs Post .. .. .	2896 Q
Distribution of Policemen .. .. .	2746 Q
Escort of Prisoners Bill .. .. .	2753
Exchange Control .. .. .	2896 Q
Local Government Police .. .. .	2746 Q
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2907
Ozanisi Postal Agency .. .. .	117 Q
Public Debt .. .. .	2897 Q
Radio Licences .. .. .	2724 Q
Trypanosomiasis Research .. .. .	2729 Q
Wireless Telegraphy Act .. .. .	2853 Q
<b>Oyewole, Mr S. A. :</b>	
Denton Street Ante-Natal Clinic .. .. .	2733 Q
New Post Office at Ibadan .. .. .	2725 Q

	<i>Column</i>
<b>P</b>	
<b>Papers Laid</b> .. .. .	2745, 2847, 2895, 3025

<b>Prime Minister (Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :</b>	
Census .. .. .	2859
Escort of Prisoners and Other Persons Bill	2753
Leadership of the Opposition .. .. .	2976
Provincial Commissioners (Northern Nigeria) Bill .. .. .	3028
<b>Prime Minister, Parliamentary Secretary (Mr S. Lana) :</b>	
First Nigerian International Trade Fair ..	2971
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2820
Provincial Commissioners (Northern Nigeria) Bill .. .. .	3030

<b>R</b>	
<b>Resignation of Members</b> .. .. .	2723
<b>Rosiji, Chief A. :</b>	
Flags and Coats of Arms (Amendment) Bill	2842
Gift of Speaker's Chair .. .. .	2740
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2817
University of Ibadan Bill .. .. .	2870

<b>S</b>	
<b>Senu-Oke, Mr D. :</b>	
Customs and Excise Bill .. .. .	3007
Fisheries Research .. .. .	2981 Q
Tyre Import .. .. .	2895 Q
Vehicle Licences Bill .. .. .	2767
<b>State of Parties</b> .. .. .	2745
<b>Sule Abba Biu, M. :</b>	
Air Hostesses .. .. .	109 Q

<b>T</b>	
<b>Tangul Gaza, M. :</b>	
United Hill District .. .. .	2859 Q

	<i>Column</i>
<b>Transport, Minister of (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :</b>	
Legal Practitioners Bill .. .. .	2827

<b>Transport, Parliamentary Secretary (Mr F. E. Offor) :</b>	
Nigeria Airways .. .. .	2922

<b>U</b>	
<b>Udenyi, Mr J. U. :</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3036
Lagos Sports Council Bill .. .. .	2889
Weights and Measures Bill .. .. .	3017
<b>Ukaegbu, Mr B. N. :</b>	
Capital Expenditure Estimates .. .. .	3061
<b>Uka, Mr N. D. :</b>	
Ekwerazu Postal Agency .. .. .	108 Q
First Nigerian International Trade Fair ..	2972
<b>Umaru Maltunbi, M. :</b>	
Daily Hansard .. .. .	116 Q
Telecommunications facilities for Lau	2728 Q
<b>Umoh, Mr P. U. :</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3041

<b>W</b>	
<b>Wachuku, Hon. Jaja (see, Foreign Affairs, Minister of).</b>	

<b>Y</b>	
<b>Yerima Balla, Albatan :</b>	
Diplomatic Immunities Bill .. .. .	3035